

A Lost Soul

(Luke 16:19-31)

- Introduction:
1. Tonight's lesson is the climax of all the lessons we've talked about this week.
 2. All the "lost" things - book of the law, Christ, Church, and Opportunity eventually lead to a lost soul.
 3. (Luke 16:19-31) Gives us a brief glimpse into what it means to be lost.
 4. In recent years, preachers have dropped the motive of fear from their preaching and have excluded the word "Hell" from their vocabulary.
 5. Note some recent church ads...
 - a. "There is no fire and brimstone here. No Bible thumping. Just practical, witty messages."
 - b. "Services here have an informal feeling. You won't hear people threatened with hell or referred to as sinners. The goal is to make them feel welcome, not drive them away."
 - c. "As with all clergymen, our preacher's answer is God – but he slips Him in at the end, and even then doesn't get heavy. No ranting, no raving. No fire, no brimstone. He doesn't even use the H-word.
 - d. "The sermons here are relevant, upbeat, and best of all, short. You won't hear a lot of preaching about sin and demnation ad hell fire. Preaching here doesn't sound like preaching. It is sophisticated, urbane, and friendly talk. It breaks all stereotypes."
 6. From the above ads, we see that the philosophy of many people concerning preaching is to be clever, informal, positive, brief, and never, never use the H-word.
 7. Friends, I don't buy into such a philosophy, nor did Jesus and his apostles.
 2. Let's focus our attention on "what does it mean if I lose my soul?"

I. Hell Is Eternal

- A. (Matthew 25:46).
- B. Every argument that can be used against Hell, can also logically be used against Heaven.
 1. If Hell is not eternal, then neither is Heaven.
 2. If it isn't right to punish a man eternally, then it isn't right to reward a man eternally.
 - a. Punishment for wrong doing is not extended on the basis of how long one committed the crime, but the nature of the crime.
- C. When God made you a living spirit, you became immortal. No living being will ever cease to exist.
- D. (Mark 9:44).

II. Hell Is A Place Of Darkness

- A. (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 13; Matthew 25:30).
- B. Note the progression...not just darkness, but the blackness of darkness...not just the blackness of darkness, but outer darkness.
- C. Hell is the place farthest removed from light – God is light, therefore, God will not be in Hell with the lost.
- D. There will be no one who will listen to your prayers, or to hear you as you scream for mercy.
- E. Darkness is terrifying – we all seek the security of light.

III. Hell Is A Place Of Fire

- A. (Matthew 13:42) – a furnace of fire.
- B. (Matthew 25:41) – everlasting fire.
- C. (Mark 9:44-45) – the fire is not quenched
- D. (Revelation 20:10) – fire and brimstone
- E. (Revelation 20:15) – a lake of fire.
- F. In all likelihood, the description of Hell and Heaven for that matter, do not exhaust the horror and the beauty of it.

IV. Hell Is A Place Of Pain With No Rest or Relief

- A. (Matthew 25:30) – There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- B. (Revelation 14:11).
- C. There is no rest day or night because they are eternally tormented.

VI. Hell Is A Place That Is Worse For Some Than Others

- A. Dante's Inferno divided Hell into ten parts. I don't know how he came up with the number ten, but I do know where he got the principle for degrees of punishment.
- B. (Matthew 11:21-24).
- C. (Luke 12:47-48).
- D. If I were to die out of Christ, I would much rather die in a far away land that had never heard of Christ, then I would in Glasgow, KY.

VII. Hell Is A Place Of No Hope

- A. It's punishment is everlasting (Matthew 25:46).
- B. How long is eternity?
 - 1. A little boy wanted a piece of peppermint candy with only one end on it.
 - 2. Ant traveling on a steel globe - 1 mile in 17 hours...earth is 25,000 miles in circumference.
- C. Hell simply has no end, God is not present to hear your cries, thus Dante correctly stated in his famous poem "The Inferno" that the sign above Hell's gate ought to read "Those who enter this door leave all hope behind."

- Conclusion:
- 1. The information God has given us about Hell has been so that you can make a responsible choice concerning where you will live eternally.
 - 2. Note that I said your eternity is your "choice."
 - 3. If you go to Hell, it will be because you chose that for yourself.
 - 4. In view of the uncertainty of life, and the certainty of the judgment, why don't you choose Heaven for yourself?