An Old Time Gospel Message on Hell  
Message 11 of 13 in The Old Time Gospel Series  
MATTHEW 25:41-46  

This morning as we continue with our OLD TIME GOSPEL SERMON SERIES I would like to preach An Old Time Gospel Message on Hell.

Please turn with me in your Bibles to MATTHEW 25:41-46

Matthew 25:41-46

Let’s go to GOD in prayer.

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INTRODUCTION

Whatever happened to Hell?

Over the last generation preaching on Hell has all but disappeared from the American pulpit and hardly anyone has even noticed.

But while preaching on Hell has cooled down the fires of Hell still burn as hot as ever!

In my thirty two plus years in the preaching ministry I have preached a number of sermons on HELL. Do I enjoy
preaching on Hell?  No I do not!     Does it get any easier?
No it doesn’t!   In fact, every time I preach a sermon on
Hell I feel a deep sense of heaviness and sorrow in my
heart and spirit for several days afterwards.

So why do I preach on Hell?  Why should ALL preachers preach
on Hell?

(1) One reason is because HELL IS IN THE BIBLE.

Following the example of the apostle Paul in Acts 20:27,
every preacher of the gospel has the responsibility to
“preach the whole counsel of God.” That means
we must preach the parts of the Bible that are pleasant
as well as the parts of the Bible that are not pleasant.

The same Bible that tells us about the beautiful
pearly gates of Heaven also tells us about the
firey pits of Hell.  To preach about HEAVEN but not
about HELL is to fail to declare the whole counsel of God.

(2) Another reason we still need preaching on HELL
is because there are LOST SOULS sitting in
the Church pews.

While most people who attend Church from week to
week are already Christians, there are also those who
have never accepted Christ.

Those lost souls sitting in our Church pews deserve
to know what lies in store for those who reject Jesus
Christ.  You see, for a preacher to WARN that lost soul
about HELL is an act of LOVE, not an act of
condemnation.

(3) Another reason preachers must preach on Hell
is to AWAKEN CHRISTIANS who have grown
complacent about winning the lost.
ILLUSTRATION: William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was speaking to a graduating class at the Salvation Army's Training School.

These young people had been at the Training School for several years learning how to work for God and win lost souls for Christ.

At their graduation, William Booth said,

"Young men, if I could have had my way, I would never had you here for these years of training. But I would have put you in HELL for 24 hours. I would have allowed you to feel the pains and horrors of the damned, to hear them weeping and wailing and the gnashing of their teeth. I would have caused you to suffer for 24 hours as they will suffer forever. Then I would have sent you out into the world to warn men to flee the wrath that is to come."

General Booth was right. If you and I had even the slightest taste of what Hell is really like, nothing could stop us from begging and pleading with our loved ones and friends and total strangers to surrender to Christ before it's too late!

You see, we still need preaching on Hell to remind us of what it really means for a person to lose his soul in Hell.

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This morning (evening) as we think about this most dreadful of all subjects in the Bible, I want to give you both THE GOOD NEWS and THE BAD NEWS about HELL.
I. First, The Bad News About Hell

1. Often when we have to give someone BAD NEWS we try to “soften” it as much as possible.

   Rather than saying, “Did you hear so and so DIED” we may say, “Did you hear so and so ‘passed away’ ……..or…..”Did you hear so and so went to be with the Lord.”

   Rather than saying, “You’re FIRED!” We say, “We’re going to have to let you go.”

2. I will NOT “soften” or “sugar coat” the BAD NEWS about Hell. I will be as straightforward and honest as the scriptures themselves.

   (A) The first piece of BAD NEWS is that HELL IS A REAL PLACE.

   We are now living in a time when few people believe in a literal place called hell.

   ILLUSTRATION: According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, 74% of Americans believe Heaven is a real place, while only 59% believe Hell is a real place. The BARRA RESEARCH GROUP places that figure much lower at 32%.

   To anyone who accepts the Bible as the inerrant word of God, the reality of HELL is not even an issue.
The English word “hell” appears 54 times in the King James Version.

Of the 1,870 verses recording words Jesus spoke, 13% are about HELL and God’s JUDGMENT.

Of the 50 parables Jesus told in the Gospels, over half of them refer to God’s eternal judgment of sinners. In fact Jesus said twice as much about HELL as He did HEAVEN.

Listen to some things Jesus said about the REALITY of HELL.

MATTHEW 5:29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into HELL.

MATTHEW 5:30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into HELL.

MATTHEW 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in HELL.

MATTHEW 23:33 “You snakes, you brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to HELL?”

Here in our scripture text in Matthew 25 Jesus sums up everything He said about Hell with this one truth in verse 46 that
“the wicked will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Yes, the BAD NEWS is HELL is a REAL PLACE.

(B) But wait, there’s more BAD NEWS. Not only is HELL a REAL PLACE, **HELL IS A REAL HOT PLACE.**

When we think of HELL we think of FIRE. And the reason we think of HELL FIRE is because that’s how the Word of God describes it.

MATTHEW 5:22  ‘But anyone who says, “You fool!” will be in danger of the FIRE OF HELL.”

MATTHEW 13:41,42  The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will weed out of His kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the FIERY FURNACE……..

In Jesus’ Parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus in the Gospel of Luke, chapter sixteen, verses 23, 24, Jesus tells us, “In hell, where he was in torment, he (speaking of the Rich man) looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this FIRE.”

And in **JUDE VERSE 7** we read, In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of ETERNAL FIRE.

Yes, the BAD NEWS is HELL IS A REAL PLACE and HELL IS A REAL HOT PLACE. But wait, there’s even more bad news, and that is……
HELL IS A REAL HORRIBLE PLACE.

Think of the worst nightmare you have ever had.

Think of the scariest haunted house you have ever been in.

Think of the most putrid aroma you have ever smelled.

Think of the most frightening sound your ears have ever heard.

Think of the most disgusting site your eyes have ever seen.

Then put all those images together and you still can’t begin to imagine how HORRIBLE hell really is!

II PETER 2:17 describes HELL as a place of the “blackest darkness.”

MATTHEW 25:30 describes HELL as a place where “there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

MARK 9:48 describes HELL as a place where “their worm never dies and the fire is not quenched.”

LUKE 16:22-24 describes HELL as a place of agonizing thirst that can never be quenched.

HELL is “a lake of fire”…….”a bottomless pit”………
“a place of torment.”……….”a place where men never rests.”……….”a place where the memory never fades.”
But the most HORRIBLE part of hell is that there is NO EXIT door and NO ESCAPE HATCH.

Every lost soul will be SEPARATED from GOD....SEPARATED from Christ.....SEPARATED from HEAVEN.......SEPARATED from LOVED ONES and FRIENDS who were Christians.........SEPARATED from everything that is GOOD and DECENT........

Not for 1 second
Not for 1 minute
Not for 1 hour
Not for 1 day .....or 1 week.....or 1 month.
Not for 1 year....or 100 years or 1,000 years.
Not for 1 million years or 1 billion years or 1 trillion years.

BUT SEPARATED FOR ALL ETERNITY!

HELL is a REAL PLACE........HELL IS A REAL HOT PLACE........and HELL IS A REAL HORRIBLE PLACE. That’s the BAD NEWS!

II. But Now, The Good News!

1. The Good News is YOU DON’T HAVE TO GO THERE!
'“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

- John 3:16

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” - John 3:17

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

-Romans 5:6-8

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus……. - Romans 8:1

2. You see, HELL IS A PLACE OF TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT, but the GOOD NEWS is JESUS took your punishment by going to the cross of Calvary. It was there He died for your sins and mine. It was there He laid down His own life as a sacrifice for you and me. Jesus literally took OUR HELL on the cross.

3. By going to the Cross Jesus was literally saying, “If you go to hell you will have to do it over my dead body!”

If you go to hell..........
.....You will have to reject God’s free gift of eternal life.

.....You will have to spurn Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

.....You will have to resist the prodding of the Holy Spirit.

.....You will have to forget every sermon you ever heard.

.....You will have to walk away from every invitation

......And you will have to resist the power of every prayer that is prayed for your salvation.

4. For you see, *God is not willing that anyone should perish, but that all men come to repentance.*

**CONCLUSION**

As I conclude this message I want to give you something to chew on.
There are currently 6.8 billion people in the world. Suppose the average person lives to be 70 years of age. Divide 6.8 billion people by 70 and that means approximately 97 million people die each year.

Divide 97 million by 365 days in a year and that means approximately 265,000 people die every day.

Divide 265,000 by 24 hours in a day and that means approximately 11,000 people die every hour.

Divide 11,000 by 60 minutes in an hour and that means approximately 183 people die every minute.

Divide 183 by 60 seconds in a minute and that means approximately 3 people die every single second.

In the one minute it took me to tell you this information, 183 people just left this world. How many of those 183 people have just entered the eternal horrors of hell?

ILLUSTRATION: You know when you go to a restaurant, the first thing the host or hostess asks you is DO YOU WANT SMOKING OR NON-SMOKING.

When it comes to ETERNITY, God gives you and me a choice:
DO YOU WANT SMOKING OR NON-SMOKING?

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?