

SOME BARRIERS TO HELL

TEXT:

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1Timothy 2:1-4).

Purpose: To show that God does not want one person to be lost. To show that if we go to hell it will be in spite of all that God has done to keep us out.

Introduction:

1) Hell is described for us in the Bible:

(1) **Outer Darkness-** "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30).

(2) **Fire-** "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:" (Matthew 25:41).

(3) **Torment, Pain-** "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:23-24).

(4) **No hope.**

(5) **Eternal-** "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:46).

2) God doesn't want you to go there.

(1) Prepared for the devil and his angels.

(2) "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:" (Matthew 25:41).

(3) "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2Peter 3:9).

(4) "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1Timothy 2:4).

3) There are barriers to hell. Definition of barrier: "A thing that prevents going ahead, or approaching; obstruction" (Webster).

4) If one goes to hell, it will be in spite of:

I. THE LOVE OF GOD

1) A great & wonderful thing. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

2) His grace & mercy.

(1) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

(2) "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" (Titus 2:11-12).

(3) "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" (Titus 3:5).

II. THE BIBLE - A WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1) Purpose:

(1) To rid one of sin.

(2) "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

(3) Keep us in fellowship with God.

2) It is all-sufficient.

(1) "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30-31).

(2) "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2Timothy 3:16-17).

3) The Gospel is God's power to save. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

III. THE CROSS OF CHRIST

1) It is the means of salvation. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1Corinthians 1:18, also rest of chapter).

2) It is where Christ shed His blood.

(1) "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

(2) "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" (1Peter 1:18-19).

IV. THE SIMPLICITY OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION

1) Christ: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

2) Peter:

(1) "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

(2) "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:" (1Peter 3:21).

3) Ananias: "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

4) Paul: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4).

V. PRAYERS OF CHRISTIANS

1) **Pray for all men.** "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;" (1Timothy 2:1-3).

2) **Pray to send laborers into the harvest.** "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).

3) **Pray for erring.** "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it" (1John 5:16).

VI. HEROS OF FAITH

1) Temptation - Joseph

2) Patience - Job

3) Meekness - Moses

4) Faith - Abraham

5) Zeal - Paul

VII. CHRISTIAN PEOPLE

1) Christian influence. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

2) Preachers - preach the word of God.

3) Elders - who watch for your souls. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account,

that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17).

CONCLUSION:

1) These are some barriers God has given us - to keep us out of hell.

2) You must submit to God. “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 16:24-25).

3) Are you a barrier?

4) Save yourself. “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation” (Acts 2:40).