

him. Well, I know of an intersection where there were 16 "slow down" and "stop" signs because so many people had been killed there. Is it right for the state to put up those signs to warn people? Is it right to warn of coming judgment? Is it right for me to tell you what Jesus taught and what the Bible teaches about hell?

I believe there is a hell, according to the teachings of the Bible. Jesus said, "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."² He said, "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."³ If you accept the teachings of Jesus, you are forced to accept what he says about judgment and hell.

transforming

The Bible teaches that there are at least three kinds of hell. First, there is hell in the heart. Thousands of people have hell in their heart.

Much of the world assumes that human nature is good, but the Bible teaches that it is basically evil. By nature we are selfish, sinful, wayward and lost. "In sin did my mother conceive me,"⁴ said David. We were born in sin and became sinners by practice. Human nature needs redemption. It needs transforming. It needs the new birth. That is what Christ came to do.

The Bible states, "The wicked are like the troubled sea."⁵ Have you watched the sea, how

it keeps moving? We are that way without God. We don't know where we are going, or what we are doing. We are just going, trying to find some rest and peace.

Jesus said, "My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth . . ."⁶ The world cannot give you peace of heart and forgiveness of sin, and take the guilt away, but Christ can. By his death on the cross and the power of the resurrection, he can forgive your sins. Guilt can be washed away; his peace can be yours.

trampled

Second, the Bible teaches that hell is around us. There is hell in the home, and hell in society. The commandments of God against impurity and unchastity are trampled underfoot by our generation. Our literature and entertainment are playing up sexual perversion and calling evil good and good evil. A secular, godless world revels in its lust. It rejects the Gospel and accepts lust. The Bible says, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."⁷ It seems that some master hypnotist is making us behave like puppets on a string, making us do that which is wicked and sensual and depraved.

Third, there is hell in the future, and it goes on and on. Hell was made for the devil and his angels; yet we listen to the devil and follow the devil and do what the devil says.

But it is the very fact of hell that makes the love of God so amazing and so glorious. God loves us so much that he devised a plan to save us, so that we will never have to go to hell.

Hell need not be your final destination, nor do you need to live in it upon this earth. It can be taken from your heart. It can be removed from your home—all by the Grace of God.

There are many mysteries surrounding the nature of hell. Hell is separation from God. We are separated from God by sin, and that continues into eternity. Jesus used three words to describe hell. He used the word "death."⁸ God is life, and when we are separated from the life of God, we are dead, spiritually dead. And then Jesus used the word "outer darkness."⁹ God is light, so when we are separated from the light, we live in darkness.

terrible

Jesus used the word "fire."¹⁰ I have often wondered if hell is a terrible burning within our hearts for God, to fellowship with God, a fire that we can never quench.

If we have turned our back on God, we are banished from all that is joyous, good and righteous. The Scripture says, "Prepare to meet thy God."¹¹ We seem to prepare for everything except to meet God. We prepare for careers, marriage, old age. But not for the moment of judgment. Do you have assurance of a relationship with Christ? "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after [that] the judgment."¹² But we think that we will live on earth forever; we will not. Our lives will be over in a short time. We will be in eternity, but where? Will you be banished from God? Or will you be with Christ in Paradise?

today

*The man on the cross who was dying next to Jesus deserved to be punished according to the law. But he turned to Jesus and said, 'Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.'*¹³ Jesus told him, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."¹⁴ Think of it. Jesus took into Paradise with him a thief, a murderer, a man who deserved hell. On the cross Jesus Christ died for people like that thief, and he died for people like you and me.

The hardest people to reach with the Gospel are not people like that man. People like him know they are sinners. They know they need God. It is people like some of us who are hardest to reach. We go to church; we have just enough religion to keep us from accepting salvation in Christ. There are people who say that they don't have a spiritual need, that they are happy and have a good income, a good job, a good family and all the rest. "I don't need God," they say. "What do I need Christ for?" You are going to need him. You are going to need him very badly before long. Come to Christ now while you have an opportunity. The Bible says, "Now is the accepted time; . . . now is the day of salvation."¹⁵ Come while you can. Hell is an important part of the teaching of Jesus Christ. But thank God, there is a heaven also. That is where Jesus is. Would you like to be sure that you are on your way to heaven to be with Christ? You can be sure. The Bible says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life."¹⁶

Repent of your sins. To repent means to change—change your mind, change your way of living. Let Christ come and help you change.

Then by faith receive Christ who died for you and rose again. You can't understand it all, but you come to Christ by faith and you trust him. You put your total confidence in him.

Come to Christ by faith, obey him and follow him, serve him and work for him. Will you do that?

(1) Matthew 25:41, (2) Matthew 13:41-42, KJV, (3) Matthew 25:41, KJV, (4) Psalm 51:5, KJV, (5) Isaiah 57:20, KJV, (6) John 14:27, KJV, (7) 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12, KJV, (8) John 8:51, KJV, (9) Matthew 9:12, KJV, (10) Mark 9:45-44, KJV, (11) Amos 4:12, KJV, (12) Hebrews 9:27, KJV, (13) Luke 23:42, KJV, (14) Luke 23:43, KJV, (15) 2 Corinthians 6:2, KJV, (16) 1 John 5:13, KJV

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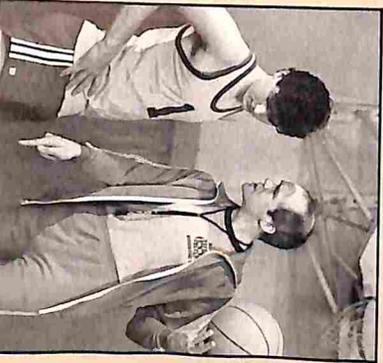
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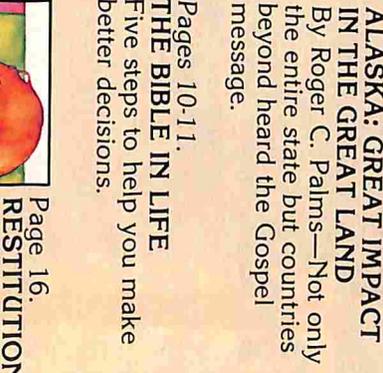


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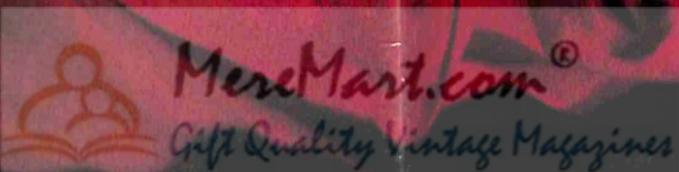
Hell Is a Real Hell

by Billy Graham

I understand hell until first we see the great love, mercy and Grace that God has not made for man. Hell was made for the devil and his angels. I said to me, "I hate the very hell." So do I. And I hate the sinners there. But my hating hell changes the reality of it. One day I hope that if he spoke of hell from the congregation would fire

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