

## ONE WAY TO HELL

*The most important .... yet most neglected .... problem that mankind faces is 'what happens to a person -- beyond death.'*

*Policies are written, called 'life' insurance, when what they really are is 'death' insurance .... to pay for one's burial costs after their decease, to prevent their family from bearing the expense. That just takes care of their physical body.*

*Yet, the question still lingers .... What about the soul? Where will it go?*

*Jesus issued a stern warning about it, when He was on earth:*

**Matt 10:28** And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

*'Escaping hell' at death is an 'age-old' situation. Far back in history, men have realized the danger of hell:*

**Psa. 9:17** The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

*Hell is the place for 'dis-embodied' lost souls (Matt. 23:33) ....  
.... the 'congregation of the dead' (Prov. 21:16).*

*Hell is like a prison (1 Peter 3:19) ....  
with gates and bars and locks (Matt. 16:18, Rev. 1:18) ....  
its location is downward (Matt. 11:23, Luke 10:15) ....  
where it is deep (Job 11:8)  
and dark (Job 10:21, 22) ....*

*Yet, hell is a place that burns with eternal fire (Mark 9:43-48).*

*The point of tonight's message is -- that there is but one way to go there. But before we arrive at that conclusion, let's move through the scriptures and take a look at the way to avoid hell .... and that is .... by pleasing God.*

*Let's begin with the basic understanding of what pleases God. **There is ONE necessary ingredient to please God.** How has anyone ever done it?:*

**Heb 11:6** But without **FAITH** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

***FAITH** is the essential thing --- needed to please God. Now, let's look to the Holy Bible to tell us exactly what faith is:*

**Heb 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,  
the evidence of things not seen.

*God simply told us what faith is.*

*We can also look to Webster's 1828 Dictionary of the English Language for a detailed explanation of the word 'faith':*

***Faith is belief .... trust ....***

*Faith is the assent of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another.*

*Where does faith come from? How do we get it? Again, the answer comes directly from God's word. **Quite simply, we hear the word of God and believe it:***

**Rom. 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

*The word 'faith' only appears two times in Genesis through Malachi. The first time the word 'faith' is used .... it is in the same passage as the first time the word 'hell' is used. When God saw Israel sacrificing to devils, and being 'unmindful' of Him, He was very angry with them:*

**Deut. 32:19-22** And when the LORD saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.

20 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, **children in whom is no faith.**

21 They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

22 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall **burn unto the lowest hell**, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

*Now, let's look at some examples of faith. First, we'll see Abraham:*

**Rom. 4:3-5** For what saith the scripture?

**Abraham believed God,**

**and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5 But to him that **worketh not, but believeth** on him that justifieth the ungodly,  
**his faith is counted for righteousness.**

*Faith in Gods WORD .... is what saved Abraham. And that's what saves us, as well. We should be careful not to 'read information back into' Abraham's knowledge --- that we now have through the revelation God gave to the apostle Paul. We now know that the BLOOD of the Lord Jesus Christ, when He died on the cross at Calvary .... is what PAID for ALL sin, Abraham's and ours.*

*But Abraham obviously realized that God would 'somehow' provide salvation. That's what he testified to Isaac, when he took him up on the mountain in Moriah to sacrifice. All the while, Abraham knew he had to lay his very own son on that altar:*

**Gen. 22:7-8** And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

8 And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

*Then Abraham tied up Isaac and put him on the altar. What an amazing thing for Abraham to say and do .... knowing that his very own son was to be the lamb. Yet, Abraham had believed God that through Isaac, God's blessing would flow.*

*Abraham's faith .... is how he was able, just a few verses earlier, to tell the men that both he --- and Isaac --- would return to them:*

**Gen. 22:5** And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, **and come again to you.**

*We learn in the letter to the Hebrews, that Abraham believed that, after he killed Isaac, God would have to resurrect him in order to fulfil His promises. So Abraham must have known 'something' about resurrection:*

**Heb. 11:17-19** By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

*Abraham also knew 'something' about the 'day of the Lord' ... which is the time when God will 'take over the rule' of this planet. We learn that in a statement Jesus made to the Jews who were questioning Him about death:*

**John 8:56** Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day:  
and he saw it, and was glad.

*The 'day of the Lord' is when God will 'tabernacle with men.' Rev. 21:2-3 says that the heavenly city Jerusalem will come down out of heaven to the earth. Abraham evidently looked for it, too:*

**Heb. 11:8-10** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

*God had counted Abraham's faith for righteousness, but Abraham must not have been comfortable about that, along the way. Abraham was certain of God's promise, but he was not certain of himself:*

**Rom. 4:20-22** He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And **being fully persuaded** that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

22 And **therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.**

**Heb 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

*We also realize that Abraham never had the assurance of eternal security that we enjoy today, in the dispensation of grace. Abraham really 'found out' for sure .... when he got there .... where he ended up at death .... whether he would be punished:*

**Heb 2:15** And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

*Moses was a faithful man, yet many of the Hebrews were not faithful. They were required to hold on or they would lose their hope of inheriting the promise. As we read through these verses, notice how different they are from the promises we have today, living in the dispensation of grace. The pronouns "we, us, them, and they" in these verses, in the book of Hebrews ----- apply to "them -- Israel" ----- not to "us," the Body of Christ, today:*

**Heb 3:5-6** And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, **if we hold fast** the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

**Heb 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

**Heb 3:14** For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold** the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

**Heb 3:19** So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

**Heb 4:1-2** Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

**Heb 6:11-12** And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**Heb. 10:26-27** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

*So, actually, the Hebrews really did have good reason to worry. They had to continue .... all the time .... or else they faced God's judgment:*

**Heb. 10:28-31** He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**Heb 10:38** Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

*Jesus taught this same kind of thing while He was living on earth. If a man wanted to be Jesus' disciple, Jesus wouldn't even allow him to attend his own Dad's funeral, or even say 'Good-bye' to his family:*

**Luke 9:59-62** And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

*They had to DROP everything RIGHT then! He didn't wait around for them to pack their clothes or lunch. They had to 'hit the road, Jack,' and not look back! That's what Jesus' disciples did when He called them:*

**Mark 1:17-21** And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

19 And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

20 And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

*Jesus even reminded them of a person who 'looked back.' She got a rather 'stiff' punishment from God. An angel told her not to look back, but she didn't heed her warning, and she turned into a pillar of salt:*

**Luke 17:32** Remember Lot's wife.

*That was **their** program. Aren't you glad it's not ours? They are the ones who both knew then, and will know during the great tribulation .... what it's like to have to 'hang on, baby':*

**John 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

**Matt 24:13** But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

*Unfortunately, there is much confusion today because many people think that the 'Body of Christ' has become 'spiritual Israel.' They are manipulated into thinking that we are due God's promises to Israel. It is Abraham's seed that will inherit the earthly kingdom. Lots of folks mis-understand the issue .... that we are 'children of Abraham --- by FAITH' --- and not 'by SEED':*

**Gal. 3:6-9** Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

*Abraham was even called God's friend:*

**Isa 41:8** But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

**James 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

*Next, we'll look at another patriarch of faith, King David. We find the example of David right there along with Abraham, in Romans chapter 4:*

**Rom. 4:6-8** Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

*Here's where David wrote that in the Psalms:*

**Psa. 32:1,2,5** Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

*But David had to 'get forgiveness yet again' .... for we find him saying:*

**Psa. 25:18** Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

**Psa. 51:2, 7** Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.  
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

*David, as Abraham, didn't enjoy the security we have today. THEN, as we see a few verses later in this same Psalm, we find David asking God NOT to take His Spirit away from him:*

**Psa. 51:11** Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

*No wonder David would pray that. God had removed His Spirit away from the former King Saul, and given him an evil one in His stead:*

**1 Sam. 16:14** But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

*Interestingly, the 'faith' passage in Romans chapter 4 speaks of both Abraham and David .... and both of those men were privileged to have been 'fathers' through whom Christ came in the flesh:*

**Matt 1:1** The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

*Going back again to the passage in Romans 4, we see that God used both Abraham and David as 'models of faith' .... for our benefit:*

**Rom. 4:23-25** Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;  
24 **But for us also**, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;  
25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

*Let's travel through Paul's epistles, written to the Body of Christ, for us today, in the dispensation of grace. Abraham and David didn't get to enjoy these like we do. Let's look at the benefits of faith we have .... what great blessings are ours:*

***We are JUSTIFIED by faith:***

**Rom. 5:1** Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Gal. 3:24** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

***We have ACCESS into grace by faith:***

**Rom. 5:2** By whom also we have access **by faith** into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

***We STAND 'in' faith and 'by' faith:***

**1 Cor. 16:13** Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

**2 Cor. 1:24** Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

***We WALK by faith:***

**2 Cor. 5:7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

***We ABOUND in faith:***

**2 Cor. 8:7** Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

***We are CHILDREN of GOD by faith:***

**Gal. 3:26** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

***We are SAVED through faith:***

**Eph 2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

***Christ LIVES in our HEARTS by faith:***

**Eph 3:17** That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

***We have faith as our SHIELD and BREAST-PLATE:***

**Eph 6:16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

**1 Thess. 5:8** But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

***We are ESTABLISHED in faith:***

**Col 2:7** Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

***We have faith in PERSECUTIONS and TRIBULATIONS:***

**2 Thess. 1:4** So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

***We are NOURISHED in the words of faith:***

**1 Tim. 4:6** If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

***In Summary***

*Again, faith is belief. To believe the gospel is to have faith in the shed blood of Christ for our sins. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the 3rd day (1 Cor. 15:3-4). THAT is the gospel for this dispensation:*

**Gal. 3:22** But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

**Eph 1:13** In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

**1 Thess. 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

***In Closing***

*If we don't have faith, then we do not believe the gospel. 'Unbelief' of the gospel is the only way to be lost and it is the one way to hell.*

**2 Cor. 4:3-4** But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.