

## PRAYER STUDY 24

### "Hell"

Luke 16:19-31

*There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then 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." But Abraham said, "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things, but now he is comforted, and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us."*

*Then he said, "I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment." Abraham said to him, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them." And he said, "No, father Abraham, but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent." But he said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead."*

The term *Hell* is most commonly applied to the place of punishment in the unseen world and is usually represented in the Greek New Testament by the word Gehenna, valley of Hinnom, near Jerusalem where children were sacrificed by fire in connection with pagan rites(2 Kings 33:10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 28:3, 33:6, Jeremiah 7:31, 32:35). It is also referred to in the Greek as Hades, by Simon Peter in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:4 as Tartarus in the original Greek, and in the Hebrew as Sheol. It is also referred to as a place of "outer darkness," "flame," "furnace of fire," "unquenchable fire," "fire and brimstone"(Matt 8:12; 13:42; 22:13; 25:20, 41; Mark 9:43-48; Jude 13; Rev. 20:14). The misery of hell will consist in the privation of the vision and love of God, exclusion from every source of happiness, perpetual sin, remorse of conscience in view of the past, malevolent passion, the sense of the just anger of God, and all other sufferings of body and soul which in the

nature of things are the natural result of sin, or which the law of God requires as punishments. The degree of anguish will be proportioned to the degrees of guilt(Matthew 10:15; 23:14; Luke 12:47, 48), and these punishments will be eternal, like the happiness of heaven.

Revelations 20:10 tells us that Hell will be a place of conscious, never-ending torment for the devil and his agents. Besides fire, the New Testament imagery concerning eternal punishment tells us that Hell is a place of darkness(Matthew 25:30; 2 Peter 2:17), death(Revelations 2:11), destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord(2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:9, Matthew 7:21-23), and a debt to pay(Matthew 5:25-26).

### David Wilkerson

**If we could spend even a few minutes in hell, we would never be the same. To be drawn into that black furnace of fire and everlasting darkness; to suddenly be cast into a demonic world of godlessness, cursing, hatred, lust, and corruption; to hear the groans of the eternally damned, to witness their terror, their grinding and gnashing of teeth; to rub shoulders with the workers of iniquity, the rapists, the murderers, the world's dictators and tyrants, the crucifiers of the Lord Jesus; to listen to the endless sounds of hopeless, useless prayers of the damned; shaking their fists at the God of Justice, cursing the day they were born; to feel what lostness means, cut off from God and truth and love and peace and all comfort; to witness such unbelievable sights and scenes beyond all the world's atrocities combined; and worst of all, to stand face to face with that bloody butcher from hell, Satan himself; to feel a shocked, enslaving fear as the father of all lies tries to take you by the throat and choke out of you a confession that he is lord of all; to walk out of the gates of hell with the cries of the eternally damned ringing in your ears, voices of the ungodly from all the ages, bellowing out their pitiful cries-"We are lost! Lost! Forever lost! Chained to darkness and eternal tortures!" How could you return to earth from your short visit to hell and ever be the same again? Would you go back to neglecting God's Word, His house, His love?" Would you go about your selfish pursuits of accumulating, hoarding gold and silver, and praying for more? I hardly think so. No-you and I would live every hour as if it were our last. Oh, how we would pray, and work, and study, and sell rather than buy, and fast, and witness, and help the poor, and be constantly looking for the Lord's return.**