

# HELL IS UNPOPULAR

Hell isn't popular these days!

## KEY POINTS

- ❖ There's a myth, even among some communities of faith, that there's no such thing as an eternal hell.
- ❖ Hell isn't popular these days! That's fine, but hell needs to be unpopular for the right reasons.
- ❖ To Christians living in 'the Dispensation of Grace', Jesus' 'sermon on the mount' (Matthew 5-7) gives insight into how He fulfills the Law of Moses.
- ❖ It is a call to action that *fulfills* God's will for humanity rather than *changing* it.
- ❖ In Matthew 5:20, Jesus says, "Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees, you will not see the kingdom of God." Then He explains various tenets of the law and that heart attitude – not mere compliance – reveals the type of righteousness needed to get to heaven.
- ❖ God's grace doesn't mean that "anything goes" with Him. It means He wants us – every part of us, just as we are – so He can transform us into the image of Christ. Because if that doesn't happen, we really are in danger of eternal hell.
- ❖ The following are three positions on hell:

### i. There is no afterlife at all.

Surveys say that about two in every ten Canadians are atheist and just don't believe in life after death. This impacts what is deemed acceptable in our culture. Human autonomy (we decide for ourselves what's best for us) is real and superstition (belief in the afterlife included) is a fool's game. In this view, hell isn't popular because it isn't there. But the preaching of Jesus had many references to the afterlife, a couple of which are referenced below.

### ii. There is a heaven, but there is no hell.

But Jesus described a scene on 'judgement day': Then [God] will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels... Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life. (Matthew 25:41-46)

### iii. There is a hell and I don't want to go there.

In Luke 16 Jesus paints a very clear picture of the two options for the afterlife. Verses 27-31 are particularly instructive for our society today:

He answered, "Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment." <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them." <sup>30</sup> "No, father Abraham," he said, "but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent." <sup>31</sup> He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

## KEY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:27-30

- ❖ Hell is unpopular. People who know about it don't want to go there; so, when they're tempted to do things against God's Word, they get out real fast. Like Joseph, who left his cloak in the hands of the would-be adulteress, they flee from the semblance of sin rather than "taking fire into [their] bosom and expecting not to be burnt" (Proverbs 6:27).
- ❖ Jesus puts it this way in Matthew 5:30: "And if your right hand causes you to stumble, 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."
- ❖ Hell *should* be unpopular – but for the right reason. Not because "there's no hell." Not because "God loves everyone. We can disobey Him and we'll still go to heaven." But because hell is a real situation of eternal suffering for those who reject and sin against God.
- ❖ If your belief is that there is no life after death, it would be difficult for us, without knowing you, to effectively respond to your worldview. However, God can.
- ❖ Pray. Simply take a small risk and say, "God, if You're there, show Yourself to me." And if He does, reach out to the church for next steps.
- ❖ If you believe in heaven but not in hell, that is totally relatable to many who love people and idealize a state where we all hold hands in the sun and sing "kum-ba-yah." But that's not what Jesus says.
- ❖ We need to start living as though peoples' choices matter – because they do.
- ❖ To Bible-believing saints: Intercede for the lost as if there's no tomorrow. As we pray for people to choose God, pray with the urgency the situation deserves. Use all forms of spiritual giftings to reach God's throne. He will hear from heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land.
- ❖ He'll set us up for eternity with Him.

## DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What is your understanding of hell and what influenced you to accept/adopt this view?
2. Discuss how each of the three views of hell outlined in the lesson might be reflected in people's lifestyles.
3. Some people say, "A loving God would never send people to a place like hell." What is your response? Use scripture to support your view.
4. Are you concerned about people facing hell? Does your (prayer) life reflect your response?

## PRAYER TIME

Lord, I want to be in Your presence for eternity, so help me to live in Your presence right now.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020

## NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

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## PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Share a story of a disappointing outing (especially if it was one you had really looked forward to). Would you ever revisit the place where it occurred?

## "WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/weprayatfaithsanctuary/>

**PRAYER FOCUS: Revelation of the divinity of Jesus Christ to religious non-Christians**



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to [announcements@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:announcements@faithsanctuary.com) by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to [media@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:media@faithsanctuary.com).)

#### FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

For email transfers, please use the following address:  
[donate@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:donate@faithsanctuary.com)

#### JULY

Sunday 5: FIRST SERVICE BACK IN THE SANCTUARY, 11:00 a.m.

"Well done,  
Well done,  
Good and faithful servant,  
Well done"

When I see His precious face  
All I want to hear Him say is "Well done"

#### FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES:

Bible Study – 10:15 a.m.  
Morning service – 11:00 a.m.)

- Go to [www.faithsanctuary.com](http://www.faithsanctuary.com) >click "livestream" link (or type in [www.faithsanctuary.com/live](http://www.faithsanctuary.com/live))
- Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone access

**In-depth Bible Study: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** (Facebook and Zoom)

## FAITH FOUNDATIONS

#### GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

#### GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

#### GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

#### HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

#### THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

#### OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

#### CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JUNE 28, 2020

  
S A N C T U A R Y  
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

*2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020*

**Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie**

*"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*

*Revelation 2:11 NKJV*

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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