

After Light, Darkness

Have We Forgotten Why The Reformation Was So Important?

2 Corinthians 5:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

Introduction

I love the Reformation. I am a Protestant because of the Reformation. I love doctrinal commitments that came out the Reformation and most of all I love the recovery of the Biblical gospel that the Reformation brings.

I am thankful for the many lives that were courageously and sacrificially given to give me the Bible in my language and the clarity of the good news of Jesus Christ.

In the midst of such darkness and obscurity of the Gospel a light was lit that will not be put out. Hell and all its demons in the form of the Roman Catholic Religion attempted to forever hide the glorious good news of the perfect, sufficient and once and for all atoning work of Christ and cover it with a works based religion and a perpetual sacrifice of Christ in the Mass.

Nothing can be so damming as a religion that makes you feel like you are righteous while at the same time denying the completed work of Christ.

Yet it was in the midst of this darkness that God raised up men and women to stand for the truth even at the cost of their lives.

The years leading up to and during the Reformation and even after, are littered with the bodies of those who were willing to risk it all for the truth.

In the midst of a religion drowning in lies, there were flickers of light that became a forest fire that covered the planet.

Post tenebras lux was a phrase often used of the Reformation period. It is a Latin phrase translated, "After Darkness, Light" and was subsequently adopted as the motto of the entire Protestant Reformation. It is used by John

Calvin's adopted city of Geneva, Switzerland on their coins. As a mark of its role in the Calvinist movement, the motto is engraved on the Reformation Wall, in Geneva

Although I am very thankful the saving truth that came as a result of the Reformation. And I would say a hardy AMEN to the fact that the Reformation brought light out of the darkness.

But today the motto may need to change for our age.

It is no longer “After Darkness, Light” but rather it may need to be,

“After Light, Darkness”

Today,

“Darkness is being protected and normalized while light is being vilified and criminalized. Light is seen as a threat that must be extinguished.”

Lutzer, Erwin W.. The Eclipse of God: Our Nation's Disastrous Search for a More Inclusive Deity (and What We Must Do About It) (p. 22). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

The church is being attacked from inside and without.

Erwin Lutzer recently wrote in a new book, entitled *“The Eclipse of God”*,

“We are in a spiritual battle. Behind the destruction we see around us, there are invisible forces bringing darkness to the land—a darkness bent on destroying any light that threatens to expose it. And, as someone has said, we are living in a time when saints are being vilified as sinners, while sinners are being exalted as saints. This is not just a clash of worldviews, but a clash of spiritual forces attempting to overthrow the God of heaven. We have forgotten, or at least many of us have, that Jesus Himself called Satan “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31). And the apostle John said that “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19). We should be grieved when we see the encroaching darkness, and not be surprised by it.”

Lutzer, Erwin W.. *The Eclipse of God: Our Nation's Disastrous Search for a More Inclusive Deity (and What We Must Do About It)* (p. 16). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

The rise of false teachers and false doctrine is at an all time high. Anything goes and anything can be taught and believed.

Technology has given fuel to the false teachers and their audience are growing exponentially. And at the same time discernment has decreased rapidly.

At the same time that we have more bibles and bible teachers than ever before, we have seen an incredible rise in ignorance of biblical truth.

Anyone with a computer or smartphone can claim to be a teacher of the Bible, yet have no training in Hermeneutics, Biblical languages, or Theology and have a following of 1000s of disciples online, yet couldn't find their way out of a wet paper bag Biblically speaking.

Paul in his last letter to Timothy warned all of us,

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Three statements stand out in that passage.

1. they will not **endure** sound doctrine (healthy teaching)

ἀνέχομαι^b: to continue to **accept as valid or true**
— ‘to accept, to receive.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 372). United Bible Societies.

to permit v. — to consent to, give permission;
especially **used by a superior to an inferior.**

So we learn that this time will be characterized by people who will...

1. Determine for themselves what is true.
2. They will set themselves up as superior to truth.

2. according to **their own** desires, *because they have itching ears, (they want to feel good) they will **heap up (pile up) for themselves** teachers*

3. they will **turn** their ears **away** from the truth.

καὶ ἀπὸ μὲν τῆς ἀληθείας τὴν ἀκοὴν ἀποστρέψουσιν,...

turn away

ἀποστρέφω^e: (a figurative extension of meaning of ἀποστρέφω ‘to cause to turn back from,’ not occurring in the NT) to cease doing something, with the implication of rejection — ‘to stop, to cease, to reject

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 659). United Bible Societies.

The Satan and all of his demons have begun a wholesale attempt to destroy the very foundation of the church.

The liberals years ago attacked the inspiration and credibility of the Bible, claiming the first 11 chapters of Genesis were myth and that the miracles of the Bible were not true and could be explained away.

The verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible was under constant attack for years and significant gains were made by the enemy in the major denominations.

But all of these false accusations about the reliability and trustworthiness and historical accuracy have all been answered by credible and clear scholarship.

There has never, and I mean never been a time when we have had soooooo much evidence that has been stacked up in defense of the truthfulness of the Bible.

We have it from all areas

History, Prophecy, Archaeology, Geography, Geology, Anthropology, Genetics, and literally piles Manuscript evidence.

For all of the voices that are saying how can I believe the Bible is true and for every question and doubt that is made. We have answers.

1. The validity of the Creation account
2. The historicity of Adam
3. The Proof of the Universal Flood.
4. The accuracy of the Historicity of the O.T.

5. The mounds of evidence of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

6. The hyper accurate copy of the O.T and N.T Canon of Scripture, by 25,000 full and parts of copies of Scriptures thru the centuries.

So as far as the truth and truthfulness of the Scripture... we have the proof and we have it in abundance.

C.S. Lewis wrote, “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”¹Lutzer,

Erwin W.. The Eclipse of God: Our Nation's Disastrous Search for a More Inclusive Deity (and What We Must Do About It) (p. 21). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

But the sobering reality is, that the enemy, the devil and all of his followers know this.

So they have changed their attack strategy. While they continue to attack the facts of the Bible, they have gone for the jugular.

They now attack whether or not there is any such thing as truth.

This was expressed by a student in one of Todd Friel's Road trips.

“Anything can be true, even a lie, if
enough people believe in it.”

¹Lutzer, Erwin W.. The Eclipse of God: Our Nation's Disastrous Search for a More Inclusive Deity (and What We Must Do About It) (p. 153). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

If there is no real truth, then who cares if the facts are right or true because there is no such thing as truth.

“The people at Merriam-Webster, a dictionary-publishing company, always choose a Word of the Year, generally, a relatively new word, but one that is most searched for on their websites. **In 2006**, the word was **truthiness**—that is, “a truthful or seemingly truthful quality that is claimed for something not because of supporting facts or evidence but because of a feeling that it is true or a desire for it to be true,” or something that “refers to the quality of seeming to be true but not necessarily or actually true according to known facts.”²

But we have moved beyond truthiness to a more dangerous form of disinformation. More recently, in **2022**, Merriam-Webster’s Word of the

Year was **gaslighting**, which it defines as “psychological manipulation of a person usually over an extended period of time that causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories and typically leads to confusion, loss of confidence and self-esteem, uncertainty of one’s emotional or mental stability, and a dependency on the perpetrator.”

“Truth,” pastor H.B. Charles said in a sermon, “is not safe in a pagan world.”

Lutzer, Erwin W.. The Eclipse of God: Our Nation's Disastrous Search for a More Inclusive Deity (and What We Must Do About It) (p. 154). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

You have your truth and I have my truth. We are at a point that we are not just talking about truth conceptually or academically but we got to be point where we are publicly expected to deny what we see with our eyes as not true. If you see a man and you you are told that he is a woman. You are expected to deny every sensory organ and everything you know as true.

It is a complete denial of the absolute obvious.

With incredible insight, G.K. Chesterton, who understood where culture was headed in his day...for perspective, he was born in 1874 and died in 1936, yet he predicted,

“We shall soon be in a world in which a man may be howled down for saying that two and two make four...in which people will persecute the heresy of calling a triangle a three-sided figure, and hang a man with the news that the grass is green.”

Lutzer, Erwin W.. The Eclipse of God: Our Nation's Disastrous Search for a More Inclusive Deity (and What We Must Do About It) (pp. 155-156). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

Well Brothers and Sisters, We are here. This is our world now.

But that does not mean we Cater or Conform.

We don't capitulate or Compensate
The church's mandate is clear and it Mission is the same.

Speak the Truth in Love.

Preach the Truth with Conviction

Live the Truth with Consistency

No matter what the world does we have a sure foundation

1 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.**

The imagery of these terms for the church would not have been lost on the Ephesians. The impressive temple of the goddess Diana (Artemis), one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was located in the city. William Barclay gives the following description of it: “One of its features was its pillars. It contained one hundred and twenty-seven pillars, every one of them the gift of a king. All were made of marble, and some were studded with jewels and overlaid with gold” (*The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon* [Philadelphia: Westminster, 1975], 89). Each **pillar** acted as a tribute to the king who donated it. The honorary significance of the pillars, however, was secondary to their function of holding up the immense structure of the roof.

Hedraiōma (**support**) appears only here in the New Testament and refers to the foundation on which a structure rests. Thus in Paul’s metaphor the church is the foundation and pillar that holds up the truth. As the foundation and pillars of the Temple of Diana were a testimony to the error of pagan false

religion, so the church is to be a testimony to God's truth. That is its mission in the world—its reason for existing here. For failing to do that, Israel has been temporarily set aside.

The truth is the divine revelation, including the truth of the gospel, the content of the Christian faith. It is the solemn responsibility of every church to solidly, immovably, unshakably uphold the truth of God's Word. The church does not invent the truth, and alters it only at the cost of judgment. It is to support and safeguard it. It is the sacred, saving treasure given to sinners for their forgiveness, and to believers for their sanctification and edification, that they might live for the glory of God. The church has the stewardship of Scripture, the duty to guard it as the most precious possession on earth. Churches that tamper with, misrepresent, depreciate, relegate to secondary place, or abandon biblical truth destroy their only reason for existing and experience impotence and judgment.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1995). [1 Timothy](#) (pp. 136–137). Moody Press.

The Responsibility of the Church is to safeguard and protect the truth and its pastors are to be standing on its Pillars Preaching it.

The Reformation was the Churches Reclamation and Rediscovery of the Truth that had been obscured with centuries of darkness. And it's preachers were risking their lives to preach the whole counsel of God.

They preached the Goodness and Grace of God with tremendous joy.

And they also preached the Wrath and Severity of God with great sorrow and trepidation. And today it is no different...

We are responsible to declare the whole counsel of God. We are responsible to preach the wonderful and amazing truth of God's love and grace and forgiveness. We are to shout from the house tops that our God is a merciful God that desires to show that mercy. We are of necessity required as faithful stewards of the truth to preach the beauty and Goodness of God toward sinners. People should walk away from our preaching with the understanding that where sin abounded, the grace of God super abounded.
BUT...

The whole counsel of God is not complete without the terrible and terrifying truth of the reality of eternal Hell. A place where millions of people, some of which you know, are and will spend eternity,

never to escape, never to be paroled, never to be lessened in severity and never to be completed. A place of the severest pain and torture that could ever enter into the mind of man.

There is nothing so horrendous and incomprehensible as Hell. There is nothing so gut wrenching and emotionally draining as Hell.

I find my thoughts often going to this place wondering if it can be true that such a place can even exist. My thoughts race through my mind wondering, did I get it wrong, have I read the scriptures wrong. Did I not do the work necessary to insure that I interpreted the Scripture right.

As I have these thoughts, another line of thought occurs at the same time. My mind produces the pictures that Scriptures paint of the horrors of the flames, the torture of a lake of fluid fire. The pitch black darkness and permanent lonely isolation punctuated by the silence of eternity only to be startled by the screams of the wicked.

The worst of the worst sinners are my companions forever and these have no possibility of changing or reforming morally but are in a permanent state of unrestrained evil.

But even the midst of these thoughts my mind is immediately and persuasively constrained by the

clear and repeated testimony of the Bible.....Hell is real.

Verse after verse come rushing in reminding me that this is also part of the whole counsel of God. And then I am convicted of my callousness toward the sinner and this reality.

That I can have these thoughts and be reminded of the verses and yet, no tears. I've found myself grieving more over a dead animal than a soul in Hell. I have allowed myself to become one of the millions who have become cold to this doctrine.

May God Forgive me.

I have prayed for God to help me not to be desensitized to the many men and women around me who are heading to hell and for me not to lose consciousness of the ones that are there now, as live here on this planet.

When you go to the doctor to get surgery or something that can make you suffer pain they usually provide medicinal Anesthesia. This is a medical procedure that uses drugs or other substances to temporarily and safely induce a loss of awareness or sensation in a patient. It's used to prevent pain during medical procedures like surgery, dental work, and certain diagnostic tests.

Well,

Every time you and I hear the word “Hell” used as a curse word, we get a dose of Anesthesia
and

Every time the word “Hell” is used to describe the destruction and misery in this life... our heart is made numb.

The absolute worse situation that someone can experience on this earth is no where close to the torments of Hell.

And each time someones says, “Man, she has really gone through Hell”. Or so many have described the horrific conditions in Western N.C. as Hell on earth... our understanding and apprehension of the Biblical Hell is lessened.

We may not consciously intend that to happen, but we are the frog in the kettle going the opposite direction. We are being slowly, almost unnoticeably cooled to the reality of Hell.

I titled the message I am bringing to you today,

Out of Light, Darkness

Have We Forgotten Why The Reformation Was
So Important?

I believe we have for the most part forgotten.
We know that we are to safeguard the truth and that

the truth is the foundation of the church, but for to many churches and for to many preachers and for too long, we have ceased to declare the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

We are in danger of passively, if not actively denying the reality of Hell.

Our silence in the Evangelical and Reformed World is deafening.

We are in danger of making the gospel a social gospel for the betterment of man rather than the rescue from the wrath of God.

Jonathan Edward's sermon, "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God" is probably one of the most well known sermons in the history of the church and has been reference 10s of thousands of times, yet would be an offense in many churches today!

Hell disappeared and no one noticed.

In Ligoniers 2022 State of Theology survey.

Only 39% of American's believe Hell is a real place.

<https://thestateoftheology.com/>

Contrast that with a poll taken in the United States in 1978 revealed that over seventy per cent of those interviewed said they believed in hell.

However, according to the same survey,

only 4% of Minnesotans believe they were hell bound.

Blanchard,John. Whatever Happened to Hell? (p. 14). Evangelical Press. Kindle Edition.

In the early 1970s, the Beatles' John Lennon had a smash hit with a song which included the words:

Imagine there's no heaven;
It's easy if you try.
No hell below us—
Above us only sky.³³

Blanchard,John. Whatever Happened to Hell? (p. 19). Evangelical Press. Kindle Edition.

Well, for our culture is seems pretty easy.

Outline

- I. The Reason
- II. The Reality
- III. The Rescue

I. The Reason. — -why remind us of Hell

This is the reason why the Reformation was important.

There are a lot of things the Reformation did for us, like,

Give us Bibles we can read.

Get the truth of the Word of God into the hands of the common man.

Return the Lord's Supper to its rightful place.

Put pastors in care of their flocks instead of Priest.

Correct gross misunderstandings of the authority of the church.

Reorientate the worship of the church

But the greatest thing that was granted to us by the Reformation was the reclamation of the gospel.

A trust in the perfect, sufficient, and exclusive death of Christ alone to purchase redemption for sinners that would be a given by Grace alone, and accessed by Faith alone for salvation from sin, death and Hell.

This was the reclamation of Justification by Faith alone in Christ alone, by the grace of God alone through faith alone apart from human works or religion.

Without this, there would be no other need of the other achievements of the Reformation. In those days, Hell was staple belief. In fact it was Heaven that was elusive. Most believed that if they

didn't go to hell, they would definitely spend time in purgatory. (a made up place that the Roman Catholic Church used to their advantage to get rich a the expense of people paying their way out of alone stay in this place of punishment)

At that time belief in Hell was not the problem. It was convincing someone that they could not work their way or pay their way out.

The gospel was truly good news, that God saves by is Grace thru faith based on the death of Christ alone.

But those people understood the reality the Hell. They new and understood they needed to be saved from it, although they were being taught a condemning heresy that could not save them.

Today we have a whole set of new problems. We have the gospel but don't know why we need it. Most Funerals that I have conducted or attended for someone that I knew was lost and in Hell, that vast majority of the people at the funeral believe that person is in a better place.....no matter how they lived or what they believed.

The vast consensus today is that most people go to heaven, when in reality the Bible says most go to Hell.

At a time when our culture needs it most, to be taught the horrors of Hell, and for the pulpits of America to remind their churches and the public why you need to be saved. We are in large part silent.

I often see bumperstickers that read, “Got Jesus”, “I Believe”, “Repent and Believe in Jesus” “Jesus Loves You” “Are you Save?”

And I think to myself. Most people have no clue what that is talking about.

Are you saved,... saved from what.

Repent, repent of what and why

Got Jesus, why do I need Him.

I believe, we believe, or Emmanuel during Christmas. And I say ok.....so

You are talking to large population that use “Hell” as a curse word not as a reference to Eternal punishment.

This is largely the fault of the preachers in the churches today and many of the evangelistic practices. Like people, like priest.

If you don't understand that Hell is in your future because you are a sinner and that is because you are a breaker of God's law and that He will punish you forever.....you will see no need to be saved from anything. You will have no sense of the impending wrath of God.

Our deletion of the teaching on Hell has eliminated the need for the gospel.

When Paul begins his gospel exposition in Romans 1. He does not start with God love you, or God is a merciful God or God is gracious or God is a forgiving God.

He starts with WRATH

Romans 1:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*"

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

John 3:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

I. The Reason. —-why remind us of Hell

II. The Reality- What the Bible says about Hell.

Firstly, the Old Testament word **Sheol** is sometimes used to refer to death or the grave, mainly to the place to which all the dead go and occasionally to the place of punishment for the wicked. There are also the first glimmers of hope that God’s people will be delivered from Sheol.

Secondly, the New Testament word **Hades** has a different emphasis, so that in most cases it refers to a temporary place of punishment for the wicked.

Thirdly, the New Testament word **Gehenna** is by far the clearest and most vivid of the three ‘hell’ words and includes (as none of the others does) the punishment of both body and soul after the final Day of Judgement.

Blanchard, John. Whatever Happened to Hell? (p. 47). Evangelical Press. Kindle Edition.

Gehenna, —-we can get a much clearer picture of its origin and meaning by digging back into Jewish history. About 750 B.C. King Ahaz was ruler of Judah. A spineless idolater, he adopted some of the most revolting heathen practices of his day. Among the worst was the offering of human sacrifices—he even had his own sons burned to death. These atrocities were carried out in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, a place just southwest of Jerusalem and today called Wadi al-Rababi. Ahaz paid dearly for his sin. His political alliances came unstuck and in one battle alone he lost 120,000 men. His place was taken by the godly King Hezekiah, but he was succeeded in turn by his son Manasseh, who soon undid all the good his father had done.

He rebuilt altars to heathen idols, reinstated human sacrifices and, like Ahaz, burned his own sons to death, again in the Valley of Ben Hinnom. Manasseh was followed by his equally corrupt son Amon, who lasted only two years before being assassinated. His eight-year-old son Josiah

took his place, and by the time he was sixteen he had begun a programme of vigorous reformation.

Altars were torn down, images were smashed, and the pieces scattered over the graves of those who had bowed to them in worship. In his crusade Josiah singled out the Valley of Ben Hinnom for particular attention. From being a place of idol worship he turned it into a public rubbish dump in which all the offal and filth of Jerusalem was poured. Later, the bodies of animals and even the corpses of criminals were flung there and left to rot or to be consumed by the fire that was kept constantly burning to dispose of the stinking mass of garbage.

As one writer, Robert A. Morey comments, it was a place where 'the fires never stopped burning and the worms never stopped eating'.

We can now see how this otherwise unimportant piece of land fits into the picture. The Hebrew place-name was originally Ge(ben)hinnom (the valley of the son(s) of Hinnom). The shortened form of the name was Ge-hinnom of which the Greek translation

became Gehenna. The English word for Gehenna, with all its imagery of shame, disgrace, sin, guilt, judgement and punishment, is 'hell'.

Blanchard, John. Whatever Happened to Hell? (p. 46). Evangelical Press. Kindle Edition.

The word Gehenna appears twelve times in the New Testament,

What may surprise you is that eleven times out of the twelve that it occurs it is Jesus who uses it.

Blanchard, John. Whatever Happened to Hell? (p. 46). Evangelical Press. Kindle Edition.

It was Jesus that gave the most detailed and most explicit teaching on Hell in all of the Bible. And it is true, He did take more about Hell than heaven.

Listen to what what Jesus said about hell.

Matthew 5:29–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Here Jesus teaches the need to take extreme measures to avoid Hell.

and that you whole body will be cast there.

Matthew 10:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Here Jesus teaches that Hell is far worse than torture or death you can experience here on earth. Again, emphasis is place on not just soul but our body to will be in hell.

Mark 9:43–46 (NKJV)

⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁴ where

*‘Their worm does not die
And the fire is not quenched.’*

⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having

two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁶ where

*‘Their worm does not die
And the fire is not quenched.’*

Here Jesus teaches that it would be better to eternally crippled and maimed in heaven that to be able to walk in Hell.

It is a fire that will never go out, burn out or run out of fuel.

It is is a place of eternal misery

But the most explicit teaching Jesus ever gave on Hell is found in Luke 16 where he tells the true story of a rich man and the beggar, Lazarus

Let read it first then we can point out a few things that Jesus emphasizes

Luke 16:22–26 (NKJV)

²² 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. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ “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.’²⁵ 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.’²⁶ 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.’

1. *All men die, rich or poor. We are all going to die.*

2. Lazarus was comforted at the moment of death by the angels.

The very next thing the Rich man experiences after closing his in death is Torments

²³ And being in torments in Hades

καὶ ἐν τῷ ᾄδῃ ἐπάρας τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ, ὑπάρχων ἐν βασάνοις.

and in hell, he lifted up his eyes, **being** in **torments**

being – Pres Act Part

ὑπάρχω *hupárchō*; fut. *hupárchō*, from *hupó* (5259), and *árchō* (757), to begin. To be, live, exist (Luke 7:25; 16:23; Acts 27:34).

(I) Generally and in an absolute sense, to exist

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

to be in a state *v.* — to be or exist in a state or condition; often of states that are enduring as opposed to temporary.

torments

βάσανος, ου *f*; βασανισμός, ου *m*: severe pain associated with torture and torment— ‘torment, severe pain, severe suffering.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 286). United Bible Societies.

23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 “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.’

Here we learn

1. There is no soul sleep
2. There is no second chance

3. There is the real experience of pain as if you had a body, even though your body is in the grave.

4. There is fire and there is real torment in flames

5. There is no Mercy,

Then Jesus says

²⁵ 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**.

It should be noted that torments in NKJV is a different Greek word and is translated agony in some translations.

ὀδυνάω *odunáō*; contracted *odunṓ*, fut. *odunēsō*, from *odúnē* (3601), sorrow. To pain, distress in body or mind. In the NT, only pass. or mid., meaning to be pained, distressed, sorrowful (Luke 2:48; 16:24, 25; Acts 20:38; Sept.: Zech. 9:5; 12:10).

Syn.: *stenochōréomai* (4729), to be crowded into a narrow space, be distressed; *sunéchomai* (4912), to be held together, be pressed, to be sick; *lupéomai*

(3076), to grieve; *basanízomai* (928) and *kakouchéō* (2558), to be tormented.

Ant.: *paramuthéomai* (3888), to be soothed, consoled, encouraged; *parakaléomai* (3870), to be comforted;

Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

Here we learn

1. You have full memory of your previous life, there is no Alzheimers in Hell.

2. You are in continual agony, and distress in mind and body with no relief.

3. Pleasure and comfort for the lost is temporary by pain and agony are forever.

Then Jesus says

²⁶ 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.'

Many believe that Hades, was the temporary abode of the dead, until the Atoning work of Christ was completed. And that it had 2 compartments or holding places. One was Abraham bosom, a place

of comfort and joy and a place of torments and flames where lost Christ rejectors go.

When Jesus died. , some believe that those in Abrahams bosom went to be with Jesus in Heaven, to the thief on the cross he said today you will be with me in paradise. But the people who were in the other compartment of torment some flames remain there to this day. Awaiting the great and final day of judgment at the great white throne judgment to be cast into the lake of fire.

Here we learn that Hell is

1. permanent — it will never end.
2. There is no escape.

Finally —-

1. IT is Just

Did you notice, not one time did the Rich man say,

I don't deserve this.

This isn't fair

This isn't right

How can God be a God of love and do this to me.

While this is true from this text, it does not mean that some will not be expressing their discontent and hatred of God for this judgment

Luke 13:28 (LSB)

28 “In that place there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth** when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being cast out.

Some will be weeping for their rejection of Christ and others they led there.

Some will be raging in anger against God and Christ for placing them there.

I. The Reason. —-why remind us of Hell

II. The Reality- What the Bible says about Hell.

III. The Rescue— How do we avoid going to Hell.

You trust in the perfect atoning work of Christ alone to save you, rescue you from the penalty of sin which is death and HELL.

Sola Christus — Christ Alone

not Christ and you
 not Christ and works
 not Christ and being good.
 not Christ and keeping the
 commandments
 not Christ and the church
 not Christ and the sacraments
 not Christ and Baptism
 not Christ and the Mass
 not Christ and Mary
 BUT ONLY

CHRIST ALONE, ALONE, ALONE.

Romans 3:10–28 (NKJV)

¹⁰ As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ *There is none who understands;*

There is none who seeks after God.

¹² *They have all turned aside;*

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one.”

¹³ *“Their throat is an open tomb;*

With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;

“The poison of asps is under their lips”;
14 *“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”*
15 *“Their feet are swift to shed blood;*
16 *Destruction and misery are in their ways;*
17 *And the way of peace they have not known.”*
18 *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Psalm 8:1–9 (NKJV)

- 1 O Lord, our Lord,
How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth,
Who have set Your glory above the heavens!
- 2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants
You have ordained strength,
Because of Your enemies,
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.
- 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your
fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
- 4 What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit him?
- 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.
- 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works
of Your hands;
You have put all *things* under his feet,
- 7 All sheep and oxen—
Even the beasts of the field,
- 8 The birds of the air,

And the fish of the sea
That pass through the paths of the seas.

- ⁹ O Lord, our Lord,
How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth!

Hebrews 13:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.