

# We Believe- Eternal and Everlasting.

## Sermon Notes

August 25, 2024

### Review:

- What does it mean to be saved? Saved from what?
  - God's just judgment of all people.
  - We will give an account.
  
- Why do we need to be saved?
  - We have a sin problem.
  - We are in trouble and most don't know it.

### Read **Luke 16:19-31**

*parables*- a short story to illustrate an important lesson of truth. Jesus only uses realistic contexts and quite frankly has the library of human history to draw from.

### **Most of us live in ignorance or denial of eternal realities.** (19)

- Life is good.
  
- Indulging in life's pleasures: appearance, pleasure, luxurious pursuits.
  
- Ignoring the needs of others lest they damper your own pleasure. (21)

### **Death comes to the poor and the rich.** (22)

- Consequence of sin.
  
- Death shows no favor.
  
- We cannot control it.
  
- Eternal life is not determined by earthly blessing.

### **Eternal realities are immediate—heaven or hell.** (22b)

- Lazarus was experiencing life and relationship—Abraham's side.
  
- The rich man was isolated and in torment. (23)
  
- The torment was conscious, constant, and unrelenting.
  - Just the touch of water to his tongue was a desperate request. (24b)

- Consistent with other descriptions of Hell and Lake of Fire being a place of ongoing torment.

**Revelation 14:11** “...no rest day or night.”

**Revelation 20:10** “...tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

**2 Thessalonians 1:9** “...punished with everlasting destruction...”

### **There are no exchanges between Heaven or Hell. (26)**

- There is an eternal separation from the water of life.

### **Salvation from such a place can only be determined prior to your death.**

(27-31)

- “Please warn them!”
  - Now he realizes his family is in trouble.
- The Word provides the warning—teach and pray for our loved ones.
- Miraculous presentations are not going to produce the response desired.

***We have a problem that stymies belief.***

### **We have three common humanistic problems that mute this warning:**

1. The dismissal or diminishing of eternal judgment.
2. Self-adulation that minimizes our need for a savior.
3. Compartmentalizing God’s love away from His holiness and justice.

**Problem 1-** Our tendency as humans is to minimize or deny future consequences for present pleasure or ease of mind.

- Resulting in Hell being made out to be a metaphor not a reality.
- An eternal, conscious, and ongoing place of torment is simply too horrific to be real or created by a “loving God”.
  - Leads to annihilationism.

**Problem 2-** We have too high a view of ourselves and of our capacity for good and self-rescue.

- Can we not attain a satisfiable level of good.
- If not me, then certainly the answer is not found exclusively in Jesus.

- Maybe Jesus saves us all, we just don't know until we get there. *Inclusivism*
- There will be a second opportunity after death. It's more fair once you truly know after you die. *Postmortem Evangelism*
- All religious people who are sincere will be saved. *Religious Pluralism*

**Problem 3-** We use our human limitations to define God's love, holiness, and justice.

- No way a loving God creates a place so awful as hell.
- Because God is love no one will go to hell. He saves them all. *Universalism*
- Complete denial and ignorance of our compartmentalization of love, holiness, and justice that strips each of them of purity. God is NOT us!

### Simple Truth

1. Our holy God hates sin.
2. Sin must be accounted for by death—complete eradication.
3. We cannot pay such a debt, so He did!
4. He replaces death with life. Not only for eternity but also for now!

### We are blessed now and later.

**Now-** new life that thrives in relationship with God and others.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:<sup>[a]</sup> The old has gone, the new is here!"

**Later-** The ultimate hope of eternal life with Jesus. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

- We have hope because we have Jesus. (13)
- Jesus' resurrection will be the pattern for us. (14)
- We will be with the Lord forever. (17)
- Be encouraged. (18)