

There is no place like Hell

1 John 4v8 **He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.** You believe that?

John 15v13 **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** You believe that?

God loves everybody does He? What about Hitler, Josef Mengele (The Angel of Death), serial killers, child abusers, terrorists etc?

Mengele suffered a stroke while swimming and drowned. He died in 1979 aged 67.

If Mengele would have lived and you were the judge, what sentence would you have given him?

Would you have kept him alive? Would you have tortured him, or sentenced him to death?

Do you think that a quick death was justified punishment for somebody as evil as this man?

I thank God that there is a Hell. Mat 10v28 **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.**

Did you know that God hates some things?

Prov 6v16-19 **These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

Heb 12v29 **For our God is a consuming fire.** You believe that? What does that actually mean, do you know? You will by the end of this sermon.

Turn with me to the following Scriptures...

Read Mat 23v14+15+23-28+33+37 – Do you know that most Christians didn't even know that Jesus Christ spoke like that or said those actual words?

Mat 7v21-23 **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.** Imagine that, you think you are saved, you think you are a Christian, you think you are going to Heaven when you die... then you suddenly die and find yourself standing before God and hear these words from His mouth... **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity** in another place it says... **Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:** Mat 25v41.

Did you know that you can think and believe that you are 100% absolutely totally RIGHT... and be wrong? **Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?** 2 Cor 13v5.

Do you know what the Devil is best at? Deception. If he can deceive you, he's done his job, and most people are deceived these days. When was the last time you checked to see that you aren't being deceived?

If you're one of these mask-wearing people who live on mainstream media, then you are so deceived it will be very hard to reach you.

I haven't spoken on the actual subject of Hell for some time.

Ever wondered WHY they say Heaven is UP and Hell is down?

Well the Bible says a lot about both, but my subject is Hell today... the Scriptures say this in regard to Hell...

Deut 32v22 **...shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.** Cf Jonah 2v6 **I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.**

Job 11v8 **...deeper than hell...**

Ps 55v15 **...let them go down quick into hell...**

Prov 9v18 **...in the depths of hell.**

Prov 15v24 **The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.**

Isa 14v9 **Hell from beneath...**

Isa 14v15 **Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.**

Ezek 31v16 **...when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.** ('Nether parts of the earth' occurs FIVE times in Scripture - Ezek 31v14, Ezek 31v16, Ezek 31v18, Ezek 32v18, Ezek 32v24)

Amos 9v2 **Though they dig into hell...**

2 Pet 2v4 **For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;**

Rev 20v13 **And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them...**

I guess that many of you here will have never heard anything like what you're going to hear today, because 99% of our churches don't preach this kind of stuff. Now I'm not trying to be clever, or shock you, although I think this message will shock many, I just want to give you the truth - Gal 4v16 **Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?**

If you're interested in money and keeping the offerings up, or if you're interested in growing numbers in your church, then of course, you won't preach this kind of thing. I'm not interested in either of those things, so it doesn't bother me in the slightest... remember, I preached to just three ladies for years before you lot turned up.

Most people don't want to hear about sin, death, judgment and Hell fire... *and I get that*, but the Bible speaks a lot about all of these things, and we need to hear them. Here at The Oaks Church, you will get a well-balanced diet of the word of God - **For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.** Acts 20v27. I don't just give you the pink and fluffy deserts that you like, as you know. Sometimes you need steak, and today you're gonna get some choice Sirloin steak...!

Now due to the nature of this subject, I expect to offend quite a few listeners, but... everything I'm saying is from the Bible. You don't have to believe it, but you stand against God's word in the process. I believe THE BOOK.

First a few Scriptures... (I would suggest not looking all the Scriptures up, as I shall be moving pretty fast today, but instead write them down and look them up afterwards. I will also put this on YouTube and a hard-copy CD if you want to listen to it again for cross-referencing purposes, but I leave it with you).

1 Sam 20v3 **...truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.** None of you know WHEN you are going to die. If death catches you unawares, and unprepared, then there is a great possibility that you will land up in Hell afterwards.

Deut 32v28+29 **For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them. O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!** Have you considered your 'latter end?' Do you know WHERE you are going when you die? Are you sure?

Prov 1v25 **But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:**

Prov 1v27 **When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.**

Prov 1v30 **They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.** People think they know better than God and go their own way, this is catastrophic. Prov 14v12 **There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**

Heb 9v27 **And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**

Now everyone in this room is a sinner, I'm sure we know that. Rom 3v4 **...let God be true, but every man a liar...** to start with, according to the Bible you are all liars, and so am I. It just takes one sin to keep you out of Heaven... so there you have it, none of us are going, unless we find some way of getting rid of our sins... Ecc 7v20 **For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.**

Titus 3v5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;** Eph 2v8+9 **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.** Have you got rid of all your sins? How did you do it? If it was by any kind of 'work' on your part, then according to the Bible you are NOT saved.

Gal 6v7 **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.** Do you know what, when and where you will reap a life of rebellion against God? The GWT then the Lake of Fire.

My job as a Christian, is to warn every one of the consequences of rejecting God, the Gospel, His word and salvation... if you do, there is nothing anyone can do for you, you are going to go to Hell. **Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.** Ezek 3v17

John 5v24 **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.**

Anyway, let us turn to the passage of scripture that we will be looking at, **Luke 16 v19-31.**

Now to start off I would say that this account we have just read, is NOT a parable, but a **factual account** that actually took place, with these two people, Lazarus and a rich man. The reason I say this is because when the Lord spoke in parables He always said things like "Hear ye therefore the parable..." or "Another parable put He forth unto them..." A few times He used the word "like" where a particular truth was compared to some familiar object or scene. Also, in this passage Jesus mentions two specific people, a rich man and the beggar Lazarus. Jesus also starts this account by saying "There was..." it is like a **definite statement** that this actually took place. Cults reject this truth.

Now we notice that the beggar Lazarus went to 'Abraham's bosom' (and later to Heaven) and the rich man went to Hell.

Let us sort something out straight away here, Before Jesus died and rose again, the saved (believers) when they died went to Abraham's bosom (aka 'Death' - Rev 20v13) in the underworld, and the unsaved (non-believers aka God rejectors) went to Hell in the underworld, the centre of the earth. Hell is actually IN the centre of the earth

When Jesus died on Calvary's cross where did he go? **"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."** (Luke 23v46) His spirit went back to God.

Now where did His body go? **"This man went unto pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man was laid."** (Luke 23v52-53) His body went to the grave, it was in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea for three days and three nights.

His soul went down to Hell. Acts 2v27 **Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly: so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.** Matt 12v40.

This is why it was impossible for Jesus to be crucified on Good Friday, as tradition has it, because He arose from the dead three days later on the first day of the week (Sunday). The scriptures tell us that Jesus was three *days* and three *nights* in the heart of the earth, so if He rose on Sunday morning (the first day of the week) it is physically impossible to have died on Friday (Friday night, Saturday night...?)

Now just to clear something else up, that you may or may not find confusing...When someone who is unsaved, and therefore lost, dies, they go to the Hell in the centre of the earth. But if one of us, who are Christians, was to die this evening, where would we go? to Abraham's bosom? NO! For Paul writes **"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."** 2 Cor 5v8.

Paul also said **For I am in a straight betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and be with Christ; which is far better.** Phil 1v23... and again **For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.** (Phil 1v21) Why could Paul say all these things? Because he knew, that when he died he would go straight into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, where we go if we die today.

The reason we no longer go to the Paradise section in the centre of the earth is because when Jesus Christ rose from the dead we read **Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)** (Eph 4v8-9) Jesus took all the saved ones (Moses, Abraham, David etc...) with him to heaven. Therefore Abraham's bosom is empty today. **Absent from the body, present with the Lord.** 2 Cor 5v8.

Therefore, getting back to Lazarus and the rich man, Hell and Abraham's bosom are the places we are reading about here.

Hell is an actual place, it is not a *state of mind* and it is not *what you make of life down here*, we read that the rich man 'died and was buried, and being in Hell, lifted up his eyes', so we see that Hell is the *after-life*, a choice YOU make. The JW's say that when you die you are annihilated, you cease to exist, we can see again from this rich man's situation, that this too is a lie. Hell is a reality, and every JW will become a believer within seconds after they die sadly.

Some people believe that Hell is *soul-sleep*, but again we see the rich man is conscious of his **torments**, he was in excruciating pain that will never end. Some people believe that *purgatory* (that the RC's teach) is a Hell that fits us for heaven, a kind of purification that we have to go through before we can enter into glory. But Jesus demolished this idea by showing that there is a great gulf fixed, and no one ever crosses it. Once you have died that is it. There is No second chance.

Some people say that Hell is a place where you can communicate with departed souls of loved ones but yet again, we read that the rich man said **"...I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him (Lazarus) to my father's house. For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment."** You see if the rich man could have communicated with his brethren then he would not have asked Abraham to send Lazarus to talk to them. You cannot communicate with your dead loved ones, that's just another man-made lie.

Hell is a physical place where every Christ rejecting sinner will spend eternity, with no hope whatsoever of comfort or escape. It's terrifying. You don't have to go there! **The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.** 2 Pet 3v9. **Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.** 1 Tim 2v4

We read 'the beggar died.' He was then carried by angels into the presence of the King of kings, God Himself wiped away all tears from his eyes; and amidst the songs of angels and archangels, and the innumerable company before the throne, he who on earth had neither food nor raiment, nor house wherein to lay his head, was welcomed as an heir of God, a joint heir with Christ, and forever installed in an inheritance in the God's Kingdom.

For Lazarus it was from rags to riches as they say, the best that was yet to come for this man, had arrived. His last enemy had been destroyed, and death had been to him the gateway into everlasting life. His light affliction, which was but for a moment, had worked for him a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. 2 Cor 4v17.

The rich man had *everything* but God, the beggar had *nothing* but God, and each was content with his portion. Lazarus had God and was content; the rich man was content without God. Which one can you identify with? Satan does everything he can to take your mind off dying, death, the afterlife, judgement, Heaven and Hell etc. He'll distract you throughout your life, getting you to put off what you know you should do, get saved and live for Jesus Christ.

There will be many people like the rich man in hell. They live good respectable lives, but they have no thought for their soul, their eternal destination, they live only for today. Are you like that? You're on very dangerous ground if you are.

DL Moody said this '*This world is all of Hell a Christian will ever see; and this world is all of Heaven that an unsaved man will ever see*'. That's very profound.

Hell is a place of torments, a place of terrible suffering for in v24 we read **I am tormented in this flame**. In verse 25 Abraham says to the rich man **thou art tormented**. In v28 we also read **this place of torment**. It is a place of fire that is never quenched, you can never find release or comfort, no not for a moment.

We notice in Luke 16, the passage that we read, that the rich man had all his faculties... showing us that whoever goes there will also have all their faculties. They see, for the rich man saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. They feel, for he was in torments. they cry for mercy, for he asked, but in vain, for a drop of water to cool his tongue. They are in possession of *memory*, for the rich man was told to *remember* what he had received during his lifetime on earth.

Let us just stop and consider this, that in Hell you will be able to remember, that is part of the torment. We have said this before I know, but, you do not go to hell by *accident*. If you're not saved today, and you continue to reject Christ as your Saviour for your remaining days, then in Hell you will remember this sermon for eternity... If only...!

As someone once said, 'There are no tracts in Hell', but you will remember every single one that was handed to you and that you tore up and threw away. Throughout all eternity you will curse and wail wishing you had taken that tract, wishing you had answered the preachers question "Will you come to Christ?" **"...behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation."** Heb 6v2.

Don't put it off any longer, get saved today, right now where you are sitting, come to Christ. **And whosoever shall fall on this stone (JESUS CHRIST) shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.** Mat 21v44. If you do not fall upon Christ for mercy in this life, He will fall upon you and grind you to powder in the next.

The Lord doesn't want anyone to go to Hell - **The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.** 2 Peter 3v9.

...As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die? Ezek 33v11.

God does not want any of us to go to Hell, but He can't stop us if we chose the pathway there. God will never force Himself upon us. I repeat, you do not go to Hell by accident, you chose your own destination.

How can a God of love send people to hell?

Well first of all we read that hell was not created for us... **"Then shall he say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."** (Mat 25v41) Now of course God is a God of Love, and what great love He has shown to us, for we read,

Jesus speaking... **"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.** John 15v9+13.

There is intense darkness in Hell, for there is no darkness like the darkness of hell. It is darkness which is completely beyond any ray of light, all natural light, all man made light, all spiritual light, all God given light, all the light of the Gospel, all the light of hope, all the light of peace and all the light of pardon. It is outer darkness. It is outside all light. Being scared of the dark is a type of Hell I guess. When you become a Christian, you receive a peace... **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.** Ps 23v4.

There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. There will be no resting place in Hell; no secret corner where they can find a little place of shelter, no cooling fountain to refresh themselves, for we read that there is no water there **...the pit wherein is no water.** Zech 9v11.

There is also no loneliness like the loneliness of Hell. People often say that they will see all their mates, their drinking buddies, the lads down there. This is a lie. Hell is a place of eternal isolation. Hell is a place of everlasting separation. Every damned soul is so tormented in the flames of hell and in agony of the torments of eternal doom, that he or she can't spare a moment to think of others in Hell, to speak to others in Hell, or to communicate with others in Hell. Every cell in Hell is built for eternal solitary confinement.

Imagine this, there will be no children in hell, you shall never hear a child laugh again, never hear a bird sing again, never hear the rain or hear any other noise that we take for granted, never smell the freshly cut grass of enjoy anything ever again.

Hell is...

- 1) A lake of fire (Rev 20v15)
- 2) A devouring fire (Isa 33v14)
- 3) A bottomless pit (Rev 20v1)
- 4) Everlasting burnings (Isa 33v14)
- 5) A furnace of fire (Mat 13v41-42)
- 6) A place of torments (Luke 16v23)
- 7) A place where they curse God forever (Rev 16v11)
- 8) Where they can *never* repent, no escape (Matt 12v32)
- 9) A place where they have no rest (Rev 14v11)
- 10) A place of everlasting punishment (Matt 25v46)
- 11) A place of blackness of darkness forever (Jude 13)
- 12) A place where they gnaw their tongues (Rev 16v10)
- 13) A place where their breath will be a living flame (Isa 33v11)
- 14) A place prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt 25v41)
- 15) A lake of fire which the Antichrist & False Prophet are cast alive (Rev 19v20)
- 16) A place where the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever (Rev 14v11)
- 17) A place where they drink the wine of the wrath of God (Rev 14v10)
- 18) A place where they do not want their loved ones to come (Luke 16v28)
- 19) A place where there are murders, liars, the fearful and abominable, and the worst kind of people that have ever lived (Rev 21v8)

Someone has written a description of hell as ... Hell is a furnace of unquenchable fire, a place of everlasting punishment, where its victims are tormented in both their bodies and their minds in accordance with their sinful natures their actual sins committed, and the amount of spiritual light given to them, which they rejected. Hell is a place from which God's mercy and goodness have been withdrawn, where God's wrath is revealed as a terrifying, consuming fire, and men live with unfulfilled lusts and desires in torment forever and ever.

What is the worst pain and anguish you have ever felt... it is nothing compared to Hell.

Imagine every part of your body on fire at the same time, so that every fibre of your being felt the intense torment of being burned. How long could you endure such punishment? Christ tells us that there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. The lost will wail and gnash their teeth from having to endure the most intense pain and suffering they have ever felt as the flames consume them and constantly burn every part of their bodies. And there will be no relief.

Spurgeon said *'In hell there is no hope. They have not even the hope of dying, the hope of being annihilated. They are forever, forever, forever lost. On every chain-link in Hell is written forever. In the fires blaze out the words forever. Above their heads, they read, forever. Their eyes are galled, and their hearts are pained with the thought that it is forever.'*

So why go there? Do something about it today.

Mark 8v36 **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**

Day and night, forever and ever, shall they be punished. Why? Because of the holiness and justice of God, something that we cannot comprehend fully now, if ever. *Who can understand God?* Isa 55v8 **For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.**

Why do people go to hell?

It is because they have rejected Jesus Christ as their Saviour. They think that they are more righteous than God. Luke 18v9 **And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:**

People do not go to Hell for committing murder. Moses was a murderer; he didn't go to Hell. People don't go to Hell for committing adultery. David committed adultery; he didn't go to Hell. People don't go to hell for swearing, lying and cursing. Peter swore, lied and cursed and went to Heaven.

You go to Hell for rejecting Jesus Christ as your Saviour, as He is the only one who can save you from Hell.

What are you counting on to keep you out of Hell?

If you don't want to go there, what are you trusting in to keep you out? **For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.** Rom 10v3-4. Do you want to go to Hell, then trust in yourself. Do you want to go to Heaven, then trust in Jesus Christ. It's as simple as that. Phil 3v9 **And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:** Rom 3v22 **Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe... For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.** 2 Cor 5v21.

A bible believing Christian is the only person who knows where he is going when he dies.

John knew where he was going.. **These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may know that ye have eternal life...** 1 John 5v13.

Peter knew where he was going... **Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me... an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.** 2 Peter 1v14 & 1 Peter 1v4-5.

Paul knew where he was going... **I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.** 2 Tim 1v12. **For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.** 2 Tim 4v6-8.

Hell is for all those who have rejected God's righteousness in the stead of their own.

Prov 1v24 reads **"Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:**

God has stretched forth his hand to this gainsaying people for years, because of His mercy, but when the time comes that all must be accounted for, those who are punished in Hell will receive no mercy. **"Therefore will I also deal in**

fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.” (Eze 8v18)

Jonathan Edward's in his sermon '**Sinners in the hands of an angry God**' writes *"Now God stands ready to pity you; this is a day of mercy; you may cry now with some encouragement of obtaining mercy, But when once the day of mercy is past, your most lamentable cries and shrieks will be in vain; you will be wholly lost and thrown down away of God, as to any regard to your welfare. God will have no other use to put you to, but to suffer misery; you shall be continued in being to no other end; for you will be a vessel of wrath fitted to destruction; and there will be no other use of this vessel, but to be filled full of wrath.*

Whether you like it or not, you will be a believer someday, if not here on earth, it will be in the fiery flames of Hell. But then it will be too late.

The Bible also teaches that after the unsaved are cast into the lake of fire their existence will be erased from the memories of the righteous in Heaven. **Drought and heat consume the snow waters; so doth the grave those which have sinned. The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered.** (Job 24v19-20) **For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.** Isa 65v17.

Again, an excerpt from that famous sermon by Jonathan Edward's, "**Sinners in the hands of an angry God**"...

"The wrath of God burns against you, your damnation does not slumber, the pit is prepared, the fire is made ready, the furnace is now hot, ready to receive you, the flames do now rage and glow. The glittering sword is whet, and held over them, and the pit hath opened its mouth under you. The devil stands ready to fall upon you, and seize you as his own, at that moment God shall permit him. They belong to him, he has their souls in his possession, and under his dominion. You are walking over the pit of Hell on a rotten covering, and there are innumerable places in this covering so weak that they will not bear your weight, and these places are not seen.

God is under no manner of obligation to keep you a moment longer from eternal destruction.

So that, thus it is that natural men are held in the hand of God, over the pit of hell; they have deserved the fiery pit, and are already sentenced to it; and God is dreadfully provoked, his anger is as great towards them as to those that are actually suffering the executions of the fierceness of his wrath in Hell, and they have done nothing in the least to appease that anger, neither is God in the least bound by any promise to hold them up one moment; the devil is waiting for them, Hell is gaping for them, the flames gather and flash about them, and would fain lay hold on them, and swallow them up; the fire bent up in their own hearts is struggling to break out: and they have no interest in any Mediator, there are no means within reach that can be any security to them.

Tonight, if you are unsaved you are offending God, and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment. It is to be ascribed to nothing else, that you did not go to Hell last night; that you was suffered to awake again in this world, after you closed your eyes to sleep. And there is no other reason to be given, why you have not dropped into Hell since you arose in the morning, but that God's hand has held you up. It is only by the mercy of God that you do not drop into Hell this very moment.

Therefore, let everyone that is out of Christ, now awake and fly from the wrath to come.'

An interesting passage... **And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire. Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?** Isa 33:12+14

Let God have the final say... **"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** (John 3v18)

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3v36)

Amen.