



## SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

### Heaven and Hell, The Reality Of Life After Death, Pt. 2

Pastor John Riggs

#### Main Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 29:29
- Matthew 7 (specifically Matthew 7:13-23)
- Mark 9:42-48
- Jude 17-23
- 1 Corinthians 2:9-12
- Luke 16:19-31

#### Key Points:

- Common misconceptions about the afterlife, such as becoming angels or experiencing boredom in heaven, are addressed and refuted.
- A critique is presented against the idea that 'hell is a state of mind,' labeling it a dangerous deception that leads to a false sense of security and the abuse of grace.
- The message warns against a superficial 'churchianity' that lacks a genuine relationship with God and encourages living a life that reflects true faith.
- Christians are cautioned against supporting or encouraging sinful lifestyles in others, especially new or struggling believers, due to the serious spiritual consequences.
- The seriousness of sin is emphasized, with Jesus' teaching on metaphorically 'cutting off' offending body parts to avoid eternal consequences.
- Jesus' teachings on sin and its consequences, including the graphic imagery of cutting off body parts, underscore the extreme seriousness of sin and the reality of hell.
- The sermon strongly refutes the modern notion that hell is merely a psychological state or a metaphor, asserting that Jesus spoke of it as a literal, terrifying reality.
- Misconceptions about hell as a place of pleasure and revelry are identified as lies from Satan, contrasting with Jesus' descriptions of it as a place of 'unquenchable fire'.

- God's grace should not be used as an excuse for sin; it is not a license to live without consequences, as emphasized by Paul's warnings.
- Scripture indicates that the majority of humanity will face hell, making the message of salvation and warning others critically important.
- Hell was originally created for Satan and his angels, not for humanity, highlighting that entering hell is a consequence of rejecting God.
- The Christian's duty includes warning others about hell, akin to 'snatching them out of the fire,' and showing mercy with discernment, hating even the 'garment stained by the flesh'.
- True discipleship is demonstrated by actions and obedience to God's will, not just by verbal affirmations like 'Lord, Lord,' as many who claim Jesus will not enter heaven.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is foundational to Christian faith; without it, Christian teachings are meaningless and salvation is impossible.
- The life lived on earth has eternal significance, with actions for Christ following believers into eternity and bringing blessings.
- The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16 provides significant details about the afterlife, including the reality of torment in Hades and the separation between the righteous and the unrighteous.
- The concept of Sheol (or Hades) in the Old and New Testaments represents the abode of the dead, and before Christ's resurrection, it appears to have had two distinct parts separated by a fixed chasm.
- The destinations of the righteous and unrighteous after death have changed following Jesus Christ's ascension.
- The idea of ceasing to have consciousness at death is a comforting lie, refuted by biblical accounts. Hell is a literal place where consciousness continues after death.
- A fixed chasm separates the realms of the saved and the unsaved, preventing any movement between them.
- There are no second chances after death; individuals are judged based on the knowledge they had in life.
- Materialism and societal focus on wealth distract from the true purpose of life and the reality of the afterlife.
- The hardest place to preach the gospel is often in cultures that have already heard and rejected it, due to ingrained materialism.
- The truth of God's word, including concepts of sin and hell, should weigh on believers to encourage them to live for God's glory.





**Question and Answer:**

Q: What is the primary source of truth regarding the afterlife?

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Q: Will people become angels after they die?

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Q: What is the danger of believing 'hell is a state of mind'?

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Q: What is 'churchianity' and why is it problematic?

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Q: What does Jesus mean by 'cutting off your hand' if it causes you to sin?

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Q: What is the spiritual implication of a Christian supporting a sinful lifestyle?

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Q: Is hell a literal place, or is it just a metaphor for suffering in this life?

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Q: What does the Bible say hell is like?

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Q: Can God's grace be used as an excuse to continue sinning?

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Q: Who was hell created for?

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Q: What is the Christian's responsibility towards people who are heading towards hell?

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Q: How can one be sure of entering heaven if simply saying 'Lord, Lord' is not enough?

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Q: What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection for Christians?

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Q: Does our life on earth have any impact on eternity?

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Q: What does the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus teach us about the afterlife?

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Q: What is Sheol/Hades?

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Q: Will we have consciousness and memory after death?

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Q: Are heaven and hell literal places?

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Q: Where did the righteous go before Jesus Christ's ascension?

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Q: Where do believers go when they die today?

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Q: Is hell a real place, and is it still being populated?

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Q: What happens to consciousness after death?

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Q: Can people in hell communicate with or receive help from those in paradise?

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Q: Is there a second chance to believe in God after death?

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Q: How can people know God exists if they haven't heard the gospel?

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Q: What is the main focus of modern Western culture, and how does it affect people's spiritual lives?

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Q: What is the true purpose of life according to the sermon?

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Q: Why is it difficult to preach the gospel in places like America?

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Q: What do people talk about at funerals?

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Q: Why is it important to discuss uncomfortable topics like sin and hell?

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## Sermon Transcript:

Put your finger in Luke chapter 16 this morning. Luke chapter 16. We have some other passages we're going to look at first, but that's going to be the main part of our study today. You know, last Sunday we began a new series on heaven and hell, the reality of life after death. Lots of people have questions about what happens when we die, about the afterlife. Is heaven and hell real? Um, we have a lot of people who have different opinions about that, and there's not a shortage of those on the internet today. For those of you that um watch YouTube or any of the podcast platforms, you'll find that there is a great interest in life after death. In fact, more and more we're seeing these stories come along on our feed talking about their death experience, what happened after they died and then they came back. And so there's lots of those, but I would caution you on much of those that you hear. I want to start again where we where we uh started last week. And I want to do this for a reason because I want us to understand some things here that we find from the word of God. If we want to know what happens after death, then we need to go to the God who created life and all of existence. We need to go to the word of God. So let's go. I want to bring up Deuteronomy 29:29 to you once again this morning. You can write it down, but I just want to remind you of a few things. Scripture tells us in this passage that the secret things belong to the Lord our God. But the things revealed to us, they belong to us and our children. So why do I use that passage to begin today? Because there are many, many, many things that you will wonder about what life will be like once life here is over. And so there's lots of speculation. There's going to be things you think about, maybe some things that you might imagine. And those things are just part of us not knowing fully what it will be like. And those things that we do not know are left to God. But here's the amazing part. God has revealed to us in his word many things that we can know about heaven, hell, and the afterlife, or what happens once we die. There's much in there. And so that's what we're going to do over these next several weeks is we're going to go to the word of God and we are going to study scripture to learn what God has revealed to us. And we understand that these things that God has revealed to us, they are for our benefit. They are for our good, for our understanding, and they're also for our children. In other words, there's a benefit of us knowing this and that our children can know this. And there's also even in our minds a thinking here that we as parents are to be passing and teaching these truths on to the next generation. So, as we go through this study, we're going to be left with some things that we will not be able to answer. We'll be left to speculate some things, especially when we get into the new heaven and the new earth and eternity from that point on forever. What is that going to be like? Well, there are some things that scripture has revealed to us. I was talking with someone uh yesterday and they mentioned to me that uh two things that they were hoping for were already shot out of the water last week. One of them was the fact that they wanted to be a guardian angel when they died. And the other one thought, well, hey, we're just going to be floating on clouds and plucking on harps for all eternity. The reality is you will not be an angel when you die. Never forget this. You hear this all the time at funerals and other things. You'll hear that, well, God just needed another angel. No, God doesn't need another angel. The scriptures tell us there are myriads of myriads of myriads of angels. And so we will not be like the angels in that we will be one. Not at all. Um, we are created a little lower than the angels. And the angels are not human, and we are not going to be angels. Always remember that. That's just one thing that you're going to hear. And here's the other thing I wanted to stress last week, and you're going to learn more as we go forward. Heaven will not be boring. It will not be boring. One of the individuals I spoke with yesterday said, "Well, I love to be busy. I want to do things." Oh, trust me. You will be doing many things throughout eternity and it will far surpass anything that you can ever ever imagine in purpose and in

greatness and in wholeness. It will encapsulate all of what we know and it will magnify it to a point that you can't even comprehend in our finite mind. So we want to learn what does scripture teach and what does God reveal to us about this very important topic. And it's important because all of us, excluding those who will be raptured when Christ comes again, are going to experience what we call death. We learned last week that Jesus said he is the resurrection and the life. That even if someone dies in faith in Christ, he will yet live. And he who lives and believes in Christ will never die. These are important truths that we must understand. It's interesting to me that many, many people want to go to heaven. They just don't want to go today. Uh, many people talk like that. There's a lot of people that um have much confusion about it. So, our hope over the next few weeks is that we will really encourage you in the Lord about this place and this promise of what we know is coming for all of us who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. So, in my study for preparation a few weeks ago, I came across a thumbnail. For those of you that don't know what a thumbnail is, I know you're shocked. I know what that word even means, but that is something that comes up on your feed or on a podcast or on YouTube or something like that. When you're looking something up on Google, it'll have a title of what that is going to actually be about. And so, in my preparation, I came across a thumbnail from a pastor. I thought, well, this is going to be interesting. Let's see here what this is. I did a little research on this pastor, and he pastors a 7,000 member church in Atlanta, Georgia. That's a large church even for our time. The thumbnail read something very interesting that caught my attention. And here's what it said, coming from a pastor of this very large church in Atlanta, Georgia. Are you ready? Heaven is for real. Hell is a state of mind. Isn't that incredible? His message and his sermon was heaven is for real, but hell, you don't need to worry about that because that's just a state of mind. Such a comfy title. It's one the world would love to embrace. Ironically, it comes from a wolf dressed in the clothing of a lamb. This should not shock us because Jesus told us that many false teachers would arise in the last days and that they would lead many astray. This fits the narrative of our times. We see this all around us. This is right out of Satan's playbook, by the way. Don't worry, be happy. Hell's a joke. And everyone goes to heaven. This mentality is so common, unfortunately, even among those who profess to be believers in Jesus Christ. So many enjoy their sin. They're comfortable in sin because in their mind, hell is just a state of mind. It's not a reality. Or they have believed that their lifestyle and how they live matters not at all. You just simply give God a mental assent in belief that Jesus is real and zap, you're into heaven for all eternity. That is not the truth. There are many, many, many sitting in evangelical churches in the United States who will not hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Unfortunately, they're going to hear the words of what we read in Matthew 7, which says, "Depart from me, you doers of iniquity, for I never knew you." Scary. And it's very concerning for us as Christians. That's why we have such a desire for people to come to the knowledge of the truth. Many today are simply calling sin an ability to remain in a freedom type lifestyle. In other words, grace is abused to the point that grace is trampled on, and people just assume they can live any way they want to because God's grace covers a multitude of sins. And that is true. But here's the deal. We're told that we are to sin no longer. What does that mean? That we're sinless? No. That means that we no longer want to live a lifestyle of the old man of sin against the things of God. That changes when we come to Christ. And it takes time. Yes. But something changes in you when you come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. And we have an extreme that has been preached about grace to a point where people just simply believe they're comfortable in their sin and going to heaven. It's very scary to teach that, but it's very prominent in our time. Thank God for his grace. Amen. >> Amen. We're thankful for God's grace. We're saved by grace. All of these are true. But we have to be careful how we view this. Very popular though in our time. But they deny the power of God to bring the change that God says he brings in their lives. So they have

a form of godliness. This is really what's vogue in what I call churchianity today. It's just a form of godliness. It's an attendance. It's part of a of a of a church kind of religious thing that happens in our time. We're not really much different in the Western church than the Catholic Church is or the Greek Orthodox is. In many ways, it's just become nothing but religion, just religious activity. But that's not what we're called to. We're not called to religion. We're called to a real and vibrant relationship with the God who created us by faith through Jesus Christ in order that we could be born again to this new hope and this new life in Jesus. These individuals that you'll see, and it's very prominent today. You'll notice it especially on things of social media. It's really a mind-scratcher. It's something that is affecting our minds. That is those who would profess to be a follower of Jesus Christ, but they are constantly promoting and supporting others who are living a lifestyle contrary to what it would be to be those in Jesus Christ. It's really interesting. The reason for this is because they have been hoodwinked. They're encouraging others and even their own children who by their own lifestyles are indulging in the very things that God's word says will send them straight to hell. Doesn't make sense. No Christian parent should ever be supporting their child in a lifestyle that is contrary to what Jesus Christ says it is to be a believer. Now, if we don't want to address that with them personally, by all means, we should not be supporting it or encouraging it. We should be praying for them. Many have been hoodwinked in our time, deceived, led down the primrose path of modern churchianity. They're living in a state of false security of heaven is real and hell is just a state of mind. The enemy, Satan, has done some of his greatest work, believe it or not, in the church. Listen to the words of Jesus. And I'm not wanting to spend a lot of time on hell yet because we're going to get there. But we're going to be looking at something scripture teaches us about this reality of what takes place when we die. Your soul does not sleep whatsoever. We'll go over this in more detail as we move forward. We know that Paul makes it clear, as we looked at last week, to be absent from our bodies is to be present with the Lord Jesus Christ. Or Paul would never have said, "It's far better for me to depart and be with the Lord." No, we know this happens. And in Revelation, we find that the tribulation saints that are martyred on the earth are in heaven. And they're actually under the altar. And what do they say? How long, oh Lord? Until you what? Until you deal justly with the injustice of what we received on earth. They're there immediately after that. So I want to address this today in order that we can understand what scripture really teaches about these things. And for you Christian, let me say this. The best is yet to come. The best is yet to come. Here are the words of Jesus Christ out of Mark 9:42-48. We want to see this today because the culture that we are in, and I call it the church culture, if you will, it has some main major problems. And we were just talking about one of those problems. It's it's kind of the popularity of just being a Christian in the South and going to church maybe once a week or once every two or three months. It's you would identify as being a Christian. You talk about some things. Maybe you post a few things and you see them posted by others on their Facebook feeds and so on and so forth. But in reality, there is not a lifestyle that would demonstrate that they are actually those who have ever been born again of the spirit of God. And this is why this is important today because of the times in which we're living in. As we finished our last series on the series of deception in Mark's gospel, verse 9, uh, chapter 9, verses 42-48, I want you to hear the words of Christ. By the way, all scripture is given by inspiration of God. Don't get caught up into this thing that, well, I'm only going to study the words written in red. That's not going to work. They never should have done that to begin with. Why? Because the entire Bible, all 66 books are the word of God. That's why. And so in in this section in verses 42-48 of chapter 9, Jesus says, listen to this. Whoever causes these little ones who believe in me to sin, this is why we would never encourage someone living in a sinful way against God who calls themselves a Christian. Why? Because by you're promoting it or encouraging it, you could cause them to continue in that

type of sin. Notice what Jesus says here. This needs to be something that we think about in order that we can understand some things going on here and how God views sin. Whoever causes one of these little ones to believe who believe in me to sin, notice what Jesus says. For those who cause the these little ones, that means they're young in their faith. That means they they don't have a full knowledge yet of scripture. They're they're just maybe recently come to the knowledge of the truth. And the Holy Spirit is working in their life to bring about that change of holiness and and and showing through demonstration of the word and the conviction that comes upon them by the sinful things that they once did in the old man. The Holy Spirit in love begins to what? He brings to bring us to a point in the sanctification process, and the Holy Spirit will be convicting them and convincing them and demonstrating that through the word of God. And if the church promotes that person and encourages that that person in their sin, there's some major problems here. Jesus said it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. This is another sobering thing I think about often, and I have to repent and say, God, forgive me for saying that. Scripture tells us that we will what? Give an account for every word we have spoken. So when we think about these young in faith, this is why it matters, Christian, how we live our lives because we have new believers in Christ or those that are young in their faith or maybe they're struggling with their faith, whatever it could be. If they're watching your life and you are what? Displaying and speaking and telling them that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. If they were to follow the pattern of your life, you, if you were living a lifestyle of sin, hanging out in sinful places, doing things that are sinful by the old man, these young ones could be led or tripped up here and it could cause them to stumble in their faith in their journey with Jesus Christ. It is serious. Jesus said, "Hey, it'd be better for that person to have a millstone." Millstone, you know what they are? They're massive, and they were used for grinding grain, heavy. Be better for that person to have one tied around their neck and thrown into the sea. And if your hand, this is what's very interesting. Now, you have to be careful not to take this literal in this respect. Jesus is not saying here to whack off your hand. He's saying that sin is so serious that you would be better if this happened to you than to enter into life. What is he speaking of here in life? He's talking about everlasting or eternity. Listen to what Jesus says. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. Now, we could look at this metaphorically, and our hands are the activities that we do. He's also going to talk about our feet, and he's also going to speak about our eyes because our feet lead us into sin. Our hands engage in sin, and our eyes are involved in all of that that's going on. And so Jesus is going to metaphorically teach something very truth in spiritual in spiritual things about the body. And we sin because scripture says we'll be judged by the deeds that we did in the body. In the body. Everyone will be. He says if your hand causes you to sin, he says cut it off. Now, not literally, but he's speaking here of the significance of of this problem of sin. He says, "It's better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands and go to hell." The reason I'm using this passage because there's so many people out there today that are promoting this idea that hell is a figment of your imagination. That the only hell we're really experiencing is the injustice of being here in this time of life. It's not true. Jesus is speaking directly of a reality of hell here. And he also says to unquenchable fire. Now, this is God in flesh. This is the one that we read about in Colossians and in um John chapter 1. God the Son who created everything in the heavens, under the heavens, and on the earth. This is the one who spoke every single thing into existence. I think we should listen to what he has to say. He's very clear about this. The unrighteous will go to hell. And this place of hell is not a poker or blackjack casino. It's not a casino where we can go hang out and drink to our hearts content and gamble and have fun and do all these sensual things. As many people truly believe in their mind, they're just going to go hang out. There's one big old tap, one big old bar. All the alcohol is free. We're going to play poker with all the chips we want. We are going to have ourselves

the biggest heyday wonderful party that we could ever have in this place called hell. But isn't that the lie of Satan? It's the lie of Satan. So number one, Jesus says hell is real. Number two, he gives some descriptions about this place called hell. And he mentions that it's unquenchable fire. In other words, it cannot be put out. It can't be lessened. It's real fire. And then he says, "And if your foot causes you to sin," he says, "cut it off. It's better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell." So instead of living a lifestyle as one who believes in Christ that promotes the old man and could possibly cause a young one in faith to stumble in their faith, Jesus says, "If that is you, you'd be better off to whack off whatever it is that's causing you to sin than this alternative." Speaking of the eternity of what we are know is coming. And he says again to be thrown into hell. A second time. He's going to repeat this. Here we go. And if your eye causes you to sin, he says tear it out. Not literally, but he's saying this is the significance of the sin. This is where people in the free grace movement have taken it too far. As if to say none of it matters how you live. It's like the Calvinist idea where they take it too far and they take it to fatalism. See, people have a tendency to take things and take it too far. That's why grace is preached because grace is the means by which God saves us through faith. But the problem that Paul encountered in the church letter to Rome, he says, "Hey, don't you dare use grace as an excuse to sin." Paul says, "Don't trample under the feet the grace of God." It's not a license to sin with no more consequences. Paul makes it clear. These are these are things that are really not that popular today. People don't want to hear about sin. People don't want to hear about hell. But I tell you what, they love to hear grace and love and heaven. But the two we have to discuss because they're the reality. In fact, scripture, as we're going to see, teaches that the majority of humanity will go to hell. It's why it matters. So Jesus says, "If your eye is causing you to sin," he said, "pluck it out, man. Let's deal with this thing. It's better for you to enter the kingdom of God." Listen to this. He's speaking to those who believe here. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell. Where here's another description of it. This isn't my interpretation or my description. This is the words of Jesus Christ who created everything all in the heavens. Every galaxy we see, the heavens that we see, the first, second, third, the very place where he dwells and has chosen to make his dwelling place to this earth to everything under the earth. Jesus Christ, this creator is telling us about some things he knows about what he has created. By the way, did you know hell was not created for you and me? Scripture says hell was created for Satan and his angels. Jesus knows a little bit about it. He says, "Hell is where the worm does not die and the fire once again is not quenched." This pastor who's teaching this sermon to 7,000 people that heaven is real and hell is a frame of mind, a state of mind. Wow. Millstones. The sea causing any of my little ones to what? Falter in their faith or to believe something that's not true. That is false. Jesus gives this man and others a very serious warning. God takes sin seriously. Listen, I realize that this kind of teaching and preaching is very unpopular in our time. I know that this kind of teaching and preaching doesn't make for large numbers. But I do know that this kind of teaching and preaching is what God uses because it's a truth of his word to bring about our salvation and our justification and our sanctification. And it's about building the kingdom. It's why we need to know these things. So I want you to see as we go through a few passages that hell is very, very real. It's not a state of mind. God takes sin very seriously. In fact, if you don't feel like that you're able to sometimes in don't have the relationship with a person to actually address maybe that in their life that is being done that you know is against God. And we should do this in love. And we should do it why? Because we really, really genuinely love someone. If you struggle with this, I want you to think about the reality of hell. If you struggle with this, then the one thing I would say is pray for that person and pray for courage and pray for boldness. I had someone ask me here last week a very similar question. How am I to deal with this in a way that would honor God and glorify God and yet warn this

person because I love them dearly? Well, this is what we would do. We would address it with them in love and in grace and in humility. Why? Because we have a heart that loves people. That's why. The last thing we would want to do is to encourage them in it. Notice Jesus taught that hell is real. Hell is a place of unquenchable fire. Number one, it's where the worm doesn't die. Number two, just from this passage, there's a lot more. And the fire is not able to be quenched. So fiery hell, unquenchable fire. We're going to learn more. It's even a place of great torment as we're going to see. It's where the worm never dies. Jude 17-23. If you want to turn there, I'd invite you to flip way over in the very back of your Bible, right there before the book of Revelation. You're going to find this very, very small letter by Jude. It's only one chapter, by the way. Jude 17-23. Jude is writing also once again to remind these Christians. That's what scripture we see over and over with the apostles. They're writing these letters to remind, to encourage, to exhort, to rebuke, you know, all of these things because of their what? Number one, their calling and their accountability before God, but also because of their love that they have for these people who believe and love Jesus. But you must remember, Jude said, beloved, notice he calls him beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you in the last time there will be scoffers following their own ungodly passions. It is these who cause divisions. They are worldly people devoid of the spirit. That capital S is the Holy Spirit. They're what Peter talks about as having a form of godliness, but they deny the power that brings about real change, which is the power of the spirit of God working in all of us who are in Christ. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life and have mercy on those who doubt. Maybe you're here this morning and you're doubting. Maybe you're doubting your faith or you're questioning your faith because of some of the trials that you've faced in the last several months, weeks, or maybe past year. Maybe something has rattled your faith. Maybe it's some of these things you're seeing on the internet or what people post in your mind. You're scratching your head going, "Dude, something here is not adding up." It's because it doesn't add up and it's causing you to question things. Notice he says, "Have mercy on those who doubt." Save others, Christian. Hear this. Save others by snatching them out of the fire. See, Jude is speaking here in a metaphoric way of expressing what we do when we share the gospel or when we we we visit with others about Christ or we're trying to tell them about the things of God. What we're doing is we are literally understanding that there's a literal eternal hell that is coming. And the hell that will be is actually going to finally be the lake of fire. We know that as what scripture teaches. But hell is real. And Jude says here, save others by snatching them out of the fire. The last thing a Christian should ever do is to promote. Give a little heart. Give a little happy face. Give a little thumbs up. When you know what someone is doing is leading them in sin should never be. The reason for that is because they're worldly people. They are void of the spirit of God or they are just self-deceived. Just deceived. And then it says, "To others, show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh." Matthew 7:13-23, "Enter through the narrow gate," Jesus said. By the way, he tells us later that he is the gate. He is the way, he is the truth, he is the life. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction. Jesus said really here speaking of life, there's simply only two options. There is a gate that leads to destruction and there's a broad road that is leading those to that place. We all start out on that road. But Jesus Christ says there's a narrow gate. And this narrow gate is so significant because this gate actually leads to life and a few find it. For the gate for those who enter by this broad gate or this wide gate are many. For the gate is for the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life and those who find it are few. Beware of false prophets, Jesus said, who come to you in sheep's clothing. I'm in Matthew 7:13 is where I began. I apologize for not giving you that. For false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are

ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. And now he gives us an illustration. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? So every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. He says, listen, you're going to know them by how they live. Now, we know as Christians, we don't always live like Christians or act like Christians, but we're not dealing with moments here and there of what happens in our flesh. We're dealing with someone who continuously lives a lifestyle of those worldly, fleshly passions. Every tree that does not bear good fruit, by the way, Christian, you are bearing good fruit. Aren't you thankful for that? Is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. By the way, Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'" which we get a lot of this today. It's very popular. Jesus is kind of popular and in vogue, although it's not the Jesus of scripture that's being proclaimed or believed in in many ways. But Jesus, many will say, "Lord, Lord," he says, "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven." Oh, there is a heaven. Yeah, Jesus said so. But the one who does the will, the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, cast out demons in your name, and do mighty works in your name? Notice the power was not in the person. The power was in the name of Jesus. And these people here, whether it was real or not, they were using the name of Jesus as if the one they were they were getting the the power and the source to do what they were doing. And then I will say to you, to them, excuse me, I never knew you. Depart from me, you workers of lawlessness or sinfulness or sin or lawlessness. In 1 Corinthians 2:9-12. But as it is written, we looked at this last week and we're going to get into this. Now, the reason I want to say this is because this is so prevalent today, Christian. Listen, I don't know how to reiterate this, but we need to be those that are really seriously, genuinely living for Christ in our time. Live for Jesus. As we're going to see the the those in the hall of faith in Hebrews chapter 11, they weren't living for this world. Why? Because they had hopes of the one that was to come. We are living in this world, dear Christian, but we are not living for this world. If this is all there is, what a letdown. What a letdown. If this is all there is, that's why you would what? You would do everything your heart content to do. Paul says, if Jesus Christ has not been raised from the dead, we of all people are the most to be pitied. Why? Because if Jesus Christ has not been raised from the dead, and everything that you're st you're sitting here week after week listening to and everything you study through the week, if Jesus Christ has not been raised from the dead, you need to take this book and throw it in the trash because we are not saved. We are still living in our sin. Paul says all of this is absolutely not real. If Jesus Christ has not been raised from the dead, you might as well live like the rest of the world lives, man. Because you are alive today and you die tomorrow. So you better live it up now. If this is the only heaven you're ever going to experience. But Paul says, "But oh, Jesus Christ in fact has been raised from the dead." This is why we live the way

We do because we know, full knowledge, understanding that this life is passing away. And Jesus promised those who believe in him an everlasting life and eternity with him forever. That's why we don't live for this world. Why? Because what do you got, man? Somebody hit me up last week and said, "John, you got to quit saying 80. Stop. I'll be 80 in three years. I don't have much time left." And here's the reality. If you're 80, you don't have much time left. Here's another reality. If you're 25, you don't know if you have any time left either.

So, how are we to live, Christian? Hear me. In this day, in these last days, in this deceptive time, please hear me what I'm saying. Don't live for the world, man. You only have a short window of time to put things ahead of you that you will enjoy for all eternity. See, listen. The life

we live follows us to eternity. You're going to learn this about heaven and about about the new heaven and the new earth. You're going to take with you the things you did for Christ on this earth will follow you. They will precede you and they will go to heaven and you will be blessed by them forever. That's the truth.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:9-12, "What no eye has seen, no ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him. These things God has revealed though to us through the Spirit. For the spirit teaches everything. Searches everything. The Holy Spirit even searches the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spir spirit of that person which is in him. So also now, oh, excuse me. So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Holy Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Holy Spirit who is from God that we might understand the things that are freely given us by God."

What are we going to do over the next several weeks? We're going to explore together what God has revealed to us through his spirit by his word. That's what we're going to get. And let me tell you something. It is incredible what God has in store for those who love him and are called according to his purpose. But it is just the same as horrible for those who die without Jesus. The church has forgotten what this reality really means. If we fully grasp this reality, you would not want anyone to go there. Especially anyone that you love. The people in your life that are family and friends and co-workers and guys that you enjoy doing fun things with and hobbies. You wouldn't want them to go there. No way.

But see, for many people, they bought the lie of Satan, just like this preacher was promoting. Heaven's the only place that's coming. It's real. Hell's just a figment of your imagination. It's not true. In this light, in light of this, our time is far better off used in study of what God has revealed to us in scripture. Instead of focusing on the things we don't know about eternity, let's look at what God's word does teach us about this incredible time for us in the future. Here's a few things that we're going to address this morning as I wrap up. Man, I can't believe we're already just to this point. Here's a few common questions that some of you probably have. We've all had questions about life after death and our existence of eternal life, things that happen forever and ever. What does it all look like?

Here's a question. Well, we have consciousness after death? In other words, the the mind that we have, that means our memory, our ability to remember things on earth, will that be present once we die? In other words, is my my ability to remember and understand and consciousness is that only a part of what I experience while in this body? A lot of people ask that question as we're going to see that is entirely not true. The reality is you will have full consciousness at least in great detail as we're going to see of the life you lived here on earth. Not only that, we're going to learn that you'll also remember people on earth, experiences on earth, opportunities on earth, life on earth. You will have at some level a very clear consciousness of the things of this life here on earth after you die.

Here's another one. Will we have memory of life on earth? We just answered that. Will we have any senses like sight and hearing, touching, smelling? I mean, how will we interact with things after we die? If our physical body, which has these senses that we interact with this physical world, what senses will we have once the body is laid in the grave and our spirit continues to go on and live? What senses are there? You're going to be shocked by all the senses that will be there. Are heaven and hell literal places or simply symbolic? I tried to address just a few

passages. There's so many in scripture that it is literal. It's real. It is not a figment of our imagination.

What will our existence be like before the resurrection? In other words, what kind of body am I going to have when I lay this earthly tent down and I'm buried and my spirit continues on? What is that going to be like until the resurrection that we read about in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 when Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life raises the bodies of the righteous from their graves and they're joined with their spirit? What kind of body am I going to have while I go to the current heaven? And I'm using the word current because we know the current heaven will pass away and God's going to make a new heaven and a new earth. What kind of body will I have, man? We're going to learn about that.

Here's another one. What will our relationships be like in heaven? Y'all ever wonder that? What will our relationships be like? Well, you're going to be very excited to hear about how these relationships will be in heaven. Some people say, "Will I be married in heaven?" No. Unfortunately, or for some of you, fortunately, you're thinking, "I won't be married in heaven." No, you won't be married in heaven. Why? Because we are the bride of Christ. The very elements of what this brought to us in this world and life and the purpose of God will be completely totally fulfilled in all that we experience and know as being in Christ when we're there.

What will we do in heaven? Well, we looked at that a little bit last week. You're not going to be just singing in the choir for thousands of years. You're not going to get your own cloud where you're put on a little chubby weight and have your little wings and you're just strumming the harp, you know. No, you're not going to be doing that. There's there's a lot of things we're going to be doing that we're going to see, especially when it comes to the new heaven and the new earth. This is going to be incredible.

So, let's go to um Luke chapter 16. I'm going to read this to you. We're not going to get through it obviously, I don't think, because I I'm I'm running close here on time. Let me read this to you. Many people consider this a parable. It's not listed as a parable in the heading of your Bible. At least it's not in mine. Some people say that this is actually a story, which a parable is a story. But some people argue that this story is very unique and interesting from other parables. And why is that? Because only in this one, if this is truly a parable, does Jesus Christ actually ascribe a name to an individual. It's the only one. So let's let's look at this. I want to read this to you first. The reason I wanted to bring us here before we actually move on from here is to show you some things that we find that Jesus shares with us. Remember, the things that God reveals are those things that we we get to enjoy. Now, I'm not saying that we build an entire theology off of this section of scripture, but there are some really, really important details that Christ shares in this section of scripture for us.

In Luke's Gospel 16:1 19-31, I'm going to read this to you. There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus covered with sores. Look at the descriptive details of this story. Very, very descriptive. There's no genericness here to this other than there's no name given to the rich man or the one um the other one mentioned here. Moses will be mentioned also. Um you're going to see, let's get through this. He was covered with sores. He also desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The

rich man also died and was buried. And in hell, in in Hades, excuse me, in Hades, being in torment or hell, depending on what translation you have, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." We're hearing the words of Jesus again being proclaimed again like we've read earlier in in many other passages. But Abraham said, "Child, remember that in that you in your lifetime received your good things and Lazarus and like manner bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in anguish. And beside all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed. in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able and none may cross from there to us."

And he said, "Then I beg you, Father, to send him to my father's house." Send who? Send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. So that they may be that that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment. But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets. Let them hear them." And he said, "No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead," listen to this, "they will then repent." He said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."

As I mentioned, guys, of all these parables, if it's a true parable that Jesus taught, this is the only parable where Jesus attributes a name to the individual in the parable. Parables we know are stories used to teach a moral and spiritual truth. There are some who would argue that we should only view this and other examples in scripture figuratively only. We do find examples of figurative language and examples of this throughout scripture. But we would be aiss and mistaken not to see the reality of the spiritual truths that are being taught. I do not dismiss the events in this parable as being only symbolic. It may be that Christ is thinking of two specific individuals who literally lived and died. One of the reasons for that is that I'm struck by the graphic detail within this story. That certainly is a great detail, a great amount of detail to simply tell a moral spiritual truth.

The poor man died and was carried by angels. Did you hear that? You ever wondered how our soul would get to heaven when we die? Well, we may have some insight into this as we read this that Lazarus, the righteous man, when he died, what happened? His soul was carried or taken with the angels. The angels came and carried him to Abraham's side here. Abraham, the father of those who are of faith. Lazarus was poor. He was laid at the gate of the rich man, signifying his poor health and possibly even his disability, not able to get there on his own ability. He was unable uh he had soarses all over his body. These are some of the details in which dogs came and licked his soores. Obviously, if you can't beat dogs off of you, you have an infirmity so great that you don't have the strength or ability to move your appendages to get the dogs away. He was in great need physically which led to financial need. He longed to eat simply leftovers from the rich man's abundance at his table. And we see there's great detail here. We notice that the poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also dies and was buried. And we see him next where in hell also known in the Old Testament as shol which is the abode of the dead. Shol or or hell or should we call hades or one's Hebrew, one's Greek. We're looking at the same thing here. The abode of the dead.

What I wanted to just say here briefly before we move on is what we're going to I've already taught on this in the in the past especially within um our systematic theology teaching especially about last things. What we understand about the place of the dead is whether it was

in the Old Testament or before Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, there was the place where those who died, the righteous and the unrighteous went called shol. And shol, as we're going to see here, appears to have two two major parts to it. There's a massive chasm that goes between the two that is fixed as we're going to see where no one can go from one place to the other or one can't come from this place to the other place. There's a massive chasm that is fixed. And Abraham's bosom or paradise would have been the location where all the righteous in the Old Testament prior to the death, burial, resurrection, and the ascension of Jesus Christ would have gone. And then we have the Hades or the hellside, excuse me, here, which is where the unrighteous from all history past would be. They would be waiting in this place that we see the rich man now located.

Some interesting things here. We learn that hell, of course, is a literal place. That that place right now is still being populated every single day. Every hour of every day, people die without faith in Jesus Christ. And where do they go? Their spirit goes to this location where we find the rich man and it is called hell. The righteous today do not go to this location because why? Paradise is no longer there because Jesus Christ took with him all that were in paradise and took paradise where? to heaven. That's why now after the death, burial, resurrection of Jesus Christ, where do we go when we die? We go where? To heaven. When we die. Why? Because that's where Jesus Christ is. And as a Christian, wherever Christ is is where you will be. Why? Because you are in Jesus Christ. You're in Christ. But hell itself is still being populated today.

Some very very fascinating things here. The idea that we cease to have consciousness at death is a very feeble attempt to comfort those who refuse to repent and believe. Many atheists simply just say it's like unplugging a computer. You just cease to exist. That brings them a small amount of comfort, but it is a lie. It is not true. We will have full consciousness after death as we can see in this story tormented physically, mentally, and emotionally for those that are in hell. That won't leave. In verse 24, the rich man was in anguish in this flame. We're seeing a sense here. He can experience anguish. And his anguish and torment is physical. It is mental. And it is emotional. And we see all of these elements in this man called the rich man. He calls out to Abra to Abraham to send Lazarus to what? His father's house. He's fully conscious. He looks across the chasm and he notices Lazarus there. He sees Abraham there. And in his mind, fully conscious, he says, "Abraham, please do something for me. Would you send Lazarus back to my father's house?" Why? This man remembers his father's house. He even remembers the details of his five brothers. He even knows in his own mind that his brothers are deserving and on their way to this place. and he is concerned for them in hell that they would come here to the place of torment where he was. It's pretty interesting. We don't just cease to exist. This reality of this this sense of consciousness is fully there. You're going to see it's going to be fully there for us as well for those who die in Christ. Lazarus on the other hand was experiencing something. If you don't have consciousness, you can't experience anything. Lazarus was experiencing great peace and great comfort where he was in paradise. Abraham informs the rich man that in hell there was a vast chasm that was fixed or in Hades so that what no one could come from one place or to the other. In verse 27 and verse 28, the rich man begs Abraham to send Lazarus to come and just dip his not 27 but earlier in verse 20 to dip his finger literally in verse 24 to dip his finger in water and bring it over to him and to let the water that's dripping off the end of his finger onto his tongue. Why? because of the severe torment and anguish physically that he was experiencing in his conscious state after death. And that's when he's told there's a chasm. No one can come.

This whole understanding and idea that there is a second chance and you hear this all the time today. this universalistic worldview that teaches that ultimately everyone is going to be saved. Have you heard that? Or you hear people how there's a second chance after you die that you're going to get chance number two. Well, it's not been chance number two. You have had unlimited chances in this lifetime. At least understanding through creation that God really exists. That's why these evolutionists and these atheists are so big at what? Destroying the concept of creation. Because creation tells everyone a certain amount of who God is. His invisible qualities can be seen in Romans 1. What that is his eternal power and his divine nature just can be seen from his creation. And scripture says that all men are without excuse. You say, "What about the guy that's living in a tribe somewhere that's never heard the gospel?" He'll be judged according to his knowledge, not for heaven, but for what takes place in all eternity apart from God. See, men can know that God exists just from creation. That's why your science textbooks in your schools are doing such a job to completely destroy the whole creation story as being truth. They call it a myth. They don't underline in red the hypothesis that they promote and teach. Notice it's a hypothesis. And what do they do? They teach it as absolute truth. It's incredible. There will be no second chances once you die. There won't be any. That's why the time we have on this life is so important.

And American mindset is all about materialism. You have to understand you're living in a very very difficult place. You don't think so. You really think that this place is the easiest place and the best place to live. Let me tell you what. And that's why so many people have rejected the gospel because they're so enamored with the materialism that we have promoted and ingrained in the minds of kids from the time they were able to even understand. Spend your entire life, we're told, to get a good job, make a lot of money, put back for the future, and when you're old and wrinkled and gray, you can set in your Winnebago and you can drive around and you can explore the national parks that we have in our country. And so what do people do? They spend their entire life with their head down, their tail up. And what are they doing? They're following the system. We're here for one purpose. The purpose is to get a good job, to make a lot of money, to have nice things, and put back some money because I'm going to get old, and I'm going to what? Die. They don't talk about that much. Our purpose in this life is not about attaining things. The gift of life is that we would come to know the true giver of life. Why? Because as I had so much fun doing last week, life is a of time. But you have been so brainwashed that you really think all life is about is this system of what we have in place here. No, my life here is about the life to come. It's about the life to come. But it's not popular to talk about death and hell in this in this life because we're too busy in the system of doing all these things and they're all tied to one thing. Materialism. Materialism. Every aspect of it. The hardest place to preach the gospel is not in another country that has never heard the gospel. The hardest place to share the gospel is in America and countries who have had the gospel and rejected it. In America, the hardest place to preach the gospel is below I40 or I70. Why? Because it's ingrained culturally that this is what we do. We throw a little bit of Sunday morning into the Saturday night and the previous week. It's what it is. But that's not what Christ has called us to.

And see, even me telling you these things in your mind, it's like it's like eating a bad peanut. You want to spit this out like so fast in your mind. Some of you have even rejected what we have just covered. You've rejected it. Holy. Don't want to hear it. Don't like it. Not my vibe. That's deception. What you need to do is let the word of God sink inside you. Let God's word have its weight on your mind, on your soul, and on your life. I am nothing. I am absolutely nothing. The only thing here that has any measure of value is nothing. I say, but it is this word.



## Answers to the Study Questions:

Q: What is the primary source of truth regarding the afterlife?

A: According to the speaker, the primary source of truth regarding the afterlife is the Word of God, as God has revealed what is necessary for humanity to know.

Q: Will people become angels after they die?

A: No, the teaching is that humans will not become angels after death. Angels are a separate creation, and humans are created 'a little lower than the angels.'

Q: Will heaven be boring?

A: The speaker asserts that heaven will not be boring. It will be filled with purpose, greatness, and wholeness, magnifying everything beyond human comprehension.

Q: What is the danger of believing 'hell is a state of mind'?

A: Believing hell is merely a state of mind is considered a dangerous deception that leads to a false sense of security, the abuse of God's grace, and a lack of genuine repentance or change in lifestyle. It can lead people to believe their actions do not matter for their eternal destiny.

Q: What is 'churchianity' and why is it problematic?

A: 'Churchianity' refers to a superficial religious activity or attendance without a genuine, vibrant relationship with God. It's problematic because it offers a form of godliness without the transformative power of God, leading to a disconnect between professed faith and actual lifestyle.

Q: What does Jesus mean by 'cutting off your hand' if it causes you to sin?

A: Jesus' teaching about cutting off a hand or plucking out an eye that causes sin is a metaphor. It emphasizes the extreme seriousness of sin and the need to take drastic measures to avoid it, as the eternal consequences of sin are far worse than any temporary loss or sacrifice.

Q: What is the spiritual implication of a Christian supporting a sinful lifestyle?

A: Supporting or encouraging a sinful lifestyle, especially in those who are young in faith or struggling, can cause them to stumble and sin, leading to severe spiritual consequences. It is better for the person causing such a stumble to face a severe punishment, like having a millstone hung around their neck.

Q: Is hell a literal place, or is it just a metaphor for suffering in this life?

A: The sermon strongly asserts that hell is a literal place. Jesus Christ, who created everything, spoke directly and clearly about hell as a real place of torment, not merely a state of mind or a figment of imagination. The speaker refutes modern interpretations that downplay its reality.

Q: What does the Bible say hell is like?

A: According to the sermon, Jesus described hell as a place of 'unquenchable fire' where 'the worm does not die.' It is emphatically not a place for sensual pleasures, gambling, or partying, as some might imagine; such ideas are attributed to Satan's deception.

Q: Can God's grace be used as an excuse to continue sinning?

A: No, the sermon emphasizes that God's grace is not a license to sin without consequences. The Apostle Paul warned against using grace as an excuse or trampling on the grace of God. True grace leads to repentance and a changed life, not continued sin.

Q: Who was hell created for?

A: The sermon explains that hell was not originally created for humans but for Satan and his angels. Entering hell is a consequence of rejecting God and His salvation.

Q: What is the Christian's responsibility towards people who are heading towards hell?

A: Christians have a responsibility to warn others about the reality of hell, described as 'snatching them out of the fire.' This involves showing mercy with discernment, hating sin, and sharing the gospel, rather than promoting or condoning sinful lifestyles.

Q: How can one be sure of entering heaven if simply saying 'Lord, Lord' is not enough?

A: Entering heaven is dependent on doing the will of God the Father, not just professing faith verbally. Jesus stated that many will claim to have prophesied or performed miracles in His name, but He will say He never knew them because they were workers of lawlessness (sin). True discipleship involves obedience.

Q: What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection for Christians?

A: The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of Christian faith. If Christ was not raised, then Christian teachings are false, salvation is impossible, and believers are still in their sins. The resurrection validates faith and promises eternal life.

Q: Does our life on earth have any impact on eternity?

A: Yes, the sermon teaches that the life lived on earth has eternal significance. Actions done for Christ on this earth will follow believers into eternity, preceding them and bringing blessings forever. This is why Christians are called not to live for this world but for what is to come.

Q: What does the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus teach us about the afterlife?

A: This parable, unique for naming Lazarus, illustrates the reality of the afterlife. It depicts a rich man in torment in Hades (hell) after death, separated by a great chasm from Lazarus, who is comforted in Abraham's side. It highlights the permanence of one's eternal destination and the importance of heeding scripture to avoid such torment.

Q: What is Sheol/Hades?

A: Sheol (Hebrew) or Hades (Greek) is understood as the abode of the dead. Before Christ's death and resurrection, it appears to have been divided into at least two parts, separated by a fixed chasm, with one part for the righteous and another for the unrighteous, indicating no passage between them.

Q: Will we have consciousness and memory after death?

A: The sermon suggests that individuals will have full consciousness and detailed memory of their earthly life, including people, experiences, and opportunities, after death.

Q: Are heaven and hell literal places?

A: Yes, the sermon asserts that heaven and hell are literal places and not symbolic or figurative concepts. Scripture provides numerous passages that confirm their reality.

Q: Where did the righteous go before Jesus Christ's ascension?

A: Before Jesus Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, the righteous souls of the Old Testament went to a place called Abraham's bosom, also known as paradise.

Q: Where do believers go when they die today?

A: After Jesus Christ's resurrection and ascension, He took paradise to heaven. Therefore, Christians who die today go directly to heaven, because that is where Christ is.

Q: Is hell a real place, and is it still being populated?

A: Yes, hell is described as a literal place that is still being populated every day by individuals who die without faith in Jesus Christ. Their spirits go to this location.

Q: What happens to consciousness after death?

A: Consciousness does not cease at death. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus illustrates that both the saved and the unsaved retain full consciousness after death, experiencing either torment or peace.

Q: Can people in hell communicate with or receive help from those in paradise?

A: No, there is a vast and fixed chasm between hell and paradise that prevents any communication or passage between the two realms. This is why the rich man's request to send Lazarus to his brothers could not be granted.

Q: Is there a second chance to believe in God after death?

A: No, the video strongly refutes the idea of a second chance after death. It asserts that individuals have had ample opportunities in this life to know God, and after death, there are no further opportunities for salvation.

Q: How can people know God exists if they haven't heard the gospel?

A: Scripture indicates that God's eternal power and divine nature are evident in His creation, making all men without excuse. Those who have never heard the gospel will be judged according to the knowledge they possessed from creation.

Q: What is the main focus of modern Western culture, and how does it affect people's spiritual lives?

A: Modern Western culture, particularly in America, is heavily focused on materialism – accumulating wealth, possessions, and achieving worldly success. This materialistic mindset often leads people to reject the gospel and distracts them from the true purpose of life, which is to know God.

Q: What is the true purpose of life according to the video?

A: The true purpose of life is not to amass wealth or possessions, but to come to know the true Giver of life, Jesus Christ. This knowledge transforms lives and leads to eternal life.

Q: Why is it difficult to preach the gospel in places like America?

A: It is difficult to preach the gospel in countries that have had the gospel and rejected it, such as America, because materialism and worldly priorities are deeply ingrained in the culture. People are often more enamored with material comforts than with spiritual truths.

Q: What do people talk about at funerals?

A: Contrary to the focus on material success, people at funerals primarily talk about their loved ones' faith in Christ and their hope of them going to heaven, indicating that spiritual matters are what truly matter in the end.

Q: Why is it important to discuss uncomfortable topics like sin and hell?

A: Discussing sin and hell, though uncomfortable, is crucial for spiritual growth. It helps individuals reflect on their lives, understand the reality of eternity, and encourages them to live for God's glory. The ultimate message is one of hope for believers, that the best is yet to come.