

# ***“Heaven and Hell are Alike!”***

*Luke 16:19-31*

**Intro.** – While in school there were two words that took me awhile to learn. They really troubled me for awhile. One of the words was “synonym.” The other word was “antonym.” Let me refresh your memory:

- 1) STOP – GO
- 2) WHITE – BLACK
- 3) LIGHT – DARK
- 4) DAY – NIGHT
- 5) SAD – GLAD
- 6) HELL – HEAVEN

This morning we want to view the similarities of these two extreme opposites with a definite purpose in mind. To arrive at that purpose, let us look at the *context* to our text.

In short summary, the earlier verses of Luke 16 show Jesus warning against the potential pit falls of wealth. In doing this, Jesus was attacking the very *philosophy of life* which the Pharisees and Scribes held. These men claimed their wealth was their proof of having God’s favor, but, when receiving this warning, no doubt their conscience was disturbed. Why? Because Jesus was making them think of the ways they used and secured that wealth. Jesus then follows with our text, which was His purpose, and which in turn is our purpose.

*Purpose: to come to a more complete understanding of eternity*

Our text will help lift the veil of eternal life, to show us what we can expect if not prepared for eternity. Thus, today we would like to look at eternity in a unique way. By showing how Heaven and Hell are alike. Such a view, we believe, will not only help us to prepare for eternity, but also inform us concerning eternity:

## **I Both are PREPARED (the WHAT of both)**

- not only is there going to be, but there is already a heaven and a hell – both have/are being prepared!

### **A. Heaven the Prepared Glory**

1. Before the foundations of the earth
  - a. Ephesians 1 speaks of God’s predestined plan...
  - b. included in that plan was eternal glory...
  - c. Matthew 25:34 “...Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”
2. Prepared by a Leader:
  - a. the book of Hebrews in particular speaks concerning this leader – Hebrews 12:2 “...the pioneer of our faith.” ...
  - b. Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
  - c. John 14:1-3 – specifically states preparation being made even now...

Thus, in eternity, there is a prepared glory!

### **B. Hell the Prepared Damnation**

1. Before the foundations of the earth:
  - a. Ephesians 1 speaks of God’s predestined plan...
  - b. included into that plan = eternal destruction...
2. Prepared for a Leader
  - a. Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 record the fall of Satan...
  - b. Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Thus, Heaven and Hell are alike in that they both are prepared places. But NOTE: Heaven is prepared *glory* and Hell is prepared *destruction*!

## **II Both are ETERNAL (the WHEN of both)**

- the word “eternal” literally means “without end”
- thus, both Heaven and Hell will be “without end”

#### A. Heaven is Eternal Life

1. Christ is “life”...
2. Matthew 19:29 *“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, shall receive many times as much and shall inherit eternal life.”*
  - a. in short the glories of Heaven will be without end.
  - b. thus, the old saying, “All good things must come to an end” cannot hold up when it comes to Heaven. How long?! FOREVER!

#### B. Hell is Eternal Death

- the duration of Hell has always been a “hot” issue. The Bible speaks clearly on this matter:
1. Theory of annihilation
    - a. this is teaching that those condemned to Hell will be “annihilated” = forever dead
    - b. Illus. – take a chair and “destroy” it, but, there still would be sticks = not annihilated.
  2. 16 times *forever* is applied to Heaven in the New Testament
    - a. this same Greek word is used to describe Hell
    - b. thus, how long will Hell last? -- Revelation 20:10 *“And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

Hell will last how long? We can only conclude FOREVER!

### III Both are CONSCIOUSLY INHABITED (the HOW of both)

- ever read the lyrics to “Imagine” by John Lennon?
- here in particular our text helps establish this point about eternity. V 25 is a key verse at this point:

#### A. Heaven Will be Incomparable

1. The word *comforted* makes clear there will be a great “awareness” in Heaven:
2. Aware of God’s Glory
  - a. Revelation 22:1-5 *“And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bondservants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.”*
  - b. all gathered around His throne... no night, no light needed...
3. Aware of Heaven’s Glory
  - a. Revelation 21:1-5 *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.’ And He who sits on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” And He said, ‘Write, for these words are faithful and true.’”*
  - b. God shall be with His people (v 4), no tears/pain/sorrow/death... all things new (v 5)

Heaven will be consciously inhabited i.e. there will be a great awareness in Heaven!

#### B. Hell Will be Incomparable

1. The word *remember* makes clear the survival of awareness
2. Our text indicates the following: sight, torment and anguish, desire to be elsewhere, (Daniel 12:2) shame, (Revelation 21:8) vile companionship

Hell, like Heaven, will be consciously inhabited!

#### IV Both are for SINNERS (the WHO of both)

- the Bible clearly states all have sinned or rebelled against God's law.
- A. Heaven – FORGIVEN Sinners
  1. Though man has sinned... Christ came to reconcile man with God; thus, the ultimate point of this reconciliation will be realized in Heaven.
  2. Illus. – Enoch, Moses etc. plainly weren't free from sin, but they are forgiven.
- B. Hell – UNFORGIVEN Sinners
  1. Though Christ has come... man still chooses to reject God. With unforgiven sin... man must pay the wages for sin which is "death" or eternal Hell!
  2. Illus. – Judas in particular had a choice and he chose to not only betray Christ but to also reject Him though given the opportunity to come back...

Thus, though both are for sinners, Heaven receives forgiven sinners, while Hell receives the unforgiven...

**Conclusion:** There was a teacher in West Germany who recently asked this question of 625 young people in 12 vocational schools: "What would you do if you had only one day to live?" The replies were shocking, but not really unexpected. 20% said they'd be drinking, taking drugs and being immoral... Others said, why wait that they would take their own life. But, there was one bright spot out of the 625. One girl wrote this, "I would like to spend my last evening in a church building along with my Maker to thank Him for a full and happy life."

Brethren and friends, it's been our purpose through this message to make you think – "What would I do..." By showing Heaven and Hell and their likes, we ask you – How do you view eternity? Now what are you doing about it?