

Voice of Baptists

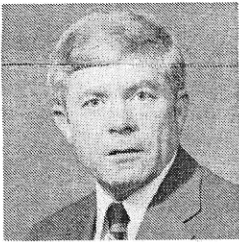
"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." **Isaiah 40:3**

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REALITY AND ETERNITY OF A BURNING HELL

by Kenneth Massey

My subject for this morning will be "The Reality and Eternity of a Burning Hell." Ah, I guess the Dr. Spock followers would say, "well now, preacher, you're not supposed to try to scare folks with that hell-fire and brimstone kind of preaching." I want to preach to you what the Bible says. If it's hell-fire and brimstone, you need it. If it's not in there, I shouldn't preach it. But if it is, I trust you'll take it. My lesson follows: "They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. For fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. I will heap mischiefs upon them; I will spend mine arrows upon them. They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust. The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs. I said, I would scatter them into corners, I would make the remembrance of them to cease from among men: Were it not that I feared the wrath of the enemy, lest their adversaries should behave themselves strangely, and lest they should say, Our hand is high, and the Lord hath not done all this. 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! How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand

to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up? For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges. For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter: Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps. Is not this laid up in store with me; and sealed up among my treasures? To me belongeth the vengeance, and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste."

Deut. 32:21-35

Moses said in the last verse, "their foot shall slide in due time." Jonathan Edwards once preached in an old building on the eastern seaboard of our country what has been called one of the greatest sermons ever preached, and the best ever preached on the North American continent. For two and a half hours he preached on "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," and men and women cried out aloud and wept on account of sin. A great host was saved, because pointed out to them was the eternal destiny of man. I must tell you this morning that we are all headed for one of two places. The grave is not the end of man, regardless of what people are saying. There is a final destiny, and that final stopping place for you will either be heaven or hell. You can count on it. Oh yes, your body is going to the grave, but your spirit shall be returned to the jurisdiction of God who breathed it into your mortal body. It will either go to heaven or it will go to hell depending on the principles of righteousness—whether you've been saved or not—had the precious blood of Christ applied to

it. "Just one life, twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." Moses, the same man who wrote our lesson, said in the ninetieth Psalm, "the days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Where are you going? Are you sure? Have you even stopped to think about it this morning? Or do you just fear death and say, "well, everybody's got to die, and it doesn't really make much difference as long as I treat my neighbors right and try to pay my debts and be good to my family. Maybe things will be alright with me." I want to set you straight today. Except you repent of your sins, you are going to perish. Unless you're born again, you can't go to heaven. You must go to hell. There is a real hell, and I want to talk to you about it. If it scares you, I will be happy, because it is there.

If we could bore a hole today—start right here in the altar and reach the very sight of that place, and we could uncap it long enough to let everyone of us look in, how many of you would want to go where they are crying continuously; where they are praying and prayer won't be answered, where they are pleading for just a touch of water to their tongues but there is not any water. How many of you would like to go where the greatest murderers have gone—those that trampled the offered mercies of God under their feet—all manner of sinfulness and wickedness and those who have raped little girls and have done all manner of mean things in their lives. Do you want to go and stay there for ever?

Oh no, you don't want to go there. That is not the place for you. God never intended for you to go there. Is there really a place where men go and suffer forever and never burn up? Actually cannot be annihilated and that simply means you are going to remain in that state, of death forever and forever. That is what the Bible says. Jesus said, "these shall go away into everlasting punishment." (Matt. 25:46) Everlasting means without any end. Doesn't have any end to it. Again we

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read in the Scriptures about that rich man who went to hell and the conversation that took place in the sixteenth chapter of Luke and especially the twenty-sixth verse. Father Abraham spoke out to the rich man and said, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed so that we cannot pass from hence to you and neither can you pass to us that would come from thence. What happens? There is no way to get in or out of hell. There is no way to get anybody in to help you out, and there's no way for you to get out because you have gone there on account of your sins. You made it your choice while you lived and God will honor your choice. He is a just God.

I'll tell you something else. He'll honor your choice to come to Him and live and have life everlasting, and that's the glorious enunciation that all men may hear. John the Revelator told us a little something about this place. He said, "and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and forever." Can you imagine that? Can you imagine the smoke coming up from those burning people and forever and forever? I once knew a man who came upon an accident on River Road just west of Nashville. Three young couples were eloping to get married, and they had a wreck that killed everyone in the automobile except for one girl, and it was still burning when this man came on the scene. Part of her was in the car and part of her was out, and that was the only reason that she lived. He said, "I have never smelled anything like that in my life, the burning of human flesh, and we could hear the screams as they burned." Can you imagine what degree that hell will be like that shall be heated over and over again, and it shall be made the hottest hell that has ever been known and hotter than anything in this world. Can you imagine that? I can take this match right here, and I dare any of you to hold your hand to it for a minute. Just let

me hold it to your finger for one minute. You can't do it. You can't do it to save your life. But if you go to hell, you'll do it because you can't get out. You'll burn forever and forever and forever. There is no end to that burning.

Am I trying to scare you? I am trying to tell you the facts. It's a burning hell. It is a tormentous hell. It's hell where the mercies of God have never entered and they shall not. It's a hell where there is no revival meeting. It's a hell where there is no preaching of the gospel. It's a hell where there are no good saints to invite you to go to the Lord and find that He is the giver of every good and perfect gift beginning with the saving of your souls. No, there won't be any songs being sung there that would stir you to want to become a child of the King. There's nothing there but burning forever and forever. Somebody might say, what kind of a loving God would do such a thing as this? Let me tell you what kind of a God will do that. A just God, a Righteous God, an infinite God, and a merciful God. A God that is just as fair and square as anything that has ever been and greater than all. He has the ability to cast sinners into hell and there is no way you can overthrow His power to do that. Death is waiting for you. If you die unprepared, the devil has got you forever. But God has reserved hell for the devil and his angels, and if you go there, you will go there as an intruder. You'll go there as an unwelcomed guest. You'll go there as a victim of that wicked one himself, and he's living today to deceive all that he can and make them believe that he has the good things for you. He'll say, "I've got the good things. Come join my crowd. You can drink. You can go and live it up. You can do anything and everything you want to do. You can curse God if you want to. Just have a big time. You can gamble and come with me and I'll show you how to do this and how to have that. And you can just have a big time and live it up and eat, drink, and be merry and let your soul rejoice in the ways of your heart and in your own wise, you can be just as wise as God." The devil has tricked a lot of people into believing that. They came down to the door of death, and they entered into that passageway for which there is no way to turn around. You can't turn around to get back. There's no way to say, "Whoa, I don't want to go there." It's too late. Now is the time to get ready. Today is the day of salvation. Not then. Now's the time, loving members, to urge your loved ones to come to the Lord. Now is the day to go to the neighbor's house and knock on the door—not to borrow bread, but to invite them to come and taste of the Bread of Life.

Now is the time for us to reach Huntingdon for God almighty and the salvation of every person who lives and moves and breathes and

has a being in this community. If we're God's people, let's stand up for Jesus, let us sing out the grand old story that "heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people." Hell will be the abode of all sinners if they die in that condition. Real? Sure it is. Burning? Oh, yes, where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. Can you imagine such a place as that?

Well, God has the ability to cast sinners into hell. I want to tell you how much power God has. Now you kids have walked along, and you've probably stepped your foot on a worm or caterpillar, and you've just eliminated him. Why I've done that. I eliminated about 500 caterpillars with one flame the other day. We found a nest of them gathered like they will sometimes on the side of a tree. We pulled them down, put a little gas on them and threw the match to them and just wiped them out.

Do you know how easy it is for God to eliminate you? All He has to do is speak and you are eradicated from life. You're eliminated. Your life is in His hands this very moment, and if it pleases Him before the sun goes down to take you off, if He should come and call at your house while you sleep tonight, you wouldn't even have the opportunity to say, "Oh, God, save me. Oh God, hear my prayer. Forgive me of my sins." It would be too late. But you have today.

A few years ago when I was serving a church in Kentucky, there was an old man who visited our church regularly, and one day he called me on the phone and said "My boy has died, and I want you to hold his funeral." And he hung up. He told me when and where. On the appointed day I went to Hardy and Son Funeral Home. It was a cold March day with much wind. I went inside and over by the coffin sat my older friend. I hated to see him on this sad occasion. He rose from his chair, looked into the casket at the remains of his dear son, and could scarcely get these words out, "Preacher, as far as I know, he's burning in hell right now. I'll never see him again." And if you think that's not rough! And there was nothing I could do to change it. There was nothing I could do to help that man. I stood so helpless that day in trying to preach his funeral and told the congregation, "as far as we know, he died without God." You have to tell the truth. It doesn't matter whether you tell the truth or lie, it won't change the state of the dead. It will remain that way forever. Why? You don't overthrow the power of God.

It doesn't matter who we are or who we might think we are, God will have the final say. You may have never received a whipping from the hands of your father or mother (and I don't think there is any of us who didn't need it), but they may have neglected to do that and you may have never received one. That doesn't mean God won't whip you. So

don't be deceived or let God be mocked by such as that. If you've never been scolded nor punished nor criticized, but praised all of your life, you may die in your sins and if you do, hell will be your eternal destiny.

There's none of us so good that we don't need to be saved because of our wretched sinfulness. Just none of us. We all need to be saved. Actually sinners deserve to be cast into hell, don't they? Why I wouldn't want them coming to heaven with me, would you? No! It wouldn't be fair, would it? Certainly it wouldn't. No way for the stainless lives of those men and women that I've known who have been born again by the blood of the Lamb, have lived their lives in service to God upholding that banner, and then at the last minute for God to change His mind and say, "Well, you sinners come on in, too." Wouldn't be fair, would it? No way! God won't do it sinner. He's not going to do it. You deserve to go to hell, and I must tell you that on account of your sins. Your sins have come before God. Your sins stand between you and God. You will not go to hell for my sins, for your mother's sins, for your daddy's sins, or the neighbor's sins, but you'll go for your own sins.

Every knee shall bow. Every tongue shall confess so then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Not only does God have the ability then to cast sinners into hell, they deserve to be cast into hell. And, next we notice that sinners are already under sentence of condemnation.

In the third chapter of John's gospel, I believe Jesus said, "he that believeth on me is not condemned, but he that believeth not on me is condemned already. Right now! Not waiting to find out whether you're saved or lost. You are already condemned if you have reached that point of time in your life that you know you're separated from God. You know you have sinned. And how do you know that?"

You don't go to school to get that kind of an education. The Holy Spirit of God reproves you of that sin. He lets you know. I remember when He came to my house. He wasn't welcome when He first came. He was a stranger. He was certainly an intruder. He was an unwelcomed One, but it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to me because He let me know of my sinfulness, and I could go to God for the remedy. So if you have that condemnation, that conviction in your heart today, press on to the Lord until you can rejoice in the wells of salvation, and draw from that living water that only God can give.

Yes, sinners are under that condemnation. Justice cries out for the punishment of sin. A just God must punish sin, and therefore, must punish the sinner.

How does He do that? In Luke's gospel, the thirteenth chapter and the seventh verse,

"Cut those trees down. As the tree falleth so shall it lie. Thus saith the Lord, and that would automatically contradict anybody's theory that you'll get saved after a while. If anybody here has got the idea, well, I'm gonna be saved after I come from the grave, you've got another thought coming. There'll be none born into the family of God at that time, but what will happen will be the ultimate of salvation in that day, and that just simply means that the earnest of our expectation will have been made complete at that time. That good work that is already begun in you by the power of regeneration will have been fulfilled in that day to its completeness. You can rejoice totally, wholly as God's person, as God's child, as God's heir and as a little god in your own right and as a little priest of your own according to the teaching of the Scriptures.

What is hell for? Actually it is the proper place for sinners. It's where they ought to go. In the eighth chapter of John's gospel, Jesus is talking to a bunch of Phariseical "do-gooders." That bunch of folks thought they were keeping the law and never had kept it. If they had, they would have known that Jesus Christ was the end of the law, but they couldn't keep it, because they didn't even receive Him. So they were messed up badly.

Jesus just looked them in the eye and said, "Ye are from beneath." That actually meant that "Ye are from hell. You're of the devil. The devil is your father." He said, "I am not of this world, but ye are of this world. I am from above," and if anybody is born again, they have been born from above. That's what that really means. "Born again" is born from above to deliver you from beneath—to deliver you from this earth. This is the land of the dying. God's people are going to the land of the living. This country shall be burned one day after while. It is going to be destroyed by fervent heat that shall melt the very elements of it.

This won't be hell, but that will be a hellish time when that day comes. But it will not be the "gahenna" hell of the Scriptures. That place is in existence today, and it's burning right now and has received victim after victim of those that lived like you all. They were here, maybe in Carroll County of West Tennessee. Maybe they went to a little church like this some time. Maybe some of them heard a preacher stand and say, "Hell is real! Hell is eternal!" They thought well, he's right. The Scriptures must be true, but I'll wait maybe a day or two or I might wait a week or two. Do you know that is the number one enticement of the devil—procrastination. If he can get you to put it off, you'll put it off and you'll put it off until you've got one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel. And I'll tell you right now, these folks I visit in the hospitals that are so filled with anesthetics and with all the medicines they

give to ease them out—morphine and different drugs—they never know when I've walked by the side of their beds. And I don't go along side of their bed and have Scripture reading and prayer and say, "Oh, God, save them!" like some men do, and I'm picking on those men because they don't have a right to do it. Nobody can pray in your place for you. Jesus Christ has taken your place and mine that all of us could be saved, but we have to come to God through Him. You have to come there for yourself. I can't go for you. No one else can go for you. So you need not think the preachers will come and they'll say something and they'll have a prayer and you'll be alright. Then they'll take care of it at the funeral. They'll cover it over then. No! No! No!

I've looked into the faces of cold mortals many, many times and I have rejoiced to think about their being in the presence of God, and they're out of this lane of life and sinfulness. But several times it has fallen my lot to stand and say the last words over those who had told me, "No, I'm not saved. I am not saved. I have no hope of heaven." I hope that will not be your case. Get saved today. Live for God the rest of the afternoon. Go out and try to win some poor sinner for Him after you've been saved. Join the church and follow the Lord in baptism. Set your house in order. Say as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. You have everything to gain by coming to the Lord. Don't stand there. We're going to have a song. The realities of hell—the torments of hell are sure. The eternalness of it is unquestionable. Where will the judgement find you? Will hell open itself up to greet you? Will you be the next one to enter hell? Will you hear the Lord say in that great day, "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you?" Oh, I hope not. I look for you to come to the altar today—any of these seats—anywhere you want to. Come for prayer to God. Come, seek God. Let us stand and sing.

Thank you for hearing me.

(This sermon was preached on July 12, 1981 in Independent Baptist Church. Linda Williams transcribed it from the tape, and it is being published by special request.)

SINGING SCHOOL

FELLOWSHIP M.B.C.
1032 S. Holmes
Indianapolis, Indiana
Host—Bro. Dean Hauskins
March 22-28
7 p.m. Nightly

IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR COVENANT

God is greatly blessing our church for which we are so grateful. Sometimes we know people who move from city to city do not always seek out another sound church to attend.

If you have any friends or relatives who live in the Indianapolis area and are not attending church, would you be kind enough to send our church their names and addresses. We would like to visit and give them a special invitation to church. We know God will honor the initiative on your part.

Please mail any and all names and addresses to Bethel Baptist Church, 222 E. Epler Ave., Indpls., IN 46227 or you may call Pastor Eugene Brown (317) 862-2101.

DEDICATION

The Hartsville Missionary Baptist Church, located on Church St., Hartsville, TN, will have a Note Burning and Dedication Service, Sat., March 7th beginning at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a presentation of the church's history, special singing by the Wilburn Family, dinner on the grounds and a dedicatorial sermon. Members of sister churches and the public in general are invited to attend.

HOMECOMING

The Lyons Missionary Baptist Church, 904 Gagel Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky will be having a Homecoming to observe the 34th anniversary of the church—the 4th Sunday in March, March 22nd.

Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. with Elder Paul Bryson preaching and special singing by The Patterson Family from Indianapolis, Indiana. Lunch will be served, with services continuing in the afternoon.

Elder Kenneth Davis has been selected by the church to preach in the afternoon.

We wish to invite everyone to attend. A special invitation to all whom have been members and all former pastors.

A LETTER FROM THE LOST

Dear Preacher,

First of all I want to tell you that I don't claim to be saved. Use to be there was always somebody from the church around here coming by to see me and find out if me and my family was doing alright and invite us to church. Some of 'em use to sit down with me and tell me how bad I needed to get saved. Why, even some of 'em use to sit there and tell me how they got saved whilst them big ole tears was just a rolling. But it ain't like

that no more. This one church, I can sit on my front porch and look right in the front door of it, never has had one of it's members so much as say howdy to me.

People used to talk about all the good meetings that was going on at all the churches around but all you hear now is how wrong this church is and how wrong that church is while their church is so good.

Use to be when a fellar told you that he was a member of a church he acted like he was proud of it but now you don't find many of 'em that want to admit to being one. Mr. Preacher, I've got to feeling like here lately, I can't go on much more in this world without gettin' saved. I mean I feel like I'am dead inside, but I don't know how to get things right with me and the Lord. I'd love to go to church somewhere but don't seem like nun of the church members around here want me and my family to come. I heard an old preacher say one time that the Book says that the Lord said for 'em to go out into the highways and the bushes and bring 'em into his house, guess it don't mean that no more.

Well, I got to get back out in the field and get to work. Preacher, I know you are busy so I just want to ask you to pray that the Lord will send one of his children that knows what to tell me about gettin' saved cause in my heart right now I know if I die I'am gonna split Hell wide open.

Sincerely,
Lost and Knows It

Dear Brethren,

As we begin a new year in the service to our Lord, we begin with much joy and gladness, as we anticipate His wonderful blessings. The past year has been hard, but well worth all the heartaches and trials. We have been permitted to rejoice at the wonderful works of God.

I am overwhelmed with joy as we are able to report that at last we are beginning to see some small results here at Parma. Since our New Years Eve service, we have seen a greater spirit of concern for the Lord and His cause. Our number is still small, but is increasing some. To the normal way of thinking, this may not be much, but God has used it to encourage us, and give us confidence that we are in His will. To me that is the greatest blessing of all, to be confident of the will of God.

We have begun to have both Sunday morning and night services, and last Sunday we had eleven for Sunday morning worship and fifteen for Sunday night. Also we received word from Hauser Baptist Church this past week. They rejoice in the salvation of another precious soul. A young man of nineteen was saved and baptized this month. That is a total of ten saved since our coming to the west coast sixteen months ago, and a total of fif-

teen in the last two years. How gracious He is to them that obey him.

We want to thank everyone for the concern for our welfare. Your continued prayers and support have enabled us to remain here and we are indebted to you all. This is a small farming town, and the economy is not good. There are no winter jobs and few summer jobs to be found. Thank you all for your love and care. We pray that God will bless you for your efforts as only He Can.

Eld. Vernon Roark
Northwest Missionary
Parma, Idaho

GOD'S GREAT LOVE

by Jean Hudson

Love is like a blanket, that covers
the multitude of sins,
Better a dinner of herbs, where
love there is in.
Love is not a weakness, just as strong
as death,
He showed his love for me, with his
very best.
He said he would love me, with an
everlasting love,
So I have gained strength, that only
comes from above.
The beauty of God's creation, is manifest
in love,
His compassion is eternal! from Heaven
up above.
We need only trust Him, to receive His
promise true,
His Son gave all upon the cross, so we
might live anew.
Lord! I know you will provide, what ever
I may lack,
For you love me! and only ask, that I
love you back.
If we suffer as christians, we should
not be ashamed.
Think back to Calvary! and praise His
Holy Name.
We should make friends, over this land
and sea,
And with faith from above, lead them
to Thee.
You will be in every valley, when we do
not understand,
I only have to stumble, and you are stretching
out your hand.
Peace will come after suffering, and love
is reward of pain,
So after this life comes Heaven! to die
will be our gain.
The Lord is my shepherd, He will give what
I need,
When burdens are heavy, thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.