Can You Afford NOT To? (Part 1)

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 31st, 2021

Text: II Thessalonians 1:6-10

### Intro

1. We recently attended a sales pitch, to which we had high sales resistance, but we were impressed with how it was presented.
	1. They wouldn’t talk price at all, no matter how many questions up front.
	2. They didn’t even talk about their product at first.
	3. They started out by asking, “Can you afford not to” buy into their product?
	4. They then showed the average costs of doing things without their product.
	5. At the end they showed us the benefits of their product and at the very end they talked price.
2. When teaching the gospel to others we very often speak about the costs of discipleship:
	1. Commitment (Mark 12:30; Revelation 2:10)
	2. Persecution (Luke 21:12; I Timothy 3:12)
	3. Loss of relationships, etc. (Luke 21:16-17)
3. When considering to become a Christian or not, “Can you afford NOT to?”

#### Choosing the World: Physical Costs

* 1. Free (Costs nothing to go to Hell, no sacrifice, sin of omission)
		1. Matthew 7:13-14: Stay on the Broad Road to destruction, no need to look for the exit to the Narrow Way that leads to life!
		2. Ephesians 2:1-3: Stay in the world and darkness, don’t seek Christ (John 14:6)
	2. Consequences for sin
		1. I Corinthians 6:9-10: This list consists of several evil practices that have physical consequences: diseases, broken families, arrests *(I Peter 4:15),* murders *(James 4:1-2),* accidents that can kill or injure, and all will ultimately cost one their soul and the loss of Heaven.
	3. Prayers not heard or answered
		1. I Peter 3:10-12: God hears the prayers of the righteous but turns His face from the wicked. *A heart searching for truth may find it (Acts 9:11-12; 10:30-33)*
	4. Can you afford NOT to be in the family of God?

#### Choosing Hell: Eternal Costs

* 1. Second Death
		1. Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8: Being cast into Hell is called “The Second Death”
		2. Hebrews 9:27: Physical death happens once but then begins the judgment!
	2. Eternal Destruction
		1. II Thessalonians 1:6-10; Philippians 3:18-19
		2. “Destruction” *(G684)* is not extinction, but “ruin, loss, not of being, but of well-being.” (Vines)
		3. The end of worldly people is destruction (Phil. 3:18-19).
		4. An eternity of being destroyed, but not fully extinct!
	3. Eternity Away From Jesus
		1. II Thessalonians 1:9
		2. In life, we can repent, change course, and cry out to God for forgiveness – in Hell, eternally away from the presence of the Lord, no one to hear your cries!
	4. Eternal Fire
		1. Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:14-15; 21:8; Mark 9:42-48
		2. An eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! Think of the company you will keep! (Revelation 20:14-15: The lake of fire is called “The Second death”)
		3. A fire that is unquenched! (That is a fire that is never fully satisfied or put out)
	5. Eternal Punishment
		1. Matthew 25:46; Romans 12:19
		2. God has prepared Hell, a place of eternal fire as punishment for the wicked, where His vengeance on the unjust will forever take place!
	6. Eternal Darkness
		1. Matthew 22:13; 25:30; II Peter 2:17; Jude 6, 12-13
		2. The Lord talked about darkness in relationship to torment and punishment. (Mt. 22:13; 25:30: Parables of the Marriage Feast and the Talents)
		3. This denotes the place of punishment (II Peter 2:4, 17: “pits of darkness, reserved for judgment”)
		4. Hell will consist of black darkness forever (Jude 12-13)!
			1. *Mark 9:43-44:* Hell is a place of “unquenchable fire.”
			2. *The eternal darkness may be due to the smoke! It is a lake of fire!*
		5. Imagine the horror of confinement in a place of permanent, perpetual darkness!
	7. Eternal Perishing
		1. Mark 9:42-48
		2. “Where their worm does not die” implies perishing without ever fully being consumed, an eternal decaying process!
	8. Eternal Torment
		1. Revelation 14:9-11; 20:15
		2. “The smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night.”
		3. The rich man awoke in Hades, awaiting judgment, in torment (Luke 16:22-24)
		4. Those whose names are not found in the Book of Life were cast into the lake of fire, called the Second Death!
	9. Reviews!
		1. “I am in torment here in Hades, in such agony in this flame that I don’t want my family to be here with me! I can only imagine what awaits me in Hell!” (Rich Man from Luke 16:22-24, 27-28; See also, Revelation 20:14-15)
		2. “It is so dark here awaiting punishment that we can’t imagine what Hell will be like. We can’t see our hands in front of our faces!” (Sinful Angels in eternal bonds awaiting judgment in eternal darkness, II Peter 2:4; Jude 6)
		3. “One Star. I don’t recommend it!” (Jesus Christ, Mark 9:42-48)
	10. Can you afford NOT to be written in the Book of Life on the Day of Judgment?

## Conclusion

1. The descriptions of Hell should cause one to stop and think about their life!
2. Life leads men to two choices: eternal life or eternal punishment (Mt. 25:46)
	1. Choosing a life without Jesus ultimately costs: Your Soul! (Mt. 16:26)
3. Must have your name in the Lamb’s Book of Life if you want to live forever with God Almighty in Heaven – Revelation 20:11-15
4. Can you afford NOT to become a Christian?
5. If you are not a Christian, you stand condemned already. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
	1. II Thessalonians 1:6-10: Those who have not obeyed the gospel should weigh the consequences!
6. If a Christian in error, remember His promise of eternal life to those who overcome, and don’t let your sin cost you your soul! Repent & be renewed.
	1. James 5:19-20: The erring saint should think about the danger of death – eternal separation from God.
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!