Surprises At Judgment

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 24th, 2022

Text: Matthew 25:34, 41, 46

### Intro

1. Funerals and memorial services leave us contemplating the frailty of life and looking at our own mortality.
2. It’s good to consider the heavenly reward of eternal life for the faithful who have shed their mortal body to put on the immortal. That IS the goal for every Christian!
3. It is equally good to also consider the fate of others at the funerals and memorial services, perhaps the friends and family of the deceased, or the deceased themselves: Those who are lost.
4. Matthew 25:31-46: Jesus explains the separation that occurs at the Judgment Day.
   1. The Good Shepherd and Mighty King will take all the people of every nation and separate them out: Sheep to His right and Goats to the left.
   2. Then begins judgment!
   3. Revelation 20:11-15: The Great White Throne scene where books are opened and the dead are judged by what’s written inside and if anyone’s name was NOT in the Book of Life then they are thrown in the lake that burns with fire, called the Second Death!
   4. Jesus, in Matthew 25, welcomes the Sheep on His right into their eternal reward (25:34)
   5. He then turns to His left and condemns the Goats to their punishment in Hell (25:41)
   6. Both places are called “eternal” and it is the final destiny of all mankind (25:46)
5. “Eternal” = *Gr. aionios (G166):* ***(Majority of N.T.: 66 Times in NASU)***
   1. “From *165;* perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well): eternal, eternity, forever, everlasting, world (began); age-long.”
      1. John 3:16: “That whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have *eternal* life.”
      2. II Thessalonians 1:9: “These will pay the penalty of *eternal* destruction …”
      3. The same word *(G166)* is used to describe Eternal Life (Mt. 25:46; John 3:16), Eternal Destruction (II Thess. 1:9), Eternal Fire (Mt. 25:41), and Eternal Punishment (Mt. 25:46).
6. Many people in this world have been persuaded that there is no Hell, and others believe the soul dies at death with the body.
7. Some lessen the judgment of Hell by calling it “annihilation,” limiting its scope and duration.
   1. If Hell is for a short time or non-existent, then so is Heaven!
   2. So, if one is not eternal then neither is the other. Same word used to describe both!
8. There will be quite a few people surprised at the Judgment of Jesus Christ!

#### People Found ***IN*** Hell

* 1. Hell will be filled with Immoral & Unbelieving Souls
     1. Those who satisfy the lusts of their flesh
        1. I Cor. 6:9-10; Rev. 21:8: Drunkards, Prostitutes, Homosexuals, Adulterers, Liars, Thieves, etc…*(Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 1:28-32)*
     2. Those who do not believe or obey God *(Rev. 21:8: “unbelieving”).*
        1. Jn. 12:42-43: These were the religious leaders, people who were looked up to, but they loved the praise of men over God!
        2. II Thess. 1:7-9: Those who don’t know God and those that have not obeyed the gospel will “pay the penalty of eternal destruction.”
  2. Hell will be filled with Good Moral People
     1. We hear at funerals all the time how the deceased was a “good and moral person” and are “preached” into Heaven.
     2. God defines how to be “good” and “moral.”
     3. Cornelius feared God – needed saved
        1. Acts 10:1-2; 11:13-14; 10:48: He was a good and moral man but had to hear words by which he and his household could be saved!
     4. Being a Jew was not enough to save ***(Mk. 16:16: Must believe and obey)***
        1. Jn. 8:24: They had to believe on Christ or die in their sins.
  3. Hell will be filled with Devoutly Religious People
     1. The Jews who were zealous toward God
        1. Rom. 10:1-3: They were zealous, but not according to God’s way. ***(Many people today fall into same category)***
     2. The most sincere, religious people on earth will spend an eternity in Hell because they chose to follow their own ways over God’s! ***They will be quite surprised!***
        1. Mt. 7:21-23: These were individuals who thought they knew God, thought they were doing what was right, but were outside His authority.
        2. “Depart from Me…” refers to the separation to Jesus’ left *(Mt. 25:31-46)*
        3. They, like the Jews, had “zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.” *(Rom. 10:2)*
  4. Hell will be filled with Fallen Away Christians
     1. Saints who went back into the world will be condemned to Hell’s eternity
        1. II Pet. 2:20-22: The one who falls away will know what they gave up as they suffer.
        2. Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-27: Only hope of the fallen is the expectation of judgment! *(“How much severer punishment”)*
  5. Hell will be filled with Lukewarm Christians
     1. These weren’t against Christ but weren’t for Him either!
        1. Rev. 3:15-16, 19: Those that are lukewarm have no part with Christ – hypocrites!
        2. These were Christians in the church of Christ at Laodicea! Jesus called upon them to repent!
  6. Hell will be filled with Hypocrites
     1. Mt. 23:15: Jesus called hypocrites a “son of Hell!”
     2. These are people who think they are saved but act like the world around them.
     3. People will often cite hypocrites in the church as the reason they won’t obey the gospel and join the church.
     4. The irony is that they will spend an eternity with the very ones that they let be an excuse for not obeying the gospel and being right with God!
  7. Hell will be filled with False Teachers – Rev. 22:18-19; Eph. 4:14; II Pet. 3:17
     1. False teachers do not have God the Father or the Son (II John 9)
     2. They have gone beyond the authority of Jesus Christ (the Great King – Matthew 25:34) and will be parted to His left (Matthew 7:21-23)
  8. These are the people Christ will part to the left and condemn to the place of eternal punishment reserved for Satan and his angels *(Mt. 25:41)* – **Quite the eternal company!**

#### People ***NOT*** Found In Hell

* 1. Unbelievers – Is. 45:23; Rom. 14:11; Phil. 2:9-11
     1. The unbelievers will be at the Judgment and will be judged for disobedience and sentenced to Hell; but no unbelievers will be in Hell.
     2. On the Day of Judgment ALL will be believers, for EVERY KNEE WILL BOW and EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS that Jesus Christ is Lord!
     3. They will go into Hell knowing God, and knowing their sins put them there.
  2. Faithful Christians – II Tim. 4:7-8; Rev. 2:10
     1. Saints have a reservation in Heaven – I Pet. 1:3-4
  3. EVERY KNEE WILL BOW & EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD! (Philippians 2:9-11)
  4. Wouldn’t you want to NOT be found in Hell?

#### The Solution

* 1. To the unbeliever *(including those who “fear God” – Acts 10:2)*
     1. Obey the gospel to avoid the judgment for not obeying – *II Thess. 1:7-9*
        1. Heb. 5:9: Christ is the source of salvation to those who obey Him.
  2. To the Christian who struggles or sins
     1. Be alert & sober (*I Pet. 5:8-9:* Satan can be resisted!)
     2. Be active (I Cor. 15:58: Always abounding in the work of the Lord!)
     3. Repent and seek forgiveness when you sin! (I Jn. 1:9: God will forgive!)
  3. The solution requires belief, repentance, and obedience!

## Conclusion

1. Hell is a scary, eternal abode, and to those who do not fear the Lord, it will become their soul’s eternal home!
2. We sometimes think only the “terrible people” are going to Hell – and they are!
   1. Because ***ALL*** who do not fully obey Him are terrible in God’s eyes!
   2. We need to remember we will be judged not by man’s standards of goodness, but God’s. *(Rom. 2:16)*
3. Hell is the punishment we should fear and dread and do all we can to avoid it!
   1. *Mt. 7:13-14:* Two roads: the broad road leads to destruction *(eternal – II Thess. 1:9)*
4. Heaven is the bliss we long for:
   1. *Rev. 21:3-4:* A home without pain & suffering, no tears or death! (Rom. 2:7)
   2. *Rev. 21:7:* It is reserved for the one who overcomes! *(I Pet. 1:4)*
   3. Rev. 22:5: The contrast to the darkness of Hell: no need for light in Heaven for God is the light, and there will never be darkness there!
5. II Corinthians. 5:10-11*:* We will all stand before Christ for judgment of the things we have done, *whether good or bad! (Rom. 2:5-11) –* With this in mind we “persuade men,” that is to say, we teach the gospel to others so they can avoid the eternal fate of Hell!
6. What will be the judgment rendered unto you?
   1. Will your name be recorded in the Lamb’s Book of Life? *(Rev. 20:15)*
   2. Will you be numbered with those reserved for Hell’s eternity? *(Mt. 25:41)*
7. You get to choose where you will spend eternity! ***Choose wisely!*** ***Don’t be surprised!!***
8. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
9. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
10. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!