

## HEAVEN OR HELL

Matthew 7:13,14, *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

A recent political advertisement stated, "If you don't know where your are going any road will take you there."

One of the most important things about life is our destination. In the early 1800's a man named Nathaniel Wyeth led people on a trail from Independence, Missouri to the Pacific Northwest. They say you can still see ruts made by covered wagons on the Oregon Trail. Those who traveled that trail were determined to reach their destination. The trip took six months. It was a two hundred mile journey, and it was a test of endurance. To reach their destination people had to carefully follow the Oregon Trail.

Jesus talked about two roads that lead to two different places. The strait and narrow road that leads to Heaven, and the wide and broad road that leads to Hell. Everyone is on one of these two roads, and everyone will go to one of these two destinations. The question is, Heaven or Hell, which will it be?

### HEAVEN IS REAL, BUT SO IS HELL.

John 14:2 says, *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

The Bible refers to Heaven many times. We know Heaven is a real place. I know there are those who try to symbolize things and say Heaven is not real. Some try to make it a state of mind, and others say it is a spiritual symbol. Let me just reassure you. Jesus talked about Heaven as a real place. I see no reason to doubt or spiritualize His plain teaching. He said, *I go to prepare a place for you.* There is no need to prepare a state of mind, or a place that doesn't exist. Listen to God's Holy Word instead of people who don't know what they are talking about. Heaven is a real place!

Oh! I'll tell you, I am so glad there is a real Heaven, and I praise the Lord that Jesus was willing to go to the cross, and die for our sins so we could go there. The Bible doesn't fully describe it, but it tells us some exciting things about that wonderful place. God is God, Jesus is the Word of God, and The Holy Spirit is the law. Oh, listen to me. Heaven is where Jesus is! That is enough. If Heaven had nothing but Jesus that would be enough. But there is much more! I am reminded of the little girl who looked up at the stars and said, "If Heaven is this beautiful on this side, how beautiful it must be on the other side." You see the Lord has told us that Heaven is real. He has told us it is a wonderful place that no one in his or her right mind should want to miss. Part of the joy of going on a vacation is seeing new things. When we get to Heaven we are going to have eternity to see what the Lord has prepared for those who love Him and have been faithful to Him. Listen, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I have found out that is the absolute greatest decision I have ever made. Oh yes, I want to go to Heaven! I hope you will make your reservation today. If you have not come to the Lord you need to do it now. You need to get saved today!

Hell is a real place too. People like to believe in Heaven. But they don't want to believe in Hell. That is just the way people are. Human beings don't like the truth when it is unpleasant. Sometimes the tendency is to ignore the truth if it upsets us. Jeremiah 17:9, ***The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*** There are many people today who do not believe in Hell. They don't believe in Hell, because they don't want to face the truth. Some religious groups teach that Hell is not a literal place. Here we go again. People trying to make the Bible say what they want it to say. They try to make the Bible fit their doctrine of belief rather than face the truth of God's Word. I meet people who believe in Heaven, but they don't believe in Hell. Let me tell you Jesus preached about Hell more than He preached about Heaven. He did warn people not to go there. Jesus taught that Hell is an awful place. It is where everyone who hates God will spend eternity. Think of it. Hitler and people like him. Serial killers, liars, every kind of wicked person that you can think about will be in Hell. How would you like to live in a city where there was nothing but killers, and thieves, and mean hateful people? You would never hear a kind word. Every word would be cursing, and hateful, and mean. A place where people are out to get everyone else. Where no one cares. No hospitals, no charity organizations, and no good Samaritans. If you have something someone else wants they would just take it. Oh, that is the kind of people that a person would be with in Hell. Jesus described Hell as a place of everlasting pain and suffering. There will be no happiness in Hell. It is a place where ***the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched.*** It is a place of fire and darkness at the same time. You say preacher do you understand that? Not completely, and it is O.K. with me if I never do. My friend I am not trying to scare you, but I am trying to do what Jesus did. I want to warn you. Hell is a place you don't want to go!

Listen, there are two roads. Which one are you on?

Matthew 7:13-14, ***Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*** Your destination is one of two places. If you are on a bus going to Texas, and you want to go to Michigan, you get off the bus and buy a ticket to Michigan. Jesus has bought your ticket to Heaven. You need to change busses!

**HEAVEN IS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE SAVED, BUT HELL IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT SAVED.**

Matthew 7:13-14 says, ***Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*** I want you to notice this Scripture very carefully. There are two gates. Do you see that? There are two ways. Do you see that? If there was no other Scripture in the Bible other than this one, this would prove the doctrine of eternal security wrong. There are two things a person must do, according to Jesus, to go to Heaven. Enter the strait gate, and walk the narrow way. Now, notice Our Lord did not say you could enter the strait gate, and then walk the broad way. That is what is being taught today, but that is wrong. The word straight means extremely narrow. It carries the idea of a place so narrow that a person has to strain to squeeze through. You see, when a person comes to

the Lord to get saved he must lay aside every thing. You cannot take your sin through the strait gate. You have to leave the old life of worldliness and sin behind. A person who will not repent, and will not surrender his life to Jesus will not be able to get through the strait gate. There are those who cannot be saved, because they love the world and will not surrender their life to Christ. Once a person is saved that person cannot turn back to the world, and still go to Heaven. Jesus said once you are through the gate you must walk the narrow road. Now some people think they can be a Christian, and walk the broad road. Folks, that will not work. If you are a Christian, and walk in the broad road, and you are living like an unsaved person, then you are fooling yourself. Jesus said, ***follow me***, and Jesus did not walk the broad road. That doesn't mean you are perfect, or that you will never make a mistake. It does mean you are striving every day to live as close to the Lord as you can, and that you love the Lord, and want to serve Him! It means you are grieved when you don't please the Lord. Jesus never taught that people could get saved, and live a life of sin, and go to Heaven!

Now, here is what I want you to see. There are only two types of people in the world. There are only saved, and lost people. Don't give me this I was saved when I was a child, and I am backslid, but I expect to go to Heaven. Luke 9:62 says, ***And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*** I don't believe people who are not faithful to Jesus are going to be ready when Jesus comes. I don't believe you can make up your own plan of salvation. I don't believe a person is saved just because they say they are. Now, I am not the judge, but God is! He knows who belongs to Him, and who doesn't. And don't try to tell God you are a good person, and you expect Him to let you into Heaven on your good works. This old stuff, I am a good person, and I haven't done anything that bad will take you to Hell. If you think you can just be a nice person, and not accept the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, you are deceiving yourself. Romans 3:23 states, ***For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*** If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and He is your Lord, that means you are living for Him. If you are not living for Jesus you are lost!

Heaven is for saved people, but Hell is for those who are not saved. John 3:18 says, ***He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*** Faith is not a momentary thing. He that believeth, and continues to believe throughout life: that is faith, and that is faithfulness. The world is full of people who believe they can get to heaven, and not go through the gate. A newspaper carried a story about a guy who made up his own salvation. Marion Kent Black was buried in a big grave. They put him, his motorcycle, and his ball bat in the grave with him. He was hit by a car, and killed when he was riding his motorcycle. He was only thirty-seven years old. According to the paper his eulogy was a statement he composed. It said "No sadness, no crying, no hypocrisy... not for me," He went on to say, "I want it simply stated that I have passed on to that beautiful state of being that I so long have waited for... At last I'll be understood for what I am and what I feel—My love." Now they played his favorite song "If I Can Dream" by Elvis Presley. They also played some of his favorite songs by Kris Kristoferson, and Waylon Jennings. Now wasn't that nice. What a touching service. I am sure everyone thought "Oh how touching." The paper said at the end of the funeral one of his friends placed a baseball bat in the grave, and said, "Here's your bat

brother, if anyone messes with you, bust their head.” Now, let me assure you I take no pleasure in this mans demise. I do not make fun of people when they die. This is serious business, but do you see how ridiculous this is? This man was a member of the Grim Reapers motorcycle gang. Now most of us know what their reputation is. They are not known for Christian living folks. Here is a guy who made up his own plan of salvation. You see, God’s plan of salvation did not suit him. He was too good for Jesus. He didn’t want to surrender his life to the Lord, and live right. He dreamed of going to a “beautiful state of being” and being “understood”. Well, let me tell you according to the Bible he is in a terrible state of shock right now. He is finding out that just because a person says, or believes something, that doesn’t make it so. But he is finding out too late.

Hell will be full of people who don’t believe it is necessary to get saved. Hell will be full of people who don’t believe there is such a place. Over here there will be those people who believe all religions are the same. Over here there will be those people who believe there is no God. Religionists who have convinced themselves, and taught people there is no devil will populate hell. Hell will be full of people who have deceived themselves. In the Middle Ages noblemen employed Jesters, or as they were called back then fools, to entertain them. One man gave his Jester his cane and said, “when you find a bigger fool than yourself give him the cane.” Time passed, and the nobleman was about to die. His Jester came to visit him. He asked, “ where are you going?” The Nobleman said, “to another world.” The Jester asked, “shall you ever return?” The Nobleman said, “No, not ever.” The Jester said, “have you made any preparation?” The Nobleman answered, “No.” The Jester gave him the cane, and responded, “never could there be folly so great as that.”

Oh! What folly men practice when they try to make their own rules about eternity. Listen, the Bible says there is a real Hell. It is an awful place. The Lord Jesus Christ came into this world, and died on the cross to save people who will go through the strait gate, and walk the narrow way. People need to be making preparations to go to Heaven. If you have not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour you need to come to the altar today and be saved!

### **HEAVEN WILL BE FULL OF HAPPY PEOPLE, BUT HELL IS FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL NEVER BE HAPPY AGAIN.**

Matthew 7:13-14, *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.* God wants people to be happy. The word blessed is used 302 times in the Bible. Blessed means precious in the eyes of God. It means happy. God places great emphasis on happiness. Let me assure you. Heaven is going to be a fun place. The world thinks about Heaven like this. It is a place where you are religious all the time. See, the world just doesn’t want to be religious. The world thinks having fun is living in sin. Well, let me tell you. Folks are not going to be religious in Heaven. People in Heaven will be saved! There is a big difference in being religious, and being saved. Saved people love the Lord. Saved people enjoy living for Jesus.

There won’t be any drunken parties in Heaven. I Corinthians 6:9-10 says, *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived:*

*neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.* That pretty well covers it doesn't it? If that is the kind of life you love, and you don't intend to change, you need not expect to go to Heaven. God has another place for people who refuse to repent of their sins. But, people who want to change, and live for the Lord can be saved. I Corinthians 6:11 continues, *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.* Listen, God is always willing to save anyone who wants to be saved, and live for Him.

Heaven is a place of happiness. I think the best of times is when we are with God's people. I remember so many good times at thanksgiving with our family. We gather together. Everybody is living for the Lord. We eat and play, and just have a great time. We don't have to worry about anything offensive. We don't have to worry about someone drinking, or cussing, or being mean, and hateful. We are all Christians, and it is just a great time together. I think that is a little taste of Heaven. I want to tell you Heaven is a fun place. People will be enjoying eternal life. They will be rejoicing and laughing. They will enjoy being with each other. They will enjoy the presence of the Lord. There will be no end to the joy, and happiness in Heaven.

My friend, there won't be any laughter in Hell! Listen young person, there won't be any parties, and games going on in that awful place. Listen, teenager, there won't be any sports. Listen adults, there won't be any stores to go shopping in, or fishing holes to go fishing. Hell is a terrible place. The Bible tells us Hell will be a place of agony, and torment. No one will ever laugh. No one will ever be happy again in Hell!

Everyone has a choice to make. We will spend eternity in Heaven or we will spend it in Hell. We must choose Jesus Christ or the world. We must choose to believe the Bible, or disbelieve it. Let me ask, what is your choice? What is your destination? A New York paper carried the obituary of a man killed in an accident with a train. It was winter. He started down a hill in his car. He had not seen the train until he started down an icy hill. He tried to stop when he saw the train coming. He put on his brakes, but because of the ice that had formed on the hill he could not stop. His car slid down the hill into the path of the train. That previous Sunday an evangelist had pleaded with the man to give his heart to the Lord. Like so many others, he would not surrender his life to Christ.

Oh the Lord has made it easy for people to get saved. Jesus has paid the awful cost of sin for us. Jesus has made it possible for the worst of sinners to be forgiven of all their sins. To be saved a person must recognize he or she is a sinner. Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* They must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the risen Son of God. I Corinthians 15:1-4, *MOREOVER, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:* A person must repent of their sins. Matthew 4:17, *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* When a person comes to Jesus Christ, and surrenders his or her life to Christ, the Lord puts The Holy Spirit in their heart, and they are born again. You say, Preacher can I do that? Yes,

Romans 10:13 says, ***For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*** You need to come to the lord. You need to bow your head right now and accept the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart, and you need to make a public profession of your faith in Christ. Romans 10:9-10 says, ***That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

Bow your head and pray this prayer: Our Father I know I have sinned against people and against you. I want to give up the life of sin. I want to repent of all my sins. I ask you to forgive me of all my sins, come into my heart and save my soul. Give me thy precious Holy Spirit, and cause me to be born again. Help me to live for you from this moment on. Help me to be baptized, and to study the Bible daily, pray constantly, and to go to a good Bible believing Church. Help me to dedicate my life to serving you. I believe with all my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. I believe Jesus died on the cross, and shed His blood to forgive me of my sins. I believe He was buried and rose from the grave the third day according to the scriptures. Thank you for saving me Lord. A-men.