

In Christ, grace, mercy, and peace to all believers headed toward eternity. Amen.

Sermon title:

DON'T ADD "HELL" TO YOUR BUCKET LIST ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN!!!

Hebrews 9:27:

"It is appointed unto man/human beings/people ONCE to die and then **the Judgment**"!

Of course, a "**Bucket List**" is a list of things a person wants to do before they die.

Now, "**hell**" is spoken of many times in the NT—it's a major warning for all, as also echoed by the "rock" group—**Blood, Sweat, and Tears**:

"I can swear there ain't no heaven but I pray there ain't no hell."

Now, as **Hebrews 9:27** indicated, **death** brings the **FINAL JUDGMENT**, either **hell** or **heaven**; no further chances, no Purgatory, only **heaven** or **hell**.

A. Let's Look At Some Bible Passages That Describe "Judgment Day":

1 Corinthians 5:10: "We must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ."

John 5:28, 29: "The hour is coming when **ALL** who are in their graves will hear Him calling and will come out."

ALL WILL BE PUT BACK TOGETHER (Cremation???)

Matthew 25:31-33; 41, 46: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His throne of glory. And all nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, And He will have the sheep stand at His right but the goats at His left."

"Then He will say to those at His left, 'Go away from Me, you cursed ones, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Then these will go away to everlasting punishment, but the righteous to everlasting life."

Matthew 10:28: "Stop being afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, rather, fear Him who can destroy both body and soul in **hell**."

AND THUS, THERE IS NO ANNIHILATION FOR UNBELIEVERS:

HELL = "separation from God's love and the presence of His wrath"

A LITTLE REALIZED TRUTH:

God will **ALSO** be in **HELL** with His *angry* face **[OMNIPRESENCE]**.

B. Now Let's Look At Some Bible Passages That Describe "HELL":

Luke 16:23, 24: "As he was being tormented in **hell [hades]** he looked up and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus at his side. 'Father Abraham,' he called, 'have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, because I am suffering in this fire.'"

Matthew 25:41: "Then He will say to those at His left 'Go away from Me, you cursed ones, into the **everlasting fire** prepared for the devil and his angels.'" (Also see Luke 16:24: "...send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, because I am suffering in this fire.")

Global Warming at its worse—always thirsty; sweating; no air conditioning; an everlasting fire ["Burning Bush"]!!!

Revelation. 14:11: "And the smoke of their torture goes up forever and ever. And there is no rest day and night for those who worship the **beast** and his image and for anyone branded with his name."

Always tired (with no sleep; pure exhaustion)!!!

1 Samuel 2:9: "...the wicked shall be silenced in darkness..."

Solitary confinement—silence will be deafening; no possibility of suicide!!!

Luke 16:25, 26: "But Abraham said, 'Remember, son, you had your good things in your life, while Lazarus had his misery. Now he is comforted here, while you are suffering. And besides all these things, there is a wide chasm fixed between us and you, so that those who might want to cross from here over to you cannot do it, nor do any from there come over to us.'" (**"Bucket List"?**)

Isaiah 66:24a: "Then they will go out and look at the corpses of men who rebelled against Me, since their worm will **NEVER** die and their fire will **NEVER** go out, (Also see, Mark 9:43-48.)

No end to suffering/torment/pain-racked body!!!

Dante's Inferno: "Abandon hope all ye who enter here."

Matthew 8:11, 12: "I also tell you, many will come from the east and the west and will eat with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of heaven, but those who were born to be heirs of the Kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness..."

No parole; false hope; the next second never ticks!!!

Luke 16:22-24: "One day the beggar died, and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. As he was being tormented in **hell [hades]** he looked up and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus at his side.

Viewing the eternal party from the outside!!!

Matthew 13:41, 42, 49, 50: “The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will take out of His Kingdom everything which causes people to sin as well as those people who continue to do evil, and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will weep and grind their teeth.” ... So it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will weep and grind their teeth.”

Grinding/gnashing of teeth = hatred toward God!!!

C. Varying Degrees of Punishment and Rewards in Hell & Heaven

Luke 12:47, 48: “That slave who knew what his master wanted and did not prepare himself or do what he wanted will be beaten with many blows. But he who did not know and did things for which he deserved to be beaten will receive few blows. If anyone was given much, much will be expected of him; and if a person was entrusted with much, all the more will be demanded of him.”

Matthew 11:20-24: “Then He began to denounce the cities where He had worked most of His miracles, because they had **not** repented:

“Woe to you, **Chorazin**! Woe to you, **Bethsaida**! If the miracles worked in you had been worked in **Tyre** and **Sidon**, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. I tell you, on **Judgment Day** it will be easier for **Tyre** and **Sidon** than for you.

“And you, **Capernaum**, will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will go down to **hell [hades]**. If the miracles that had been worked in you had been worked in **Sodom**, it would still be there today.

“I tell you, on **Judgment Day** it will be easier for the land of **Sodom** than for you.”

Daniel 12:3: “And those who have understanding will shine like the light in the sky and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars forever.”

LIMITED Gospel opportunity Vs. MUCH Gospel opportunity!!!

D. Contrasting Heaven to Hell

1. Heaven's reversals:

- a. God's total acceptance via forgiveness,
- b. everlasting life [a welcome “gulf” keeping believers in constant fellowship with their Bridegroom],
- c. perfect climate,
- d. never exhausted, tired, thirsty, or hungry,
- e. a perfect body [like the original Adam & Eve] with no pain or suffering,
- f. pleasant melodic atmosphere with eternal light [**LIGHT**], providing feelings of safety,

- g. the presence of perfect love without hatred or resentment of any kind,
- h. no urge to ever sin again or need to repent,
- i. total satisfaction with every last thing throughout all eternity.

2. Two glorious Bible truths:

Philippians. 3:21: "...the Savior...will change our humble bodies and make them like His glorified body because He has the power by which He can make everything subordinate."

1 Corinthians 15:51, 52: "Now I shall tell you a *mystery*: We shall not all fall asleep in death, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the blinking [winking] of an eye when the last trumpet sounds. Yes, it will sound, and the dead will be raised immortal and we shall be changed."

[Stephen Hawking]

3. A crucial Bible warning & truth: **We should not want to go to heaven to escape hell or to be reunited with our loved ones; rather, we should *primarily* desire to go to heaven to be with JESUS!**