

***The Consequences of Not Repenting***  
***Selected Scriptures***  
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**INTRODUCTION**

1. Last week we ended our study of Revelation chapter 9 with these words:  
  
“But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts” (vv.20-21).
2. This morning I want to talk further about the phrase, “But the rest of mankind...did not repent” in verse 20.
3. It also occurs again in verse 21, “And they did not repent.”
4. If you remember last time we said that the world had just suffered 5 months of torment from the demons who came out of the abyss.
5. And now in the sixth trumpet 4 high-ranking demons who had been previously bound were released to kill a third of mankind.
6. They do this with the help of a demonic army numbering two hundred million.
7. But in spite of this, “the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent” (v.20).

8. That leads me to our subject this morning.
9. What happens to those who never repent?
10. They will be cast into the lake of fire.
11. The sad reality, as seen in the response of “the rest of mankind,” many like them today reject the idea of a literal hell.
12. In 1996, The Barna Research Group took a survey and discovered that “Three in ten adults (31%) see hell as an actual location: ‘a place of physical torment where people may be sent.’
13. Four in ten adults (37%), say, ‘hell is not a place, but it represents a state of permanent separation from the presence of God.’
14. Describing hell as merely a symbolic term, not referring to a physical place was true for two in ten Americans (19%).
15. There’s another survey I would like to share with you and it speaks with 100% accuracy.
16. The person surveyed is God and the results are found in the Bible.
17. In the Bible we see what is known as the general call to salvation as seen in the invitations of Christ.
18. Listen to what they are:

**I. The Invitations of Christ**

- A. Matthew 11:28-30 - “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
- B. Mark 8:34-37 - “When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
- C. John 3:16
- D. Romans 10:12-13 - “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- E. Revelation 22:17 - “And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

**II. The Rejection of Christ**

- A. The Rich-Young Ruler - Matthew 19:16-22
- B. The Religious Leaders

1. Jesus claimed to be the “Lord of Sabbath” in Mark 2:28 and they sought to “destroy Him” (3:6)
2. Jesus claimed that “God was His Father” in John 5:17 and they sought to “kill Him” (5:18)
3. Jesus claimed to be “The Bread of Life” in John 6:35 and they “murmured” against Him (6:4)
4. Jesus claimed to be the “I Am” in John 8:58 and they picked up “stones” to stone Him (8:59)

#### C. The Religious People

In Matthew 7 you had those who attached themselves to Christ but were actually those who “practiced lawlessness” and Jesus therefore says to them: “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (v.23).

1. Mark 15:1-14 records Jesus being rejected by the Jews (chief priests, whole counsel)
2. Mark 15:15-24 includes the Gentiles (the crowd - both Jews and Gentiles - soldiers, Pilate)

### III. The Judgment of Christ

Acts 17:30-31 says, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

A. Hell for Many is a Rejected Idea

1. Cults

- a) Jehovah's Witnesses says that "The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true" (LG, p.99).
- b) Christian Science says, "Hell is mortal belief, error, lust, remorse, revenge, sin, sickness, death...that which worketh abomination or maketh a lie. No final judgment awaits mortals, for the judgment day of wisdom comes hourly and continually" (SH, 558:1-4;291:28-29).

2. Atheists

Colonel Robert Ingersoll said, "The idea of hell was born of revenge and brutality on the one side, and cowardice on the other...I have no respect for any human being who believes in it...I dislike this doctrine, I hate it, I despise it, I defy this doctrine...this doctrine of hell is infamous beyond all power to express" (Discipleship Journal, Issue 34, p.12).

B. The Bible Affirms the Teaching of "Hell"

1. By its occurrence

- a) The English word "hell" occurs 32 times
- b) Gehenna occurs 12 times
- c) There are 20 different phrases in the Bible to describe "Hell"

2. By its description

- a) Devouring fire (Isa.33:14)
- b) Unquenchable fire (Mat.3:12)
- c) Hell fire (Mat.5:22)
- d) Destruction (Mat.7:13)
- e) Outer darkness (Mat.8:11)
- f) Everlasting fire (Mat.18:8)
- g) Hades (Mat.11:28)
- h) Furnace of fire (Mat.13:42)
- i) The fire that shall never be quenched (Mat.9:43)
- j) The flame (Luke 16:24)
- k) Chains of darkness (2 Pet.2:4)
- l) Bottomless pit (Rev.9:1)
- m) Place of torment (Rev.20:10)
- n) The wine of the wrath of God (Rev.14:10)
- o) Lake of fire (Rev.20:14-15)
- p) Second death (Rev.20:14)
- q) The lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Rev.21:8)
- r) Everlasting punishment (Mat.25:46)
- s) Everlasting chains (Jude 6)
- t) Everlasting destruction (2 Thess.1:9)

Charles Spurgeon said, “Perhaps it would not be possible for any man to get a fair idea of the torments of the lost without at one becoming mad. Reason would reel at such a sight of horror. One moment listening to the shrill screams of spirits tormented, might forever drive us into the depths of despair, and make us only fit to be bound in chains whilst we live on earth. Raving lunatics surely we must become” (Spurgeon’s Sermons, Vol.4, p.166).

C. It is An Actual Place

1. The terms

a) hJadeV

- (1) Occurs 11 times in the NT
- (2) Its general meaning is the “place of departed spirits, both righteous and wicked” (Boice, p.479).
- (3) Hades is the Greek rendering of the Hebrew sheol
- (4) Luke 16:19-31 describes it as having two parts

b) gehJenna

- (1) Occurs 12 times in the NT
- (2) The name comes from hinnom, the name of the valley Southwest of Jerusalem
- (3) It was a place desecrated by King Ahaz (2 Chron.28:3)
- (4) Ahaz used this valley to erect an altar to the pagan god Molech
- (5) Jesus uses this place to speak of the place of eternal torment because it later was known as the place where trash was continually burned

c) tartaroV

2 Pet.2:4 - “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.”

2. The torment

- a) It will be a place of “torment” (Rev.20:10)
  - (1) “everlasting burning” (Isa.33:14)
  - (2) “gnashing of teeth” (Mat.8:12)

“This speaks of inconsolable grief and unremitting torment” (MacArthur).

- b) It will be a place where there is “no rest” (Rev.14:9-11)
- c) It will be a place where there is “no light” (Ps.49:19)
- d) It will be a place of “outer darkness” (Mat.8:12)
- e) It will be a place of divine wrath (Rev.14:10)
- f) It will be a place of separation (Rev.2:11; 20:6,15)
- g) It will be a place of thirst (Lk.16:24)
- h) It will be a place of memory and remorse (Lk.16:19-31)
- i) It will be a place of “no deliverance” (Ps.7:2)



D. James Kennedy says, “When he calls, he is never answered; when he seeks he never finds. In a word, he sinks to a death beyond prayer, a condemnation beyond forgiveness, and a doom beyond the reach of Christ” (Why I Believe, pp.74-75).

3. The time (“forever”)
  - a) “Everlasting burning” (Isa.33:14)
  - b) “Everlasting fire” (Mat.18:8)
  - c) “Everlasting punishment” (Mat.25:46)
  - d) “Everlasting destruction” (2 Thess.1:9)
  - e) “Everlasting chains” (Jude 6)

Charles Spurgeon says, “On every chain in hell, there is written ‘forever.’ In the fires, there blaze out the words, ‘forever.’ Up above their heads, they read ‘forever.’ Their eyes are galled, and their hearts are pained with the thought that it is ‘forever’” (Ibid., Vol.1, p.314).

#### D. The Judge is Jesus Christ

1. Acts 17:30-31 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
2. Romans 2:16 - “God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”
3. 2 Timothy 4:1-2a - “I charge you therefore before

God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word!”

4. Revelation 22:12-13 - “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

## **CONCLUSION**

1. The consequences of not repenting.
2. If you do not repent of your sin and turn your life completely over to Jesus Christ, you will spend “forever” in a place of torment where there will be the “weeping and the gnashing of teeth.”
3. This will be “forever” with “no rest” or relief. Your worst fears will be fully realized as you are punished with a never-ending torment in the lake that burns with fire.
4. Hearing those words today, I urge you to “repent” and “follow Jesus” and not end up like the “rest of mankind” who refuses to “repent of the works of their hands.”
5. Let’s pray.