**YOU ARE WORTH IT (3)** 2021-04-25

**ROMANS 5:6-8(NLTSE)** 6 “When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners

* *Recap:* last week we discussed three important aspects, relating to the fact that to God, ***you are worth it***. Those three things were: God’s calling, God’s dwelling in us and God’s mind on us.
* This week we’ll discuss the concept of being ***saved***, because ***you are worth it***
* It’s common in Christian circles to hear the word “saved” or hear the phrase “I got saved when” or hear the question asked: “when and how did you get saved”
* Have you ever wondered what we need to be saved from?
* God wants us saved from death and hell
* Death is separation from God’s plan for our lives
* In His word, God teaches that hell is just as much a reality as what He is
* Before looking deeper into the truths about hell, let’s just dispel *four of many misconceptions about hell:*

**1.** God does not ***send*** sinners to hell. Sinners ***choose*** to go there. God is a loving heavenly Father and desires that every human being ever born, is saved from hell:

**DEUTERONOMY 30:19(NLTSE)** “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would ***choose life***, so that you and your descendants might live!

**EZEKIEL 33:11(NLTSE)** As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! *(O people of South Africa)* Why should you die?

**2 PETER 3:9(NLTSE)** The Lord isn’t really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent

**2.** Hell was never created for sinners. It has been prepared for satan and demons:

**MATTHEW 25:41(NLTSE)** “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons

**3.** Hell is not some or other terrible experience, we go through hear on earth. How often do we hear folks say: “I’m going through hell”? Hell is a physical place in the lowest parts of the earth

**4.** Hell is not the grave (*for deeper study, see 85 facts proving that hell is not the grave in Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible)*

* A very informative piece of scripture, that teaches us a lot about hell, is **LUKE 16:19-31**
* It’s important to know that this passage of scripture ***IS NOT*** a parable. This event actually happened. In no parable by Jesus, is a person ever named, but points are made, illustrated in the parable. In this passage, no point is made, it’s a literal story that actually occurred.

***Things to learn from LUKE 16:19-31***

*Facts about Lazarus*

1. He was a beggar full of sores which the dogs licked (Lk. 16:20-22).

2. He laid at the rich man’s gate to beg the crumbs of his table (Lk. 16:21).

3. He died and his body was buried (Lk. 16:22).

4. His soul and spirit were carried by the angels to paradise (Lk. 16:22).

5. He was with Abraham and all the redeemed (Lk. 16:23).

6. He was in comfort: no hell, no torment, no separation from the saved, no crying for mercy, no regrets of the past, and no thirst or punishment in hell fire (Lk. 16:23-25).

7. He retained soul and spirit faculties capable of enjoying eternity with God (Lk. 16:24-26).

*Facts about the Rich Man*

1. He was clothed in purple and “fared sumptuously every day” (Lk. 16:19).

2. He died and his body was buried (Lk. 16:22).

3. His soul went to hell (Lk. 16:23).

4. He was in torment (Lk. 16:23-25, 28).

5. He possessed eyes that could see and distinguish persons (Lk. 16:23).

6. He cried for mercy and begged for Lazarus to bring a drop of water to cool his tongue (Lk. 16:24).

7. He still had a tongue, eyes, memory, intelligence, feelings, emotions, will, voice, reasoning powers, concern for his brothers, and all other soul passions and spirit faculties (Lk. 16:23-31).

* For a more in depth study of hell, the following will be useful:

***Five distinct compartments to hell*** *(two Hebrew words five Greek)*

1. ***Tartarus*** (1 Pet. 3:19; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 1:6-7). This prison is a special one for fallen angels who sinned before the flood. No human beings or demons ever go to this prison. See note, 2 Pet. 2:4.

2. ***Paradise*** (Lk. 16:19-31; 23:43). This was the abode of the righteous after physical death, where they were held captive by the devil against their will, until Christ conquered death, hell, and the grave. It is now empty of the righteous, who go to heaven at death, since Christ captured the captives in hell and took them to heaven with Him when He ascended on high. See note, Lk. 16:22; note, Ephesians. 4:8; note, Hebrews. 2:15.

* There is another paradise in the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-4; Rev. 2:7)
* The Greek for paradise is paradeisos (G3857), a park, forest, or orchard; it is used in the Septuagint for the garden of Eden
* Abraham’s bosom A phrase used among the Jews to signify paradise. It is called “paradise” in Lk. 23:43 and was located in the lower parts of the earth (Ephesians. 4:8-10; Mt. 12:40).

3. ***Hell*** (Mt. 16:18; Lk. 16:19-31). This is the torment compartment of ***Sheol/Hades*** where wicked souls have always gone and will always go until the end of the Millennium. Then the wicked will be brought out of here to be reunited with their resurrected immortal bodies, and cast into the lake of fire for eternity (Rev. 20:11-15).

4. ***The abyss or bottomless pit*** (Lk. 8:26-31; Rom. 10:7; Rev. 9:1-3, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-10). This is the abode of demons and some angelic beings. No human soul and spirit ever go to the abyss. The O.T. equivalent is Abaddon and is translated destruction (Job 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Ps. 88:11; Pr. 15:11; 27:20).

5. ***The lake of fire***. This is the eternal hell and perdition of all fallen angels, demons, and wicked men (Rev. 20:6, 11-15; 21:8; 22:15). It is the same as ***gehenna*** (G1067) of note, Lk. 12:5. It is the final hell prepared for the devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41) and is eternal in duration (Isa. 66:22-24; Mt. 25:46; Rev. 14:9-14; 19:20; 20:10-15).

***Summary Explanation*** *(Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible)*

Before the resurrection of Christ all righteous souls went to paradise where they were held captive by the devil against their wills (Hebrews. 2:14-15). When Christ died His body went to the grave, but He went to paradise and liberated those righteous captives taking them to heaven with Him when He ascended on high (Mt. 12:40; Ephesians. 4:8-10). Now when a Christian dies he is no longer held captive by the devil in the lower parts of the earth, but he goes immediately to heaven awaiting the resurrection of the body (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21-24; Hebrews. 12:22-24; Rev. 6:9-11). Christ now has the keys of hades and of death (Rev. 1:18). Paradise under the earth is now empty, but the torment department of hades is being filled more every day. It will hold all the wicked dead until the end of the Millennium when hades will deliver up the souls in it, and the graves will give up all the bodies in them. Then the bodies, souls, and spirits of the wicked will be cast into the eternal hell (Rev. 20:11-15).

* The most important things we should take away from this study is the following:

**1.** Hell is real

**2.** God loves you because ***you are worth it***

**3.** Jesus Christ has died to save us from death *(separation from God’s plan for us is the best explanation of death)* and hell

**CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. What do you think people mean when they speak about “hell on earth” or “I’m going through hell”?
2. What do you learn from this verse of scripture? **REVELATION 1:18(NLTSE)** I am the living one. I died, but look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.
3. In what way, can the realities of hell, influence the way we minister to the lost?