

INTRODUCTION

1. Last Sunday I shared with you the warnings of hell.
2. And in that message we said that:
 1. Hell is a real place
 2. Hell is punishment
 3. Hell is destruction
 4. Hell is banishment
 5. Hell is a place of suffering
 6. Hell is eternal
3. Thomas Brooks said, "The damned shall live as long in hell as God Himself shall live in heaven." (Thomas, I. D. E. The Golden Treasury of Puritan Quotations. electronic ed. Simpsonville, SC: Christian Classics Foundation, 1999. Print.)
4. Thomas Watson adds, "Thus it is in hell; they would die, but they cannot. The wicked shall be always dying but never dead; the smoke of the furnace ascends for ever and ever. Oh! who can endure thus to be ever upon the rack? This word "ever" breaks the heart. Wicked men now think the Sabbaths long, and think a prayer long, but oh! how long will it be to lie in hell for ever and ever?" (Ibid., Thomas).
5. This morning I want to direct you attention to two passages: 2 Corinthians 5:11 and Matthew 3.
6. 2 Corinthians 5:11 says, "Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences."
7. Matthew 3:7-8 says, "(7) But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (8) Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance."
8. The first passage was stated right after mentioning the judgment seat of Christ that all believers will appear before to receive or lose rewards.

9. The second passage was stated by John the Baptist when he was baptizing.
10. He said it to the Pharisees and Sadducees.
11. Both passages state a coming judgment.
12. 2 Corinthians 5:11 says, "Therefore, knowing the fear (or terror) of the Lord, we persuade men."
 1. As Paul uses the word "fear" or your version may say "terror," It is not referring to being afraid, but to Paul's worshipful reverence for God as his essential motivation to live in such a way as to honor his Lord and maximize his reward for his Lord's glory (cf. 7:1; Prov. 9:10; Acts 9:31). (MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [*The MacArthur Study Bible*](#). electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.)
 2. But in other places the word is used for "terror":
 1. "fear" (phobos), means "that which causes flight, fear, dread, terror" (Abbott-Smith, A Manual Greek Lexicon of the NT)
 2. It describes the guards in Matthew 28:4 who "shook with fear (or terror) of him (the angel) and became like dead men."
 3. This word is used to describe those who were "filled with fear" (Lk.5:26), "gripped with fear" (Lk.8:37) and even "fainting from fear" (Lk.21:26)
 4. When God judged Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:5, 11 says, "fear (or terror) came over all who heard it" and "over the whole church."
 5. This fear comes from "within" (2 Cor.7:5)
 6. When God destroys the great city of Babylon in Revelation 18:10 it says everyone who saw it was in "fear of her torment."
 7. Back in Revelation 11, after God raises the two witnesses that had been lying in the street for 3 1/2 days, it says, "great fear (or terror) fell upon those who were watching them" (v.11)
13. So the word also speaks of terror and dread which is coming and all believers knowing this are to persuade all to repent and believe

14. Matthew 3:7 says, "Who warned you to flee the wrath to come?"
15. There is a coming wrath that we must warn all men about.
16. This was true in both the Old and New Testaments and it is true today.
17. Jesus is coming back as Judge.
18. We heard His words in Matthew 25:41 spoken to the goats on His left: "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.'"
19. I have spent this week pleading with someone who has continued to refuse Christ.
20. And as long as we both have breath, I will continue to plead.
21. What about you?
22. Have you warned someone this week?
23. The Bible is replete with warnings about this coming judgment.
24. You already heard the warning in both 2 Corinthians 5:11 and Matthew 3:7.
25. Listen to other Scriptures that mention a coming judgment.
26. In the Old Testament we hear about the Day of the Lord which is also called:
 1. "The Day of the Lord's Judgment"
 2. "The Day of the Lord's anger" (Lam 2:22; Zeph 2:2-3)
 3. "The Day of the Lord's wrath" (Zeph 1:18)
 4. "The great and terrible Day of the Lord" (Mal 4:5)
27. This Day involves punishment specifically for Israel but includes all of humanity.
28. It is also here on earth.
29. This Day begins in Revelation 8 with the opening of the 7th seal when God begins to pour out judgment on all unrepentant humanity through the trumpet and bowl judgments.
30. This judgment is future.
31. Zephaniah 1:14-18 (NASB) 14 Near is the great day of the LORD,
Near and coming very quickly; listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries

out bitterly. 15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 A day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and the high corner towers. 17 I will bring distress on men so that they will walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; and their blood will be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them on the day of the LORD'S wrath; and all the earth will be devoured in the fire of His jealousy, for He will make a complete end, indeed a terrifying one, of all the inhabitants of the earth."

32. The judgment of hell is not an earthly judgment but one that is experienced immediately when an unrepentant sinner dies.
33. At that moment he is immediately in that place of torment.
34. So the Bible warns of a coming future judgment known as the Day of the Lord and of an immediate judgment called hell.
35. How should one respond to this warning of judgment?
36. First by...

LESSON

I. Repenting and Believing Now the Gospel

1. The Gospel is the good news about Christ's work on the cross
2. He took our sin in His own body and bore the penalty of our sin

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says, "(3) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

3. You have to repent and believe the gospel (the good news about Christ and His work)

Romans 10:9-10 says, "(9) that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; (10)

for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

4. You have to believe NOW

1. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, "Now is the day of salvation."
2. Not tomorrow or 5 minutes later. You do not have the promise of the next minute
3. James says in James 4:14 your life is a "vapor" that appears for a second and then vanishes away
4. So today the day of salvation

5. You Have to Repent

Remember What John the Baptist said to the Pharisees and Sadducees in Matthew 3:7? "Who has warned you to flee the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance."

There is a wrath coming and the only way to escape it is to repent.
What does it mean to repent?

1. To repent means to turn from your sin and turn to Christ

William Henning shares what that exactly means when he says, "Repentance suggests *primarily* the deep internal conviction that the present course of life is flawed, distorted, and destructive; and further, that an entirely new set of perceptions, beliefs, and behaviors are necessary. From that conviction several changes occur: specific behaviors will change; contrition, or sorrow for sin, will be experienced; and a deeper understanding of and joy in Christ's lordship will be found. By God's grace, repentance signals a change in a person's life from the inside out, by which a life is transformed into the image of Christ." (Henning, William D. Jr. ["A Pastor's Perspective: A Change of Heart."](#) Ed. Robert F. Ingram. *Tabletalk Magazine, October 1991: Repentance* 1991 : 14. Print.)

2. This describes what the Thessalonians did:

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 tells us about the Thessalonians repenting when it says, "(9) For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true

God, (10) and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come."

3. This was the message of Jesus and the apostles:

Jesus said in Mark 1:14-15, "(14) Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, (15) and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

4. Peter said in Acts 2:38, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

There is urgency in our message because the price is high

To leave a person without hearing the warnings of hell is to be careless and callous and disobedient because we are commanded to call all to obey the gospel which involves repenting and believing.

So we, as believers in Christ, then are to respond the coming judgment by first repenting and believing now the gospel and second by...

II. Evangelizing by Warning and Persuading

1. We warn of coming judgment

2. We persuade sinners to repent and believe the gospel

1. Going back to our first Scripture in 2 Corinthians 5:11, It says, "Therefore, knowing the fear (or terror) of the Lord, we persuade men."

2. What does it mean to "persuade"?

3. Now in this passage, the word "persuade" referred to Paul persuading others not about salvation, but about his own integrity. The Corinthians' eternal reward would be affected if they defected to the false teachers and left the divine teaching of Paul. (MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [*The MacArthur Study Bible*](#). electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.)

4. So the meaning is to seek someone's favor, as in getting the other person to see you in a certain favorable or desired way (cf. Gal. 1:10). (Ibid.,

MacArthur).

5. As this word (peitho) is used in other places, it means "to prevail upon or win over" (Abbott-Smith)
6. It's used in Matthew 27:20 of persuading the crowds to ask for the release of Barabbas rather than Jesus
7. It's used in Matthew 28:12-14 to speak of "winning someone over" when it says, "(12) And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, (13) and said, 'You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' (14) 'And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.'"

CONCLUSION

1. So we must warn of a coming judgment by calling sinners to repent and believe the gospel
2. We do this by winning them over
3. That means you must TALK to them about their sin, coming judgment, wrath, hell, and repentance
4. Hell is a horrible place and you should not want anyone to go there
5. But if you never talk to them about it, what are you saying then?
6. Ask God to give you the courage to share the gospel and warn sinners of hell fire
7. If you're not saved today, call on Jesus now and turn from your sin to Him
8. Let's pray.