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## **HELL**

**By Edward A. Fergerson**

A Sermon Preached by E. A. Fergerson  
At Salvation Park Campmeeting,  
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## **ABOUT THIS DIGITAL PUBLICATION**

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"And the wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

If the Bible means anything at all it means every word it says. If every word of this Book is not true, there is not one word of it true, and the same God and the same Bible that tells us of Heaven, that beautiful place, where people go who obey God, also tells us of an awful hell where people who do not obey Him, will be damned forever. Heaven and hell are the two greatest extremes imaginable; one is light and the other is darkness. One is joy and the other is sorrow; one is happiness and the other pain. It is vice versa, what one is, the other is not. No one can be going to Heaven and to hell at the same time. We are walking in light or darkness, we are working for weal or for woe, the die has been cast, we are going one way or the other, and tonight we have made a day's journey towards heaven or hell.

Everybody knows there is a Heaven, but everybody does not realize what Heaven is going to be. Everybody must know there is a hell, but everybody does not realize what it is.

There are three words in the Bible which mean hell. The Hebrew word sheol which mean to put out of sight, to put away from view, and the Greek word tartarus, which means to fasten, to bind, to hold fast, to hold as if fastened to it. Hell is the penitentiary of the universe. The penitentiary of the universe is to be turned into a lake of fire after the Judgment.

Gehenna, also meaning hell is the word that Jesus coined and its name was derived from the sons of Him hem who were once saved, who once knew God, but backslid and went into gross idolatry. They erected a great idol, Moloch, and in this idol's hands was a continual fire, and men and women laid their children in its arms and burned them alive. This went on and on for years until the name Hinnom was repulsive to the mind. Afterwards the beasts of Jerusalem were taken there and burned, and history tells us that criminals were also burned there. In Jesus' time this was used to suggest death. Jesus Christ wanted to impress on our minds, and God in Heaven, a great loving Father has done all He could to show us what hell really is and to keep us out of it. Jesus in speaking of it rises this word, Gehenna which means flames. He says in Matthew 5:22, "Whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of HELL FIRE." It is more profitable for one of thy members to perish than that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

When men repeat a thing it becomes less effective, but when God repeats a thing, He emphasizes and augments its meaning and from the very fact that God speaks so many times in the Bible, of hell, the bottomless pit, and the lake of fire is enough to paralyze the mind and freeze the blood. If God's Word is true, and God cannot lie, there must be HELL FIRE. Matt. 2:41. "Then shall He say unto them on His left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." He says that at the end of the age He will send His angels, and they which do wickedly shall be cast into the furnace of fire, "and there shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth." A furnace is a place where the fire is heated more than to a common flame. I have been in the gas belt of Indiana and visited the glass works; have seen them turn into it the white sand and hold it for days and days, until this sand was molten like wax.

I used to fire an engine and we would put in the coal until the fire burned to a white heat and the flames danced inside. I could give you word picture to night of picking up a man alive and pitching him into that white heated furnace. For a short time he squirms and screams with the torture, but after a while he does not move -- it is all over. I could paint word pictures that are worse than that. It would be awful if you had to behold a man cast into a furnace of natural fire. You would not want to eat and could not sleep for days and days. Why do I say that? I have seen men killed on the road. I did not want to eat for days. It was AWFUL. But brother, sister, if you were the man, if you were the woman who was to be picked up alive and burned, it would be more awful than for you to stand up and see it done.

So I want to tell you of hell. But you cannot begin to comprehend it, though you may have some apprehension of it. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which the Lord hath prepared for them that love Him." No man naturally can understand what Heaven is so no man can understand the burning of an awful brimstone hell until he enters there himself. I say there shall be "wailing and gnashing of teeth."

A wail is the scream of a man when there is no hope for him. Death cuts a man's hopes. There are burnings without escape. There shall be wailing: God says it. After death there will be an awful hell of pain and suffering; an awful hell.

I have seen men killed on the road, and have heard them say, "O, GOD, MY LOST SOUL! Is there no body to pray?" That means that he is facing God and is about to slip into hell. See that ship on the ocean; in five minutes she is to go down. Everybody knows she is going down. The dancing, swearing and card playing is stopped now. People are facing death and hell. If you had been in the East River disaster when five hundred people perished last week, I imagine you could have heard the screams of souls trying to seek God. If you had been on that ill-fated vessel and had to have either perished in the flames or lost your life in the deep, it would have seemed real to you. If you could have stepped into the homes in New York City and heard the groans and cries over lost loved ones, it would have seemed real to you. O God, show this congregation that there is a time when if unsaved, we will have to go and meet an angry God! I have stood in large cities and seen men and women stand in the sky scraper buildings and pray and scream and wail for help, when numbers of engines were at work and streams of water flying, but they had to go down in the flames. On a cold winter's night, I have seen men and women in the seventh and eighth stories of a burning building, crying for help, only to perish in the flames or jump from the windows and burst their bodies on the pavements below. They had to meet the final issue.

I remember one poor boy who worked on the road where I worked. I went to see him and as I approached the house, I heard him screaming, and I shuddered. I went in and he said, "Brother Ed, I want you to pray for me, I have got to meet God before morning." I dropped on my knees on one side of the bed, his uncle on the other, and we prayed but it was no use, for he had wasted his life, had gone through the world burning incense on the altar of lust, and he went forth to meet his God unprepared.

Three years ago when the Atlantic coast was strewn with bodies of men and women who were burned alive in their state rooms, they were found with clenched teeth, and clenched fists, as though they had died in AWFUL suffering. Brother, wake up to the fact that God's Word is true.

Mark 9:48, 49. What does it mean? A salty hell, a salty flame that cannot be quenched, a fire never to be extinguished, a fire that will burn FOREVER, "where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched." Some say I do not believe in hell fire, but God's Word is true, brother, and if it were only used figuratively in the Bible, the figure would be only a faint idea of the awful reality. I hold in my hand a little match. I can realize there is real fire within this match more than I realize it now, if I strike the match. I tell you there is fire in that match and if you tell me it is only figurative fire, I do not want to handle real fire. I strike the match, and you say, does figurative fire burn? I say yes, and I put my hand into that little flame and I know it more than I knew it before I struck the match.

Every man in this presence tonight knows there is a hell if he believes God, but he will never realize it now like he will when he gets there. I want to tell you that in eternity's night, fire will burn men and women forever- Rev. 20:10. "And the devil which deceived them was cast

into the LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, where the beasts and the false prophet are, and shall be TORMENTED DAY and NIGHT, FOR EVER and EVER."

The same word that is used to describe the perpetuity of Heaven is used to describe the longevity of hell. Hell will last as long as God lasts, and will be real just as long as God is real. I verily believe that there is a lake of fire. It has its topography. It is a place of torment. It is just the opposite of Heaven.

The man who is saved in heaven will be saved, soul, body and spirit; the whole triple man will be saved in Heaven; or if he be lost he will suffer in his soul, he will suffer in his body and he will suffer in his spirit in hell. The dividing time is coming. The great day will be when the great God of the universe will lay righteousness to the plummet, and will divide the sheep from the goats.

John 5:28, 29. "Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice. And shall come forth, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of LIFE; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Here are the two classes; they are brought face to face. One crowd goes one way, and the other, the other way. He will say to those on the right hand, "Come ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." To those on the left hand He will say, "Depart, I never knew you," and they will be cast into the lake of fire, "prepared for the devil and his angels," and those on the right will go away into EVERLASTING LIFE, and those on the left to EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT.

I say tonight that if one tittle of this Word fails the whole thing will go to destruction. We come to this conclusion, if there is a literal hell, a place of real burning, then you and I ought to pray as we never prayed before. Somebody's children will go down into a bottomless hell to remain throughout all the ages of an endless eternity.

In Heaven, there is joy; in hell there is anything but joy; in Heaven, there is law; in hell, there is anything but law; there is anarchy. If a man gets late Heaven; he will get in, soul, body, and spirit, if he goes to hell, it will be the same way. There are degrees in Heaven. Paul was caught up to the third Heaven, then there are degrees in hell, for my Bible tells of how much sorer burnings will be reserved for those who have trampled the Word of God under their feet. There will be some in the black corners of hell capacitated to suffer more than others. If a man just gets into Heaven, he will be in Heaven and he will enjoy it so far as he is capacitated, as much as the greatest archangel will enjoy it.

If he is in hell, he will suffer in proportion to his capacity as much as the blackest-winged angel of the bottomless pit. In hell they go down and down, like a wanderer in the quicksand, and as they sink lower and lower, down and down, they will become more like the arch-fiends of hell. On the other hand, the saints of God will go up and up and become more like God and will have more affinity for the great heart love of God.

THERE IS A HELL! There is an AWFUL HELL! God tells us the nature of it. "They shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God." Brother I do not know what that means, and I do not want to know. I know that when the wrath of God is poured out, that blood relations will be forever obliterated, and whoever is God's enemy in that day will be your enemy, even if it is your tenderest tie on earth.

It is a place where men and women will stand in the midnight gloom in the corridors of hell, and will gnaw their tongues for pain and will have no rest day or night.

The awfulness of the drunkard's hell will be that the appetite for liquor will gnaw at his soul but it can never be quenched and will sink him deeper and deeper. The cigarette fiend's hell will be: he will crave to smoke, long to smoke, famished for a smoke, but there is nothing to smoke but himself. The harlot's hell will be that she will go staggering through the streets of hell with a body full of sores and diseases, begging to die, but never dies. Yes, my Bible says they will have "sores" and will curse God. Yes, sir! There will be sores in hell for my Bible says so. Rev. 16:10-11.

If people do not have sin removed they will have to be banished to where the devil and his angels are. Not only sin, but the effect of sin will be there. The harlot takes the revolver to blow her brains out, and says I will drown my troubles. No, you won't! You will plunge into them and never get out. You say, I do not believe a person has a body in hell. I have quoted Scripture to prove it. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead He walked on this earth forty days. The disciples did not believe it, and He said, Thomas, put your fingers into the nail prints, and thrust your hand into my side; and to prove that His body was tangible and real, He broiled fish and ate it, and a few hours later, God reversed the order, and He went up. Brother, that same Jesus who went up, we will see in his real body. While you may not see Him tonight with your naked eye, you will see him. You may not see hell with the naked eye, but you will see it if you do not repent of your sins and get right with God.

Our body is the house we live in. The soul is that which likes and dislikes and is easily moved to tears. Spirit is that by which you can sit here and at the same time swing around the world. We have already been to New York city, to East River, have been up to Heaven, and down to hell. We will arise to take on these bodies. What they want now they will want hereafter.

A lost soul in hell can only be like the hyena which paces up and down its cage and its lair, which it was not made to go in, but man puts it in that unnatural thing and it walks back and forth, yelling and panting, and longing for deliverance. So the lost soul, like the hyena in its cage, will walk and weep and wail in hell forever. There will be no release, no rest, no light, no hope, nothing but gloom, misery and the blackest darkness forever and ever. There is a deep, vacuum in that soul that will last as long as God lasts. It was NEVER MADE FOR HELL. God never meant for it to be there! EVER! Slighted mercy, and the white winged angel of mercy is gone forever, and I am in hell. O my God! Is it possible that an immortal spirit of its own volition will take its place in hell. A man will suffer in his body in hell; he will have sores; his soul will suffer; he will have regrets and dark forebodings. It was said of one man who went to hell, "Son remember."

They will remember every sermon they heard preached. The Spirit, the mind will suffer through the ear and through the memory. The avenues and channels to man's immortal spirit are innumerable.

We live in an age of compromise. All the damning doctrines that hell can get up are spewed out at Boston and she is flooding this world; one thing is that of taking out the cardinal doctrines out of this blessed Book, and another is that there is no hell, I know there is a hell. I KNOW there is a hell because God's Word says so. Not simply because God says there is a Hell, is there one; but because there is one; He tells you and me about it. He asks, "Who among you shall dwell in everlasting burnings?" Lord write this on our hearts with a pen of fire! I would know there was a hell if there was no Bible on earth. Why? Because I have seen men die and go there. A man in Southern Ill., heard me preach and he said, "If what that man is talking about is so, I am not fit to die. He made a resolve to get saved, but at five o'clock he died. His wife and children locked themselves out of the house as they could not stand the sight. A strange man who had never seen a man die went in, and he said the man cursed and prayed, cursed God and tore his hair and in this condition he died. That man who witnessed it came to me and said, "Brother Ferguson, if God will forgive me for seeing that man die I will never see another one."

"He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck shall suddenly be destroyed; and that without remedy." If there is anyone here who has been reprov'd once or twice, that Scripture may not be for you. If there is any one under this canvas who has been reprov'd only a few times, that may not be for you, but the days are hastening, they are like a weaver's shuttle, and you do not know what a day may bring forth. My brother are you sure that you will escape hell? You will not only be in hell, but you will be LOST in hell FOREVER!

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THE END