Escaping The Damnation Of Hell

Intro: The title of this lesson is taken from Matthew 23:33 “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?” The Lord was delivering a scathing rebuke of the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. He says in essence, “how can you avoid hell the way you are living.” Unless they repent, they would not escape hell. How should one live in order to escape the damnation of hell? Are you interested in escaping hell? We are always interested in escaping the flaming fires that are so destructive to houses, schools, etc. We will place smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, map out exits, have fire drills, etc., to learn how to escape fires. Yet, multitudes are ignoring the warning of a fire that is unquenchable! What can we do to escape this eternal flame? Let us notice a few points.

I. Deity Made It Possible For Us To Escape Hell.
   A. God the Father.
      1. In giving His Son.
         a. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
         b. 1 John 4:8-9 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”
      2. In forgiving; Isa. 38:17 “Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.”
   B. God the Son.
      1. John 10:11, 17-18 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep....17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”
      2. 2 Cor. 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
      3. Isa. 53
   C. God the Holy Spirit.
      1. In giving us the Word by which we can escape hell.
         a. 2 Pet. 1:20-21 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”
         b. Eph. 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”
         c. 1 Pet. 1:10-12 “Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you. 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”
      2. Through the power of the Word we are saved.
         a. Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
         b. Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
II. OBEY THE GOSPEL.

A. Only those who obey will escape the damnation of hell.
1. Heb. 5:8-9 “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
2. Rev. 22:14 “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”
3. Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
4. Acts 2:40 “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”

B. Those who fail to obey will be lost.
1. 2 The. 1:7-9 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 7 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
2. 1 Pet. 4:17-18 “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

C. What we must do to obey.
1. Faith
   a. Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
   b. This faith comes by hearing God’s Word; Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
2. Repentance
   a. Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
   b. Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
3. Confession of Jesus as the Son of God.
   a. Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
   b. Acts 8:37 “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
4. Baptism
   a. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   b. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto him, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

III. BE FAITHFUL.

A. We are to add certain characteristics to our lives.
1. 2 Pet. 1:5-11 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 5 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 6 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 7 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of
our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

2. Gal. 5:22-25 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

B. We must continue in the work of the Lord.
1. James 1:21-25 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
2. Phi. 1:27 “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”
3. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

IV. USE OUR TALENTS.
A. Our purpose in life is to glorify God.
1. Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
2. Acts 17:27-28 “That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”

B. We are to use our abilities to God’s glory.
1. 1 Pet. 4:10 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
2. 1 Cor. 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

C. Failure to use our talents will cause us to be lost.
1. Mat. 25:14-30
2. Observe especially Mat. 25:30 “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

V. TREAT OUR BRETHRENS RIGHT.
A. We are to love our brethren.
1. Mat. 22:39 “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
3. 1 John 4:20-21 “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”

4. Love to a point of dying for them.
   a. John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”
   b. Christ loved us enough to die for us.

B. This love will cause us to act in a certain way toward them.
   1. Mat. 7:12 “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”
   2. Gal. 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”
   3. We will not gossip, backbite, nor do other things that will cause harm to our brethren.

VI. LOVE GOD COMPLETELY.
   A. We are to love God with our entire being.
      1. Mat. 22:34-40 “But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
      2. Luke 10:25-28 “And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. 28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.”

B. God must come first in our life.
   1. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
   2. Rev. 2:4-5 “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

Conclusion: Is your attitude about hell that it is a figment of someone’s imagination, a joke, or simply something to ignore? Notice Mat. 25:41 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”; Luke 16:19-31; Jude 23 “And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.” Please use the escape route that God has prepared for you.