A HELLFIRE AND BRIMSTONE MESSAGE

Luke 16

We’ve heard of preachers being labeled as “hellfire and brimstone” preachers. They are the ones who raise their voices and speak about hell as if they enjoy it. No one who preaches on the topic of hell should ever enjoy it—not if they believe what they are saying. It’s a heavy-duty subject. But to avoid the topic is a big mistake, even if it makes us uncomfortable. Jesus Christ spent more talking about hell than any other preacher in the Bible, so we don’t want to steer clear of the subject. We want to have a biblical understanding of hell.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **People in hell suffer.** The word “torment” is used repeatedly in Scripture and speaks of a very real suffering.

2. **Once you are in hell, you can’t cross over to heaven.** The impossibility of crossing from one to the other suggests that one’s eternal destiny is settled here and now, not in some future world.

3. **People in hell are conscious and fully aware of where they are.** Just as heaven is a real place where people experience the bliss of eternal communion with God, those who are in hell fully realize the despair of their eternal separation from Him.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Some people might say that talking about hell is not a loving thing to do. But I think that warning people about the danger of hell is the most loving thing a person can do.
- Hell is described in the Bible as a garbage dump, a prison, and a darkness.
- When a person dies, they don’t go into a holding tank or a waiting room or purgatory. These ideas are not found in Scripture.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

The last thing God wants is for anyone to go to hell. That is why Jesus spoke of it in detail. That is why Jesus warned us about it. And that is why Jesus did everything He could do for us so we would not have to be separated from Him for all eternity. Jesus Christ experienced hell on earth so we don’t have to experience it for eternity. Isn’t that a message worth sharing with others today?