

Things in Hell Needed in the Church

Luke 16:19-31

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever thought about what is most needed in the church today?
- B. Have you ever thought that the church might need things in hell?
- C. Text illustrates some things in hell badly needed in the church:

Discussion:

I. An Awareness Of The Reality Of Hell. (v. 23,24).

- A. Three "hells" in KJV New Testament. ("hades", "gehenna", "tartarus".)
- B. It is severe. (v. 24; cf. Mk. 9:43-48; Matt. 10:28; Heb. 10:26-29; Matt. 25:30, 46)
- C. It is final. (v. 26).

II. An Understanding Of The Vanity Of Riches (v. 25).

- A. Useless beyond this life. (v. 24; cf. 1 Tim. 6:7,8).
- B. Can be a blessing in this life. (1 Tim. 6:17-20; 3 Jno. 2)
- C. Can be a curse in this life and beyond.
 - 1. If we trust them to the point of feeling no need for spiritual wealth. (Rev. 3:17).
 - 2. If we respect them to the point of favoritism. (Jas. 2:1-10)
 - 3. If we covet them to the point of:
 - a. Stealing (Eph. 4:28).
 - b. Freeloading (Acts 20:33, 34; 2 Thess. 3:8-10).
 - c. Greed (cf. Luke 11:39; Jas. 5:4; 1 John 3:17)
 - 4. If we seek them to point workaholicism. (cf. Matt. 6:33).
 - 5. If we spend them to the point of prodigality. (Luke 15:13,14)

III. A Recognition Of The Folly Of Pride. (vs. 19-21,24).

- A. Can exalt ourselves now and be humbled then.
- B. Or can humble ourselves now and be exalted then. (Matt. 23:12)

IV. A Real Concern For The Lost. (v. 27,28).

- A. Rich man now concerned about lost brother, but too late.
- B. How concerned are we about people who have not obeyed the gospel?
 - 1. Do we believe they are lost?
 - 2. Do we care that they are lost?

V. An Appreciation Of The Value Of The Written Word Of God. (v. 29-31).

- A. Produce faith in hearts. (Rom. 10:6-8, 17)
- B. Saves souls. (Jas. 1:21-25; 1 Pet. 1:22,23,25)

Conclusion:

- A. Don't wait until in hell to wake up to these things!
- B. Don't wait until in hell to realize you need to obey the gospel.