

30 July 2017: Preached by Preacher Andrew Koh

Topic: Is Hell a Real Place of Punishment?

Scripture text: Luke 16: 19-31

1. In Luke 16: 1-18, we know that we are lost in sin if our faith is in anything but Jesus Christ. In Luke 16: 19-31, the Bible tells us that those who die and are lost in sin will be found in hell to receive the judgment of God.

2. Hell is not reserved only for criminals or those who have done terrible things. Death does not end everything and our soul continues to live after the body dies. The question we want to ask ourselves is: will our soul live eternally in Heaven or hell?

3. There was a man who was very wealthy. There was also a poor man named Lazarus who had to beg for his daily needs. Eventually, both men died. The Bible tells us that Lazarus was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom, which means that Lazarus' soul was in Heaven after physical death. On the other hand, the rich man's soul was in hell. We can learn that our material riches on this earth does not exempt us from the misery of hell. Our final destination after death is not dependent on our successes on earth. It is a wake up call for all who do not spare a thought for afterlife and for those without a regard for God. We cannot enter Heaven based on our own merits, only God can grant us admission. We must believe that Jesus Christ died for all our sins and receive Him as our Lord and Saviour. We can only enter Heaven if we genuinely receive Jesus into our hearts.

4. Hell is a real place of punishment. Hell is a place of judgment by God because of men's sins. The Bible reveals that hell is a real place of torment in flames with no way of escape. There is an eternal separation between those who are lost in sin and those who are found in Heaven.

5. The Bible alone is sufficient to reveal the existence of Heaven and hell and God has given us sufficient warnings of His imminent judgment. The Gospel alone has the power to save souls. If one hardens his heart to the Gospel, even miracles, such as the resurrection of the dead, will not cause him to believe.

6. While we are on earth, we must count the cost of seeking earthly gains at the expense of our eternal life. While we still have breath, we must pray to God to help our unbelief and find salvation in Jesus Christ.