

## If One Could Hear...

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*testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."*

*Luke 16:20-31*

In Luke 16, Jesus tells of two men who died. One found himself in Hell. The other found himself in a comforting, rewarding place where Abraham and other Old Testament believers temporarily dwelt.

A rich man discovered that Hell was real, and the torment was unbearable. Most likely, he had little concern for where he would go after his death, but then it was taken seriously. He knew there was no hope for him and that he would be facing an eternity of torment, pain, and separation from God.

However, he wanted his five, still-living brothers, to be warned of the dangers of Hell-fire. He pleaded for the opportunity to keep his family from also ending up in that terrifying place, but his request was denied.

All in Hell surely regret the wasted opportunities they had to keep from spending an eternity there. It is too late for

them. However, they most likely want their remaining family to avoid Hell's torment. I am sure they all wish their loved ones had a chance to heed the Word of God and be saved, so they would never experience what they are.

Nowhere in God's Word is there an account of the damned conversing with the living (although deceiving demons may have tricked some). If Hell-imprisoned prisoners or one from the dead could communicate with the living, what would be their plea?

It may be a thirst-caused raspy voice, exhausted from endless terror and torment that would reach out to a loved one. The plead would be personal; I am

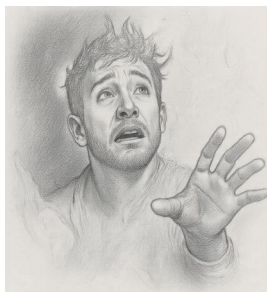
sure. "Bruce, please listen to me. Jesus is the only way out of this dark, lonely abyss of hopelessness. Stop

mocking Hell; it is real! Run to that Baptist church on the corner. Beg the preacher to tell you what the Bible says

you must do to avoid this torment. What he warned us of is true! Go now! Pleasssse, go now. Don't wait!"

Perhaps a barely audible whisper from Hell would plead, "It's me, your father. I failed to be saved from this terrifying torment. Don't waste your time on Earth, as I have. Trusting Jesus as payment for all your sins is the only way to miss Hell. Go to our Christian neighbor next door and beg him to show you what the

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**The Bible View**



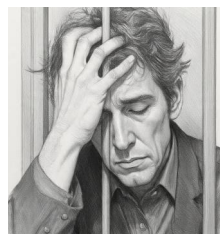
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## Ruined!

*Bill Brinkworth*

While reading the daily news, I came across a sad story about a 19-year-old. He had killed another teenager and was sentenced to 35 years in prison. What a ruined life that young man is



now facing, all because of a bad decision and reaction.

Because of incarceration, he will most likely not be able to experience a marriage with the love of his life, experience the joy of teaching a young son how to ride a bicycle, or have a career that he looked forward to expanding. His life was drastically changed because of one terrible act.

My mind mused on a family member who also committed a terrible deed and how their life was also changed because of a wrong decision. That person also missed out on a lot of joy and a more "normal" life because of the wrong act.

Then I continued to ponder

on my own poor decisions and sinful deeds. Except for traffic violations, I never committed a crime, but in God's eye, I committed transgressions against Him.

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## If One Could Hear from Hell

*Bill Brinkworth*

*"And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores ... 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame ... 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may*

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## Ruined!

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Except for the enduring, patient grace of God, it could be me locked up and missing all the wonderful things that have happened in my life. From those brief meditations, it was not a long stretch to think of the most likely trillions that found themselves in a tormenting Hell because they made many wrong choices. Thank you, Lord, for keeping me from what I deserve.

As was the title of the article I read about the youth being sentenced to jail, there will be a "Judgment Day" for those who did not trust Christ as their Saviour from a tormenting eternity. Their worst and damning decision was not to trust Christ's death as payment for their sins and be saved. Now, their hopeless screams resonate off Hell's walls. It will be a time that is much longer than 35 years.

Hell, however, is a "temporary" holding cell for the damned dead who will one day face a judgment for their sins. They will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment and later sentenced to eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. What a terrible day that will be for too many!

*"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the*

*heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

*Revelation 20:11-15*

The saved will never face judgment for their sins; they are forgiven when they trusted Christ's death as payment for their sin. However, there will be a time when those folks will also face a time to answer for what they did or did not do for Christ after their salvation. No one is saved just to sit and soak up God's goodness. We are to serve Him.

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be*

*good or bad."*

*II Corinthians 5:10*

*"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."* Romans 14:10

*"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."*

*Colossians 3:24-25*

The young murderer has ruined his life. I am sure he has many regrets, but those emotions will not change his future.

Likewise, those who have not been born-again by trusting Christ's payment for all their iniquities will one day have an eternity of regrets and sufferings. Now, while you have breath and an opportunity, trust Christ as your Saviour, if you have not done so already.

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Bible says one must do to avoid this place. Don't wait! Go now, while you have the chance!"

A pained, frightened voice from the lonely bowels of the Earth would undoubtedly beg a grandson to flee the child's sin and to read, believe, and obey all that is within the pages of God's Word. "Heed it, Bobby! It's all true! Read it and do as God commands in the Bible. It's too

late for me, but not for you! Please, Bobby. I beg you — go!"

Although logic may tell us that hearing a cautioning cry from Hell or beyond the grave would change our minds and encourage us to live as the Lord desires, God knows better. He knew that, as people of the early church ignored what prophets, believers, and God's Word warned people, they would most likely continue to take God's promises and warnings lightly. Pleadings from the dead will not permanently change hearts.

The only action that will rescue anyone from that tormenting destination is to believe God's saving words by faith! Faith is what saved the poor beggar whom Christ used as an example. He had no sign or heard no warning from a Hell-imprisoned soul. He just believed what he had heard.

The beggar had the same conviction that billions of sinners since Jesus' time have had. That trusting, believing, and obeying faith is still sufficient to save a person today. Visual or audible proof will not usually soften or change the heart of an unrighteous person. Only believing God's warnings and promises will allow a person to enjoy an eternity with Jesus!

*"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."*

*Hebrews 11:6*

***"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* II Chronicles 7:14**