It's fun to be with you this morning. It's awesome, thank you, we've been praying—for those of you who came forward this morning and prayed over—just unbelievable just to watch you ministering to each other. That's what we're about here at Calvary.

A number of years ago it was a day like today, we were expecting snow and we were invited to some friend's house and we decided to go despite that; we figured we were fine, we have a 4-wheel drive vehicle. And the day was one of those days that just kept on getting longer and longer because we were having so much fun, we didn't want to leave. Our kids were having fun with their kids and there was just no rush to get out of there, we knew everything was cool. So we left their house and when we left their house it was probably a mile or so to the Turnpike entrance to get on the Turnpike to come back to our house. And we entered onto the Turnpike and as soon as we got onto the Turnpike traffic was at a standstill, and it was one of those moments where you realize this is going to be forever; you could just see as far as you could see vehicles at a standstill.



*"as soon as we got onto the Turnpike traffic was at a standstill"*

PA TURNPIKE

And real quick I realized that the one thing I do in my vehicles, I always have a blanket or a sleeping bag in the back, so the kids threw the sleeping bag over them and everyone plugged in their cellphones and sat there and decided to watch movies. I just kept on sitting there thinking, *Are you kidding me? I just got on the Turnpike. I paid to get onto this road* [laughter] *and the very least they could have done for me was put up a sign there.* It was clear this didn't just happen, they knew but they didn't tell me. And I'm just, I just sat there and it grated on me. Six hours later [audience groans] all of a sudden we see lights popping on in the cars and we're like, "Woo hoo!" Every one's starting up their engine and I went to turn on my engine and my battery my dead. That battery was not good enough for four cellphones for six hours.

Just then, I mean, every vehicle in the world is just buzzing by me and I'm like, *Oh, no, what do I do?* I'm like saying to my wife, "You jump into the driver's seat, I'm gonna get out and push it." But I'm trying to figure out how/when to get out because these tractor trailers are blowing by me at full speed. We get over to the side of the road, I called AAA and they tell me they're not able to get onto the Turnpike because there's a huge accident. I'm like, "Yeah, you're able to get on it, it's moving now." They're like, "No, we're not." And another two hours later they come and get me going. I wish. I wish when I drove through that meter there had been a sign that said, "Traffic at a standstill. Do not enter." Could someone have not been kind enough to warn me? It would have saved me so much. You feel my pain, don't ya?

Two things I see over and over in the book of Matthew that we've been studying that Jesus wants you to know. I'm just gonna tell you this this morning over and over: **Listen to Jesus**, because unlike the crazy Turnpike Commission, Jesus has warned us. Jesus wants you to know that Hell is real. And Jesus wants you to know He doesn't want you [he points straight ahead] – He doesn't want you to go there. In the chapter that we're in this week, we're in Chapter 10, and I'm gonna give you a little background in just a second and come up with sort of a wrap-up phrase that talks about judgment. It's one that I could have just blown by, but as I began to dig deeper into it I was blown away by how much Jesus over and over and over in the book of Matthew warns about judgment and Hell. And so I need to tell you what Jesus wants you to know.



JESUS WANTS YOU TO KNOW THERE'S A REAL PLACE CALLED HELL

AND HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO GO THERE.

There's a little voice that whispers in my head and it says, "They don't want to talk about Hell. It's not a happy subject." And it was in that moment – all week long it keeps on popping up in my mind: I wish someone would have told me before I got on the Turnpike. Jesus wants you to know there's a real place called Hell and He doesn't want you to go there.

Let me rewind the tape. Let me take you back to the beginning of the book of Matthew. You see Jesus leave Heaven and come into the world through a virgin birth. You see Him announced as God with us. You see Him announcing that He is here to come as the King to deal with the evil in the world around us. He begins His ministry and we have looked at miraculous stories of how He invades a life and changes a life in miraculous ways. People are standing back blown away, and now the crowds are pressing in because they see who He is, they see His power, they see what He can do, and they're wanting more. At the end of Chapter 9 of the book of Matthew, Jesus tells those around Him pray that God would send workers into His harvest; like, there needs to be all of us, all hands on deck. In fact, you might even ask, "What do you need workers for? Just to make people's lives a little bit better? Make them a little healthier? Make them a little happier? Make them a little wealthier?" And I'm going to suggest to you today, Jesus knows that Hell is real and He doesn't want anyone to go there.

And He needs to invite everyone in to the work. And as soon as He prays that prayer, at the beginning of Chapter 10 the prayer is answered and Jesus goes and He chooses twelve disciples. The word *disciple* in the Bible – "learner" or "follower." These twelve, He calls them apostles, these are ones who saw Jesus, saw His ministry. These are ones who the Spirit chose. These are the ones that God would work through. The word *apostle* means "representative," someone representing Jesus, stepping in on His behalf. And so Jesus gives them an assignment and He tells them, "Hey, listen, I want you to just go out," and He gets really detailed and this is Chapter 10, hopefully later on you'll read it. I'm wanting to blow through this really quick, but I want to give you the overview. The beginning of Chapter 10 He says to these disciples, "Hey, listen, I'm going to send you out and I want you to go out there and I want you to help people that are sick. I want you to help people that are hopeless, people that are hurting, people that need mercy. I'm giving you the power to go do all of that and go do it now." And He says, "Listen, you can't go to everyone yet, I want you to go as"—um, our pastors have just shared with us a second ago—"I want you to just go to your backyard, your own neighborhood, to the people like you, to the people around you, to the people that think like you do. I want you to go to them."

And then He gives them some instructions. "As you go out," He says, "there's going to be some that when you arrive at their home"—just like our pastors were sharing with us a moment ago—"they're going to receive you and you're going to bring to them the peace, the peace of God, the Shalom, that only God can bring that people are longing for, that's going to bring that healing." And then He says, "There's going to be some and many that are going to reject you." And He says, "Those that reject you" — remember this—"they rejected Me long before."

And it's at this point that I want to share with you the verse that really caused me to stop and go, "Oh, wow, we have to talk about this today." It's Chapter 10, it's verse 15, we're going to pop it up on the screen right now, Chapter 10, verse 15, it says this—so remember, here's the picture—a lot of people are hearing about Jesus, a lot of people responding to Jesus, and some are rejecting Jesus. And the reason they're rejecting Jesus, they wanted Him to set up His physical kingdom there, take over Rome, set up His Kingdom right now and they didn't want what Jesus was offering them, they wanted a physical kingdom. Jesus says they're not rejecting you, He says they're rejecting Me. Listen to Chapter 10, verse 15, He says:

15 "Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town." – Matthew 10:15 (ESV)

Um, hear me just a second and let's just go back ever so slightly. Most of us are familiar with the idea of Sodom and Gomorrah. The word *Sodom* even to this day is synonymous even in current cultural language with that of sexual perversion and deviation, all sorts of evil and wickedness. You might even tag onto it like a word like Las Vegas or something, but who's been there in a long time? And Genesis Chapter 18 talks about two angels showing up to talk to Abraham telling him, "Listen, there's going to be judgment for that," and Abraham pleads for mercy.

Chapter 19 of Genesis, these two angels come to Lot's home, Abraham's nephew, and when these two angels arrive the men of the city come from everywhere to do awful, perverted things with them. And it's at that point that God rains down fire and sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah. That explanation, when you think about that, when you review that story in your head, this verse that Jesus is saying is a bit perplexing. Remember, these people are all seeing Jesus do all of these works and these are good people. Hear what I say when I say "good" people. They're what we would define people, you know, "The salt-of-the-earth people; good, hard-working, great people. They haven't done anything horrific." And Jesus says you come to those people, you share with them about Jesus, and that Jesus has come to transform their life and to save them from their sin, and they say no thank you, Jesus says it's going to be more bearable on the day of judgment for Sodom and Gomorrah than for these "good people" in that town.

Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

**– Genesis 19:24-25 (ESV)**

And in Luke, Chapter 10, verse 13 – by the way, I'm going to give you a lot of verses today. I'm not going to put them up on the screen, there's just too many of them. I just going to be popping them out from time to time so if you're notetaker write them down. If you're not a notetaker, you can always watch this later on the video that'll show up on our website later on in the week. Also, later on in the week the transcript will show up on the website so all these verses will be on there, so don't hesitate to go look for that. What we're going to share today is really important, but in Luke Chapter 10, verse 13, Luke gives a little more insight into this and says what was taking place there is Jesus said, "Listen, they've seen Me." These miraculous stories that we've been talking about for the last bunch of weeks, they saw that in real time. And Luke says that Jesus said if Sodom and Gomorrah had seen half of what the people of this generation have seen, they would have repented in sackcloth and ashes. Reminds us that there are different levels of judgment even in Hell. Romans 1, verse 21, says, "Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God."

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

"The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

**– LUKE 10:13-16 (ESV)**

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**– ROMANS 1:21 (ESV)**

I started out this way and said two things: Jesus wants you to know there is a real place called Hell, and He wants to warn you, He doesn't want you to go there. And what we see throughout the book of Matthew over and over, He's going to now bring up the subject of judgment, of eternal fire, of a place called "Gehenna" which was a place outside of the city, it was a garbage dump that was always burning. It was a nasty, awful place. And He would use that as a reference to try to help people understand the eternal place of punishment for those who chose not to believe in Him.

I mentioned a moment ago that this concept of Hell is one that is not very popular. It's one that many people have had come up with different constructs to try to explain it away. And I'm just gonna blow through a bunch of them real quick, and in the midst of mentioning them and you're familiar with them, people talk about them all the time. I'll throw out the first one. It might be like an annihilationist or some might call it a natural type of a mindset. In other words, you have no soul, you just have body and when you die, you die. You're gone. There's no future. I mentioned Matthew just says it over and over. Matthew Chapter 10, verse 28, so just later on in this chapter it says this:

28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

– Matthew 10:28 (ESV)

Jesus believes there is a soul and body, and Jesus says I want you to be warned upfront that there is a real Hell. We want to somehow marginalize it, "Maybe it doesn't even exist." Um, maybe it's just not possible in our minds and we're like, "Hey, this is our Hell. This is the worst it's ever going to get." We try to even push it away, "Maybe it's a metaphorical thing." "Maybe it's just a state of mind," and we try to get rid of it. You see later in Matthew Chapter 25, verse 41, and then in verse 46, says this:

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

— and verse 46, it says:

46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous

— and we'll talk about that more, there's hope in all of this —

into eternal life."

– Matthew 25:41 & 46 (ESV)

And Jesus over and over will make it very clear there is a real place called Hell, and there is a real place where there is eternal life. There are those, you've heard it mentioned many times – Hinduism, New Age – believes in reincarnation; that somehow you're going to die but you're going to return to a new body and there's this never-ending going through this cycle until somehow at some point you get it right. Hebrews Chapter 9, verse 27, says it this way, it says it is appointed unto man once to die, then the judgment.

27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

– Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

Popular in our area and a lot of the people we hang out with is the concept of purgatory, a concept that says that you may not go to Heaven when you die but based on something that happens after you die; what people do here, things that happen here, that at some point you will transfer from this place called purgatory into Heaven at a given point. In the Bible there is never an illustration of someone who leaves Hell and goes to Heaven because of something they've done to somehow right the wrongs or something that someone else has done to right the wrongs. In fact, Ephesians 2:8-9 says by grace you've been saved. It's not a result of my works lest anyone would boast.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

– Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

So Ephesians 2:8-9 it's clear it's by faith alone in Jesus. We need to make our decisions on this side [of eternity].

Probably the next one's the one that concerns me the most because it's the one that I hear most among us. It's very popular in our time and the idea is that—we call it universalism—everyone's going to Heaven. And maybe there might be these little carve outs for some really, really bad people and then we begin to define who those really, really bad people are. And you know if you fit that category if your response to this moment is that you have this thing to say is, "I don't believe a loving God would send someone to Hell," or "I wouldn't want to believe in a God who would send someone to Hell," or "How could a God of love…" – and here's what I want us to hear today. There is this mindset that we get to define what a God of love is, that we get to define love. Understand when we talk about the attributes of God, and there are many attributes of God—God gets to define those attributes. Our definition of those attributes is always extremely faulty. Everything God does is loving. So why then would Jesus constantly warn of a Hell?

Understand that when God created us He didn't create us to be sinful—we chose to sin—and when we chose to sin this world and our lives and our realities are nothing like they were ever meant to be. And in the midst of that God loved us so much that He did the radical thing—He left Heaven, He humbled Himself, took on poverty, became poor, came to this earth, was treated horrifically by sinful mankind and humanity and got crucified and hung on a cross where He died, where He was buried and He tasted of death, and yet came out of that grave alive for us. And here's why, here's why that's so incredibly important. Evidently sin is so awful and it is so much more deadly and it is so much more offensive in the eyes of a holy God than anything any of us in this room can even comprehend.

And I was thinking about this a lot this week. When I think of sin I don't think of it as black and horrible as God must think of it. God sees it as so horrific that something massive had to take place to deal with that sin. Listen to these words, John 3:36, it says this:

36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

– John 3:36 (ESV)

By the way, if I had pulled up to the Turnpike gate that night and there was one of those big road signs with blinking and it wasn't saying this is a test but it was saying get on this highway and you will sit at a standstill for six hours, I wouldn't have stopped and said, "Those hateful Turnpike people. They hate me; they hate my guts." I wouldn't have sat there and pressed Waze and said, "Oh, my, that's going to add 45 minutes to our trip. I don't think we'll do it. I think we'll wait." "Let's take the risk, honey, let's do it." "You want to get on there?" "Yeah." I don't think I would have looked at the sign and said, "I just don't believe it. I think that's probably been here for weeks. Someone told me once it's been there for weeks. They sit those here, they say that. I know other people are turning around, but we shouldn't, let's get on." I would have believed that there was going to be a long wait out there. I would have turned around and figured it out, maybe going back to our friend's house and had some more fun for six hours.

Listen to this verse: [[1]](#footnote-1)

13 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction,

— you see, Jesus keeps on warning us the easy way is going to lead us to destruction —

and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

– John 7:13-14 (ESV)

If you talk to the average person and say how many people in America today do you think are going to end up in Heaven? You'll hear, "Well, this is a Christian nation, probably a better portion of them." Jesus—this is Matthew 7, verse 13 and 14—Jesus says there's few that are going to make it. So many say, "Yeah, I don't believe that sign. I'm not going to listen." I'm going to say it again: Listen to Jesus!

I mean, who are you gonna listen to? Someone that came up with an idea everyone's going to Heaven? Someone that came up with an idea of, "Maybe when you leave this earth you go to a bad place for a minute but if we pay some money here and you give some money to the church, like, maybe they'll get to Heaven on their own because God will go, *'Ah, that's cool, thank you, thanks for helping me out. I was figuring out how to solve all these problems. Thanks for doing that. We'll let your loved one out of Hell.'* " [laughter] I mean, it is silly, right? We laugh at it it's so silly but we make this stuff up, we comfort ourselves with it and say, "Okay," or we just go, "Hey, I'm just not going to exist. It'll just be the end of it." Well, what if you're wrong? "Well, [in a snarky tone] then God can…" Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! You want to just say that but – Hell is real. Jesus wants you to know that and He doesn't want you to go there.



I want you to listen to John Chapter 14, verse 6, and I want you to think for a minute. Jesus says these words and this is what you need to know: That He loves you so much that He's just going to say it over and over and over again. So I want you to know He loves you so much that He had *you* in this room today, He had *you* watching this livestream today to go, "Whoa! This is like the real deal. This is serious. This is that flashing sign. I need to think about this for a moment." God had you read this verse today that said, hey, these really, really bad people, they're not going to get judged as much as those of us in this room who know all of this information about Jesus. Jesus, listen what Jesus says in John Chapter 14, verse 6, it's familiar but I don't think we fully grasp what this means. He says this:

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

– John 14:6 (ESV)

Who comes to the Father outside of Jesus? [man in audience: "nobody"] Say it louder. [audience: "no one"] No one. That's what Jesus says. I say listen to Jesus. You can say right now I'll reject Him, remember that's what got us into this conversation in the middle of Chapter 10 right at verse 14, He said some will reject you, but He says there's going to be a judgment for those people. They've seen it all; they've heard it all.

14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. 15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

– Matthew 10:14-15 (ESV)

You've seen no one comes to the Father but by Jesus—no one. Not a good person? No, not a good person. Not a religious person? No, not a religious person.[[2]](#footnote-2) Not a shaman? Nope, not a shaman. Not a cleric? No. Not– well, what about a well-intentioned person? No one comes except for by Jesus. What about a Buddhist? No. No one comes except for by Jesus. What about a Methodist, they're good. No one comes to the Father but by Jesus. What about a Presbyterian? No one comes to the Father but by Jesus. What about a non‑denominational—that's what we are [laughter], we're not connected to anyone, we're cool. NO ONE comes to – no! What about a Jehovah's Witness? No one comes the Father but by Me [Jesus]. What about nice people, I mean, like, seriously, we've had some really nice people, good salt-of-the-earth people? No one, Jesus says no one comes to the Father but by Me.

I want to talk to you about Jesus for a minute because, again, listen to Jesus, over and over—and I really want to take you through it, I just, I don't have the time here today. I got a red highlighter or it's like pink or something like that because it, like, looks ugly in my Bible, and I went through the book of Matthew and I don't think I got them all but I got a bunch of them. I wanted to start at the beginning of book and just read each of them and I just highlighted all of these verses that talked about Hell, in just the book of Matthew. I mean, if you just want to take a few minutes this afternoon and go through and do what I did, just highlight those. I went through this one series of verses, like, I think there were six different verses that over and over said, ***"In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*** [[3]](#footnote-3)

You remember—some of you have little kids, right?—like, when they finally get caught and they get in trouble and you send them to their room and they can't go do their thing or they can't have their toy, that screaming and wailing in their bedroom like the world is about to end. Do you know what I'm talking about – moms? Dads, we're all at work, we don't – we're down in our "office." [laughter] They're screaming, losing their mind—this is what He's saying for *all of eternity.* And Jesus oftentimes in the book of Matthew and elsewhere will open up His conversation by bringing up this subject because He wants you to know it's real and He wants you to understand some stuff.

By the way, He talks about Hell way more than He does about Heaven, and I have a feeling I know why. I think if He would tell us much more about Heaven we'd all be just checking out of the problems of this world like that [snaps his fingers] to get there. He wants us to know you don't want to go to Hell. I came to this earth, I wanted to tell you, I wanted to warn you so that you don't go there. About 13% of what He said He talked about Hell. He talked about Hell more than any other person in the Bible. Half of His parables reference punishment, Hell, and judgment. And here's what I'd say: He loves you so much that He puts up that yellow flashing sign in front of the gates and says, "You don't want to get on this highway. Yes, it's a wide super highway, but those who turn around and go the narrow road and it takes you around, they're the ones that are going to make it. I don't want you to go and spend eternity in Hell."

Matthew Chapter 25 at the end of this book reports this, He [Jesus] says:

41 "Then he will say to those on his left,

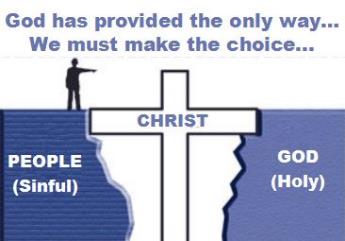
— He separates the sheep (believers) from the goats (unbelievers) [[4]](#footnote-4) —

'Depart from me, you cursed,

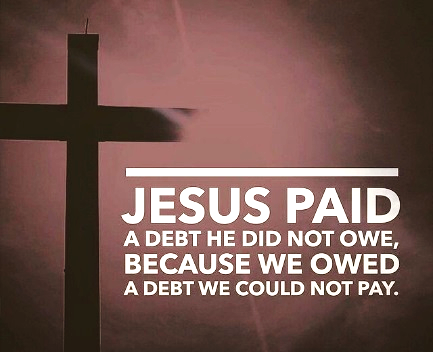
— and listen to this:

into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.' "

– Matthew 25:41 (ESV)

Understand this, Jesus did not prepare Hell for you, He prepared Hell for the devil and his angels. But He warns us that it will be our choice if we end up going there. No one comes to the Father – John 14:6 – no one comes to the Father but by Me. We have sinned, we have rebelled against a holy God. Listen to me: It's *my* fault, it's *your* fault, don't blame Him. I used to say it to my kids, "You know why you're in trouble, it's your fault, you chose this." "I didn't choose it"—by the way, that's why you have to train your kids good, you train them like that they wake up later on and they're not a 22-year-old going, "[groaning] my boss did this to me." They're taking it on themselves. They're owning it. They learn to own this. We have to own it that we are sinners. It is our fault and that fault has put us in the situation that we're in—that we're separated from God.

And here's the thing and this was – all those other systems – we want to do something. If I can pay some money, light some candles, come back again, I want to do something and maybe if I do something *I* can make this okay. And Jesus again and again says no, you can't. Hell is real. The only way to get to Heaven is through Me. I don't want you to go there [Hell].

Think how good God is, how loving God is. He could have said, "You guys made your choice, you're out." As a parent, you know, you're not gonna leave the kid locked up in the bedroom for the next 20 years; moments you feel like you wish you could. And you go in there after they've got the message and you spend some time with them. God is so good. He became man and He lived in a world that we messed up. He entered into poverty that we created. He entered into the humiliation and opposition that was a result of our sin. He underwent betrayal at levels beyond anything we know. He was arrested even after having lived a sinless night life by evil, wicked mankind. Accused, beaten and placed on a cross, but He did that, He died there to be the substitute so that we wouldn't have to pay that sin. We can't blame Him. He says I'm here to tell you that the only way to God, the only way to have peace with God, the only way to be made right with God, is to come to Me alone. He hung and He died on the cross, they put Him in a grave and He came out of that grave alive to show us that we no longer have to be controlled by that death; that death does not have sway over us any longer if we will trust in Him alone.

I want to leave you with two verses. I think the reason why they're playing the organ behind me quietly is to let me know I'm done. [laughter] And I want you to hear this *very* clearly. Hear a lot of people talk about Revelation with their eyes wide open, I want you to hear this, in the book of Revelation John says:

17 When I saw him,

— Jesus —

I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said:

— I want you to hear this church, oh hear this, listen, He says:

"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!

— but here's what I really want you to hear:

And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

– Revelation 1:17-18 (NIV)

The One who says to you this morning Hell is real, I don't want you to go there, says I hold the keys.

Now listen to one more verse, Acts 4:12 says this:

12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

– Acts 4:12 (ESV)

Okay, so heavy stuff. Listen to Jesus. No other name by which you can be saved. And so I believe this morning it's like you say, "I don't want to go to Hell. I believe, like, you at least got me on the path, I mean, I'm, I'm, wow." And someone will quickly say to you, "Oh, you don't want to trust Jesus so you don't go to Hell." Well, Jesus sure wanted you to know about Hell awfully bad. Satan doesn't want you to talk about that. You go read Genesis 3 today. He [Satan] looked at Eve over and over, it's what got us in this mess, "Did God really say that?" Yeah, Jesus said this, and Jesus says I am the way, no other Name by which you can be saved.

And so I'm going to just say to you right now, if you've never come to that place where you put your trust in Jesus alone for your salvation this is why He sent out these disciples, that's why He sent out these representatives because He cares a lot. It's why we talk to our neighbors. It's why we talk to our kids with passion today. It's why we talk to our relatives, our loved ones. What I hear everyone doing is trying to figure out a way that maybe they're not going to Hell as opposed to going, "No, I gotta get to them the name of Jesus." And that's why I come to you today because you're sitting here in this room and you have to make that decision and you have to come to the name of Jesus and trust Him. And I think it's as simple as you just bowing your head right now and say: *Jesus, I want to put my trust in You. I believe in You alone for my salvation.* You've heard [taps His Bible]. *Jesus, I know You have the keys to Hell. I know You forgave me of my sins. You stepped in as my substitute so I didn't have to take the punishment. You took the punishment that I should have gotten. The judge had assessed the fine, it was death, and You took it for me.*

I'm just gonna ask you right now, would you bow your heads? I can't say it for you and I don't think my words are your words, but I think you can say: *God, I've been searching for You for a long time and I've been living in fear recently. I'm scared, I'm scared of dying, everyone's scared of dying right now, but I want to know that I have eternal life and I trust in You, Jesus, alone for my salvation. Come into my life. Forgive me of my sin. I want to turn from that sin and I want to turn to You in this moment. I want You to be my God. I want You to be my Savior. Come into my life*.

Jesus,

I pray for each person who has made that decision today. O dear Jesus, do a work and ministry in their life. We ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Hey, listen, if you're making that decision and you want to talk some more about it, I'd love to talk with you afterwards, our pastors would love to talk to you afterwards. We have pastors online, they'll talk to you right now; they'll go offline and talk with you, just let them know you want to talk about it some more. Meet us over at the blue wall right after the service and we'll talk to you some more. We love you. Jesus loves you so much. Listen to Jesus.

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KEYWORDS: Hell, Jesus, only way, listen, warn, judgment

1. Cross reference Luke 13:24, Amplified Bible (AMP): ***"Strive to enter through the narrow door*** [force aside unbelief and the attractions of sin]***; for many, I tell you, will try to enter***[by their own works] ***and will not be able."*** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Religious persons - see Matthew 23, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and scribes, [v. 28-29a, Jesus speaking]  ***“So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!"*** [v. 33] ***"You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?"*** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. "Weeping and gnashing of teeth" – Matthew 8:12, 13:42, 13:50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30. Also Luke 13:28. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Matthew 25:31-33: ***“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left."*** [↑](#footnote-ref-4)