

Excerpt from: Sermon Fifteen: Heaven is a World of Love

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You are in danger.

Hell is a world of hatred. There are three worlds. One is this present world, which is an intermediate world, a world where good and bad, love and hatred are mixed together; a sure sign that the world is not to continue. Another is heaven, a world of love where is love and no hatred. And the other is hell, a world of hatred where there is no love, to which world you, while you remain in a Christ-less state, do properly belong. This is a world where God manifests his hatred, as heaven is a world where he manifests his love. In hell God manifests his being and perfections only in hatred and wrath, and hatred without love. Everything in hell is hateful. There is not one object to be beheld there but what is odious and detestable. There is no person or thing to be seen there which is amiable, there is nothing pure or holy, nothing pleasant, but everything perfectly odious. No persons there but devils and wicked, damned spirits which are like devils. Hell is, as it were, a vast den of poisonous, lusting serpents. There is that old serpent who is the devil, and there is his hateful brood. And there are none there but whom God hates with a perfect and everlasting hatred. He exercises no love, no mercy to any one object there; there he pours out his wrath without mixture. All things in the whole universe which are hateful shall be gathered together in hell, as in a grand receptacle provided on purpose, that the universe which God has made may be cleansed of its filthiness by casting it all into this great sink. And it is a world prepared on purpose for the expressions of God's wrath. God has made hell for this. He has no other use for it, but there to satisfy his hatred of sin and sinners.

And there are no tokens of God's love or mercy there. Nothing is there but what shows forth God's wrath. Every object which is to be seen shows wrath. It is a world flowed with a deluge of wrath, as with a deluge of liquid fire, so as to become a lake of fire and brimstone. There are none there but what have been haters of God, and so have procured God's hatred on themselves. And they shall continue to hate him. There is no love to God in hell. Everyone there perfectly hates him, and are continually, without restraint, expressing their hatred to him, blaspheming and cursing him, and, as it were, spitting venom at him. And though they all join together in their enmity and opposition to God, yet there is no union among themselves. They agree to nothing but hatred and expressions of

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hatred. They hate God, and hate Christ, and hate angels and saints in heaven. And not only so, but hate one another. They will all be like a company of serpents or vipers one to another, not only spitting poison at God but at one another, biting and tormenting one another. The

devils will hate damned souls. They hated them while in this world, and therefore it was that they with such indefatigable temptations and subtilty sought their ruin. They thirsted for the blood of their souls, because they hated them. They longed to get them in their power to torment them. They watched them, as a roaring lion does his prey, because they hated them. Therefore they flew upon their souls like hellhounds, as soon as they were parted from their bodies. And what they were so eager for was to torment them. And they hate them still now they have them in their power; and therefore will spend eternity without ceasing in tormenting them with the utmost strength and cruelty of which devils are capable. They are, as it were, continually and eternally turning those poor damned souls that are in their hands.

And those damned souls will not only be hated and tormented of devils, but they will have no love or pity to each other, but will be to one another like devils; they will to their utmost torment one another; they will be like fire to each other, as brands in a fire burn one another. Here all those principles which are contrary to love will rage and reign without any restraining grace to keep them within bounds. Here will be unrestrained pride, and envy, and revenge. Here will be contention in its perfection, and without any such thing as making peace. They will be left to bite and devour one another forever, as well as forever to bear the wrath of God. Those wicked men in hell who had been companions together while on earth, and had a sort of carnal friendship for each other, will have no appearance of friendship now, but perfect, continual, and undisguised hatred. As they promoted each other's sin, so now they will promote each other's punishment. They were the instruments of ruining each other's souls on earth in blowing up each other's lusts; now they will blow the fire of each other's torment. They ruined each other in sinning, setting bad examples to each other, poisoning one another by wicked talk; and now they shall be as much engaged in tormenting one another as they were in tempting one another.

And their hatred and envy will be a torment to themselves. God and Christ whom they will hate most, and to whom their souls will be as full of fierce hatred as an oven is full of fire, will be infinitely above their reach, dwelling in infinite blessedness and glory which they cannot diminish. And they will be tormenting themselves with a fruitless envy of

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the saints and angels in heaven, whom they shall not be able to hurt, or approach; and shall have no pity from them or from any; for in hell is hatred only, and no pity. And thus they will be left to spend their eternity together. Now consider, all ye who are out of Christ, who were never born again, and never had any blessed renovation of your hearts implanting a spirit of divine love there, leading you to choose that happiness which consists in holy love as your best and sweetest good, and to spend your life in struggling after happiness. Consider your misery.⁶ For this is the world to which you are under condemnation, and so the world to which you belong by the sentence of the law, and the world in which you are in danger every day of having your abode fixed; and if you are not greatly changed by God's almighty power, in a short time will inherit instead of a portion in that world of love of which you have heard. Consider it is indeed thus with you. These are no cunningly devised fables. They are the great and awful truths of God's word, and things which in a short time you will certainly know to be

true. How therefore can you rest in such a state as you are in, and go about from day to day so careless and so negligent of your precious soul? Seriously consider these things, and be wise for yourself before it is too late, before your feet stumble on the dark mountains, and you fall into that world of wrath and hatred where is eternal weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, with spiteful malice and rage against God and Christ, and one another, and gnashing of teeth with horror and anguish of spirit.