

# Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

***“Let’s not fall into the fallacy of thinking that unless we are big, we are going to be ineffective. One with God is a majority. So often God has done some of the most amazing things in the whole history of the church through remnants.” (Lloyd Jones)***

[www.sermonaudio.com/crc](http://www.sermonaudio.com/crc)

[www.unholycharade.com](http://www.unholycharade.com) (blog)

[www.lightfordarktimes.com](http://www.lightfordarktimes.com) (blog)

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel (Light for Dark Times)

## ***The Doctrine of Eternal Punishment (Part 3)***

***As Soon as the Wicked Die –  
They are in Hell***

***March 1, 2026***

**Sermon Text:** Luke 16:19-31  
(The Rich Man and Lazarus)

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 73

Luk 16:19-24 "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. (20) "And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, (21) and longing to be fed

with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. (22) "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. (23) "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and \*saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. (24) "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'

In his exposition of Psalm 73, David Engelsma wrote:

“Knowledge of the end of the wicked – destruction, desolation, perishing, and being consumed by terrors – delivered the psalmist from the temptation to envy their prosperous earthly life. For it is this very prosperity that leads to their end. The end of the prosperous wicked is not merely the cessation of their earthly life. Nor is their end simply their everlasting destiny of woe. Rather, it is the goal to which their prosperous life takes them.

*The prosperous life of the reprobate wicked has its natural, inevitable end in eternal destruction, as a leisurely, pleasant boat ride down the Niagara River has its end in a terrifying death in the Falls.*

For this reason, it is a mistake, it is foolish, to evaluate the prosperous life of the wicked apart from the end of this life. This was the folly of the psalmist, for which he repented.

If it were not the case that their prosperity is the way to their dreadful end, we might still envy

the wicked. We might envy their prosperous earthly life. The psalmist might suppose that, although God will curse the wicked in eternity, he blesses them in time.” [Prosperous Wicked and Plagued Saints].

But God never did bless the Rich Man who we meet here in Luke 16. To conclude that He did is to be guilty of the folly of judging by outward appearance. Here is Engelsma once more:

“The prosperity of the wicked – their trouble-free lives, their having more than the heart could wish, their prospering in the world, their increasing in riches – is to them ‘slippery places’ by which they go down swiftly and surely to eternal damnation. In the sanctuary, the psalmist saw the prosperity of the wicked entirely differently than he did before. Before, he saw it as enviable blessing. In the sanctuary, he saw it as ‘slippery places...into destruction.’” [Ibid]

Psa 73:16-18 When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome

in my sight (17) Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end. (18) Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.

And so we have this same lesson set before us in the Lord Jesus' account of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

*“In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment...”*

We have been looking into the certain truth of this doctrine of eternal punishment by carefully considering this story told by none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. And in doing so we are being helped by our faithful friend, John Bunyan.

As Bunyan begins his exposition of Luke 16:19-31, he does what a wise interpreter of Scripture always does (just like Martyn Lloyd-Jones always did). He steps back and carefully observes the forest before delving into a close examination of the trees. In doing

so, he noticed three obvious, yet so often missed, truths in the passage:

**1. That there is a Hell for souls to be tormented in, when this life is ended.** Mark, after he was dead and buried, “In Hell, where he was in torment.”

**2. That all who are ungodly, and live and die in their sins, so soon as ever they die — they go into Hell:** “The rich man also died and was buried. In Hell, where he was in torment.”

**3. That some are so fast asleep, and secure in their sins, that they scarcely know where they are, until they come into Hell.** And that I gather from these words, “In Hell he lifted up his eyes.” He was asleep before — but Hell makes him lift up his eyes.

Bunyan, John. A FEW SIGHS FROM HELL: The Groans of a Damned Soul (p. 33). MAGNA GRATIA Ministries. Kindle Edition.

*“There is no greater calamity than the happiness and prosperity of the ungodly; it is a strong wine which makes them drunk in their unrighteousness, and they incur thereby a huge amount and heavy load of God’s wrath.” [Augustine]*

### There IS a Hades and Ultimately a Hell for the Wicked

Truly there is no place for envying someone who is on greased skids sliding with increasing velocity into hell!

NOTE: It would appear that Hades is the place in which those who reject Christ, the wicked, are held in torment until the Day when Christ comes in final judgment and then:

Rev 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the

book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. (14) **Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.** (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Hades (tartaros) and Hell (Gehenna) appear to be synonymous:

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

Both words appear in the New Testament about a dozen times each and it seems are used somewhat interchangeably. (If you want to know more about the two

terms, you can look them up in any good Bible dictionary or encyclopedia).

But, and our main point as noted by Bunyan, Jesus' words here in Luke 16 teach very plainly – the rich man died and his body was buried, but HE himself, his *soul* immediately went to Hades where he (and still to this day) awaited the resurrection of his body and the final judgment of being cast into the Lake of Fire.

There is no Purgatory – that is an evil invention of the imagination of man and the teaching of Rome. Hades is not a place where, by suffering, the sinner is “purged” of his sin and then by his own inherent righteousness fit to enter heaven. No. Jesus Himself here denies any of that – *in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment – and besides there is a great chasm fixed so that none may cross over (to heaven).*

Bunyan once more:

“In Hell he lifted up his eyes.” And let me tell you, O soul, whoever you are, that if you do not savingly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and lay hold on what he has done and is doing in his own person for sinners — you will find such a Hell after this life is ended, that you will not get out of again forever and ever!

And you who are wanton, and do make but a mock at the servants of the Lord, when they tell you of the torments of Hell — you will find that when you depart out of this life, that Hell, even the Hell which is after this life, will meet you in your journey there; and will, with its Hellish crew, give you such a miserable salutation that you will not forget it to all eternity!” [Ibid]

In this wicked and evil world we see this mockery, do we not? Many who mock Christ's people, who ridicule His remnant, the true church, are even in positions of “clergy” in false churches. They mock God's Word. They hatefully and spitefully abuse anyone who speaks truth to them. But they are

on slippery slopes, even now sliding into hell where they will lift up their eyes in torment and see...but it will be too late. The rich man despised and misused poor Lazarus, but then in Hades, the torment of truth swept in upon him. There was Lazarus with Abraham, and here this rich fool was in hell.

Never doubt it and never listen to deceiving voices who deny the reality of hell –

**There is a Hell for souls to be tormented in, when this life is ended.**

The teaching of so-called annihilation is heresy, absolutely counter to what the Son of God Himself has taught us. All human beings will one day be resurrected and the wicked, whose souls are tormented in Hades will be united with their bodies and they, body and soul, will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever and ever.

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the

lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Rev 20:13-15 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. (14) Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Here again is Bunyan's second initial observation:

**That all who are ungodly, and live and die in their sins, so soon as ever they die — they go into Hell:** “The rich man also died and was buried. In Hell, where he was in torment.”

*“as soon as ever they die, they go into hell.”*

As the tree falls, so it lays. Eternity is sealed at that moment.

In contrast:

2Co 5:6-8 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— (7) for we walk by faith, not by sight— (8) we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather **to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.**

Lazarus was given (and so shall you be) a royal, angelic escort into the presence of Christ. His eternity was sealed as well – in glory and joy forever and ever.

“For mark, death does not come alone to an unconverted soul — but with such company, as were you but sensible of it would make you tremble. I pray, consider that scripture (Rev. 6:8), “And I looked and behold a pale horse, and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him.” Mark, death does not come alone to the ungodly, no — but Hell goes

with him. O miserable comforters! O miserable society! Here comes death and Hell unto you. Death goes into your body, and separates body and soul asunder; Hell stands without, as I may say, to embrace, or rather, to crush your soul between its everlasting grinders. Then your mirth, your joy, your sinful delights will be ended when this comes to pass. Lo it will come. Blessed are all those who through Christ Jesus his merits, by faith, do escape these soul-murdering companions. “And in Hell he lifted up his eyes.” [Bunyan]

### Being in Torment

Christian, remember as we carefully study this great and powerful Scripture – *if you are in Christ, if you have been born again, then, as Robert Haldane states in his commentary on Romans 8 –*

“The day, then, of the redemption of the Christian’s body, will be the day of the entire accomplishment of our adoption, as then only shall we enter on the complete

possession of the children of God. In Jesus Christ our redemption was fully accomplished when He said on the cross, 'It is finished.' But in us it is accomplished by different degrees. The first degree is *in this life*; the second, at death; the third, at the resurrection.

In this life we obtain the remission of our sins, our sanctification and freedom from the law and the slavery to sin.

At our death, our souls are delivered from all sin, and our sanctification is complete; for the soul, at its departure from the body, is received into the heavenly sanctuary into which nothing can enter that defiles; and as to the body, death prepares it for incorruption and immortality, for it like the seed, it must die before it lives.

Therefore, *it follows that believers should not fear death, since death obtains for them the second degree of our redemption.* And then comes the resurrection of the body when the children of God shall sing that triumphant song, 'O death, where

is your sting? O grave, where is your victory.'" [Robert Haldane, Commentary on Romans]

This is why *the Christian's dying day is his best day!*

And yet, it is not so for the wicked, for all who reject Christ. *In Hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment.*

What is this "torment"? The Lord Jesus Himself used very intense terms to describe it:

- Fiery hell
- Mat 5:29-30 "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. (30) "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.
- Unquenchable fire
- Pits of darkness

- Mar 9:47-49 "If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell, (48) where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED. (49) "For everyone will be salted with fire.
- Mar 9:42 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.
- Mat 3:12 "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
- Mat 13:40-42 "So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. (41) "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, (42) and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- Mat 18:8 "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire.
- Mat 25:41-46 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; (42) for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; (43) I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' (44) "Then they themselves also will answer,

'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' (45) "Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' (46) "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- Rev 14:9-11 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, (10) he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (11) "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship

the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

- Mat 8:12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Clearly then the Bible plainly and repeatedly teaches the doctrine of eternal, everlasting, conscious, punishment and torment in body AND soul. To deny this is to deny the truth of God's Word. Those who are teaching annihilation are not doing so as a result of examining Scripture but of following their own imaginations and deceptions. They also are guilty of failing to see the very nature of God and the wickedness of man the sinner.

*In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment...*

And it was too late. It was forever and ever and ever. He is there still. For the Christian, those words of the hymn are a wonderful encouragement – *when we've been*

*there 10,000 years, we've only just begun.* But for the wicked they should serve as the threatenings and smoking of Mt. Sinai.

### The Slippery Slope the Unregenerate Walks Upon

Most of you have no doubt heard of what is called the most famous sermon in American history - Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), preached at Enfield, Connecticut, July 8, 1741. His text was this:

*Their foot shall slide in due time.*  
Deuteronomy 32:35

And this is how the sermon begins:

“In this verse is threatened the vengeance of God on the wicked unbelieving Israelites, who were God's visible people, and who lived under the means of grace; but who, notwithstanding all God's wonderful works towards them, remained (as vers 28.) void of counsel, having no understanding in them. Under all the cultivations of heaven, they brought forth bitter

and poisonous fruit; as in the two verses next preceding the text. -- The expression I have chosen for my text, **their foot shall slide in due time**, seems to imply the following things, relating to the punishment and destruction to which these wicked Israelites were exposed.

1. That they were always exposed to **destruction**; as one that stands or walks in slippery places is always exposed to fall. This is implied in the manner of their destruction coming upon them, being represented by their foot sliding. The same is expressed, Psalm 73:18. "*Surely thou didst set them in slippery places; thou castedst them down into destruction.*"
2. It implies, that they were always exposed to **sudden unexpected** destruction. As he that walks in slippery places is every moment liable to fall, he cannot foresee one moment whether he shall stand or fall the next; and when he does fall, he falls at once without warning: Which

is also expressed in Psalm 73:18,19. "*Surely thou didst set them in slippery places; thou did cast them down into destruction: How are they brought into desolation as in a moment!*"

3. Another thing implied is, that they are liable to fall **of themselves**, without being thrown down by the hand of another; as he that stands or walks on slippery ground needs nothing but his own weight to throw him down.
4. That the reason why they are not fallen already and do not fall now **is only that God's appointed time is not come**. For it is said, that when that due time, or appointed time comes, **their foot shall slide**. Then they shall be left to fall, as they are inclined by their own weight. God will not hold them up in these slippery places any longer, but will let them go; and then, at that very instant, they shall fall into destruction; as he that stands on such slippery declining ground, on the edge of a pit, he cannot stand alone, when

he is let go he immediately falls and is lost.

And so it was with the Rich Man. He walked upon slippery places and when his appointed day came, down into Hell he fell. And there he is to this day until that Day when he will join the devil and his angels in the Lake of Fire.

How is it with you? How is it with your soul? Who are you – the rich fool, or Lazarus? Have you been prospered in this present life? Do not be deceived into thinking that prosperity in this world means you are blessed by God, lest by that delusion you come to the same place of torment as Dives.

And for all those who are in Christ, who suffer because of following Christ, do not be discouraged. One of the final promises of God's Word is this:

*Rev 14:12-13 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (13) And I heard a voice from heaven,*

*saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."*