

into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (I Tim. 1:15).

While upon this earth, Jesus said that He was the door to the Father, and *"the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* (Jn. 10:9-11, 14:6). He promised to prepare a place for those who were faithful to Him and promised to come back to get them and take them to Heaven (Jn. 14:1-3). Remember, Matthew 20:28 says that Jesus gave His life *"a ransom for many"*! His life on earth and His great sacrifice for men is a significant barrier standing in our way. Indeed, those who spend an eternity in Hell will do so despite many "barriers" along the way! They are not the "victims" of a "vengeful God," that is for sure (II Pet. 3:9)!

Conclusion

How many people would intentionally run through warnings and barriers and drive to a sure and sudden death on the road? Not many, that is certain. Yet, many people are doing it spiritually! They ignore Jesus and His barriers that line the broad way that leads to destruction (Matt. 7:14). Jesus stands with "flashers," "flags," and everything else in His word to get our attention, and we blindly go past the warnings meant for us. It is a sad but true fact that many will be cast into Hell on that Day of Judgment. Remember, those people cast into Hell will go by their own choice, not because God hasn't warned them!

Jesus said, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"* (Matt. 11:28-30). As long as time stands, this invitation is extended to all who will respond to the gospel call (II Thess. 2:14). Have you made your life right with God? Do not let

another opportunity pass without thinking seriously and responding to the gospel. God's barriers are numerous and effective, but they will not force you to enter that path that leads to eternal life. You must accept Him willingly (Rev. 22:17).

Please visit with the Caneyville church of Christ....



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<http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>



Times of services...

Sunday: 10:00 am
(Bible classes for all ages)
10:45 am (Worship)
5:00 pm (Worship)
Wednesday: 7:00 pm
(Bible classes for all ages)

Other opportunities for Bible study:

- Correspondence Courses
- "The Ancient Landmark" Radio Program (101.5 and 103.5 FM WLBQ at 11:30 AM Sunday and 5:30 AM Monday-Friday)
- "The Ancient Landmark" (www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994)



"God's Barriers On The Road To Hell"

Jarrold M. Jacobs

Picture a bridge that has just been washed away. When those working to repair the bridge come to the scene, they will put up barriers or barricades to keep people from driving too closely and endangering their lives and the lives of others. Yes, accidents can occur, and yes, people can run over the barriers to their death — but rest assured, they were warned! Barriers on this road may have flashers, flags, and other attention-getting devices that can be attached to them. This is because they are intended to warn people to turn around and go the other way to keep them safe.

The ways to Heaven and Hell are also pictured as roads, one narrow and one broad (Matt. 7:13-14). Spiritually, God has set up barriers to warn us of the coming destruction on the broad way, and He shows us the safe way that leads us to Him when we turn around and go on the *"strait and narrow"* way (Matt. 7:13-14). Some may try to run over, go around, or otherwise avoid the barriers God has prepared, but they are still there. What are some barriers God has set up on the road to Hell?

The Bible

This book was given to warn us of Hell's impending doom and destruction. Looking at the New Testament, we see that Jesus spoke of the dangers and punishment of Hell (Matt. 25:41). In studying what the Bible says about Hell, we find that Jesus talked more about Hell than any other teacher in the New or Old Testaments. The Bible also warns of the type of people that will be in Hell. We see that drunkards, murderers,

fornicators, those who are abusive to their spouse or children, etc., will be cast into the Lake of Fire (I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8).

The Bible is not simply “another” book. This book contains God’s words (II Tim. 3:16-17)! Therefore, when we read about Hell being a reality in the Bible, we need to pay attention! When God takes the time to warn us, we better listen!

In reading the Bible, we learn that God wants no one to go to Hell (II Pet. 3:9). This is why He has given us His book that warns us of His wrath and Hell fire! We must remember that God’s justice will not allow sin to go unpunished. Therefore, let us all heed the warnings spelled out in the Bible and live a life that is pleasing to God.

The Cross

Another barrier on the road to Hell is the cross. Christ endured the cross as a sacrifice for the world’s sins (Matt. 20:28; II Cor. 5:20-21). When we think of the cross, we can see:

1. The spotless lamb of sacrifice, Jesus.
2. Man’s sins needing a Savior (Rom. 6:23, 3:10).
3. How terrible sin is and how it ruins the lives of mankind (Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23; Jas. 1:14-15).

Looking to the cross, we see a grand barrier that stands in our way if we travel the road to Hell. By the cross, Jesus draws all men to Him (Jn. 12:32-33). At the cross, we see how terrible sin is and the price that had to be paid for man to receive the forgiveness of sins (II Cor. 5:20-21). What other warning do we need? For the honest soul, this one barrier is enough to motivate him to turn from his wicked way and turn to Christ.

Preaching The Truth

There can be no clearer warning to lost souls than when the truth is preached. If a gospel preacher does his job, he will warn people about the pain, torture, and eternal nature of Hell (Col. 1:28). If he does not do this, the blood of those sinners will be on his hands (Ezek. 3:17-21; Acts 20:20, 27).

Many preachers do not want to talk about Hell. Their reason is that they would like to speak solely about “positive” things. (Thus, assuming that warning and convicting souls and turning them to Christ is not positive.) This is wrong! Without warnings from God’s word, we will not know what dangers lie ahead (Acts 20:29-31)!

When we see men willing to place the barrier of truth before lost souls, we see men willing to preach about the blood of Christ. Let us never forget this blood. It brings redemption to mankind (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)! This blood redeems us from the shackles of sin and saves us from Hell (I Pet. 1:18-19).

We need brave men who are willing to preach about God’s grace. Without God’s grace as a barrier before lost souls, we are without hope. It is God’s grace (unmerited favor) that has provided salvation from sins (Rom. 5:8).

The truth must be preached over and over as a warning to those who have not obeyed God and to those who have fallen away (II Tim. 4:2-5; Gal. 5:4). The apostle Paul wrote, “*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men*” (II Cor. 5:11). Let us thank God for those who are willing to stand up and proclaim the Truth regardless of the consequences! This barrier will go far in preventing lost souls from entering into Hell.

The Christian’s Influence

Some may not listen to the Bible or gospel preaching, but people cannot ignore our good influence! In his epistle, the apostle Peter points out that a godly wife can convert her unbelieving husband “*by the conversation*” (i.e., through her good example, I Pet. 3:1-6).

Jesus said, “*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*” (Matt. 5:13-16).

When we cease being “*the salt of the earth*” and “*the light of the world*” and cease being that good example for others to follow, we are headed toward Hell! (If we do not move forward, we are moving backward. There is no “in-between” with God! See: Rev. 3:15-16) Our lives must be such that we allow our light to shine before men! The reason being “*that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*” (Matt. 5:16). If our influence is responsible for keeping only one soul from enduring the pain and agony of Hell, it will be worth it! Are we being the barriers we ought to be?

Jesus Christ

Without question, the greatest barrier that is placed on the road to Hell is Jesus Christ. He came to this world to open Heaven to men and block the road to Hell. He came to seek and save that which was lost (Lk. 19:10). He came to die as a sacrifice for mankind’s sin (Jn. 18:36). The apostle Paul told Timothy, “*Christ Jesus came*