

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**of Genesee County**  
**5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507**

**Schedule of Services**

|                |           |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Worship...     | Sunday    | 11:00 a.m. |
|                | Sunday    | 6:00 p.m.  |
| Bible Study... | Sunday    | 10:00 a.m. |
|                | Wednesday | 6:00 p.m.  |

**August 2, 2020**



Let's get to work.

Matthew 9:38 "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Website: [www.coc-gc.org](http://www.coc-gc.org)

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Marty and Joyce Stearns.  
 Gracie and Tracy Clark.  
 Cindy Dobbs—heroine in the fight against COVID-19 as a healthcare worker. Pray for her often.  
 Joan's brother Hurley—is doing better and Opal, sister Christena Apostolico in Ohio—health, and Donna Bill Alldaffer—encouragement  
 Cindy Atkinson—health. (knee), Cindy's friends-Ireland Family, Wayne Hamilton, Kathy, Jody Rynca-cancer, Mitchell Larson and Walt and Ilene Davenport—health, Marie Hall—health. Friend Jackie is in need of prayers.  
 Betty requests prayers for Earlene Currier-health-Betty's Aunt, Betty's daughters: Donna, Carrie, Susan Wills, Debra and Lauren Weidner-grand-daughter, Joyce Harrison—Betty's cousin  
 Jeff Stevens—health  
 Chere' - request prayers for Priya and Daniel  
 John and Linda Schafer-wife Linda is in need of prayer  
 Rachel Hall—health problems  
 Dale and Sue Gregory—health  
 Pat Crain—hospital with pneumonia and liver problems  
 Emily Galantis -need of prayers  
 Charley and Cherry Brewer—lost grand-son (16 years old)  
 Michael and Vivian Golwitzer—health  
 Marilyn Moffitt—health and family

**Food closet: Can Goods**

**SERMONS**

**AM: Blessed are the Persecuted Matt. 5:10**  
**PM: Blessed are the Peace Makers Matt. 5:9**

## The Reality of Hell

Luke 16:19-31, the account of the rich man and Lazarus, is an amazing passage, giving us an insight to those things hidden to mortal eyes, particularly the realm of the condemned. Though this text discusses the intermediate state of the lost (tartarus, II Pet. 2:4), it is a graphic and accurate presentation of what the eternal state (gehenna, Matt. 10:28) of the lost will be like. As J. W. McGarvey said, "If the intermediate condition of things is fixed and established, the final condition must, *a fortiori* be more so." Consequently, we will make constant reference to Luke 16:19-31 in this present study.

### I. Hell Is Real

There is a hell. (a) The scriptures teach it (Mt. 5:22, 29-30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 3; Mk. 9:43, 45, 47; Lk. 12:5; Jas. 3:6). (b) Heaven suggests it (Mt. 25:46; Jn. 5:28-29; II Th. 1:7-9). (c) Redemption implies it. Without a heaven to gain and a hell to shun, redemption largely loses its design and significance. Thus, in the Protestant world, wherein so many doubt and deny much of the future life, it is no wonder that said ones preach and practice the social gospel; that is, the thrust of their work is primarily related to this world consisting of such emphasis as better housing, better labor and management relationships, etc. (d) The judgment demands it (Mt. 25:31-46). (1) Hell is not merely a condition, or state of mind, or imaginative evil. Rather, the realm of the condemned is spoken of as a place (Lk. 16:24, 26, 28). So is heaven (Jn. 14:3). To deny one is to deny the other. (2) Hell is as real as heaven is real. In the same breath Jesus spoke of both (Mt. 25:46.) If we cannot believe in the existence of one, then we cannot consistently believe in the other. One is as much a prepared place as the other (Mt. 25:41, 34). (3) If hell is not real, then Jesus used deception

(Lk. 12:4, 5). According to this passage, (a) hell is something to fear, (b) hell is something that comes after death, (c) hell is not the grave, and (d) as fear of men leads to wrongdoing, fear of God will lead to right-doing. Consequently, if heaven is not real, then Jesus used deception to motivate right doing.

### II. In Reality, What Will Hell Be Like?

(1) Hell is a real place of flaming fire (Lk. 16:21; Rev. 20:14-13; Mt. 13:41, 42, 50; 25:41). God has often used fire for divine retribution (Gen. 19:24; Lev. 10:2). Hell is pictured as a "furnace" of fire (Mt. 13:42, 50), and as a "lake" of fire (Rev. 20:9, 10, 14-15; 21:8). It is a place of "flaming" fire (II Th. 1:7-9). It is a place where men are "baptized" (overwhelmed) in fire (Mt. 3:11-12). Fire in hell is said to be "everlasting" (Mt. 18:8, 9; 25:41, 46; Jude 7), unquenchable (Mk. 9:43, 48), and polluted with brimstone (Rev. 21:8). Is the fire literal? The answer is inconsequential. Since the literal is worse than the figurative, if "fire" is figurative, whatever, then, is there, is worse than fire! (2) Hell is a real place of unquenchable thirst (Lk. 16:24). Heat on the body precipitates almost unslakeable thirst. For example, when the body is being scorched with a ravishing high fever, the patient begs for water. In hell, men do also. But, there is no touch of a tender, sympathizing hand. In graphic contrast, in heaven we are told that men thirst no more (Rev. 7:16, 17; 22:1-2). (3) Hell is a real place populated with the most deeply depraved of mankind. Men with the character of Dives are there. Think! Eternity with the miserly, merciless, covetous, and greedy; yes, and forever and ever! Hell is devoid of the fellowship of the sweet presence of the best of earth; the Lazaruses, the Abrahams, the Johns, the Pauls, etc. (Mt. 8:11). Read the following texts to hear hell's roll call: Revelation 21:8; 22:15, Galatians 5:19-21, I Corinthians 6:9-10 and Matthew 25:41.

Suppose we could arrange for every thief, liar, murderer, sodomite, prostitute, gambler, blasphemer, idolater, sorcerer, extortioner, drunkard, addict, hater of God, and braggart to be put into one city. In other words, suppose we could empty every prison, gambling den, house of sodomy and prostitution — yea, hell with the devil and his angels — and put them into one city all alone. Would you want to build your dream cottage there and settle down for life? No! A thousand times no! Yet such will be in hell. (4) Hell is a real place "afar off" - a real place of separation - from God (Lk. 16:23). The sinner is now stranded, afar off (Eph. 2:13; Lk. 15:13; Isa. 59:1-2; Prov. 15:29). And, all sinners will remain eternally separated from God in hell (I Th. 1:7-9; Mt. 25:32). Death being a separation (Jas. 2:26), hell is spoken of as the "second death" (Rev. 21:8; 20:6, 14). Because hell is afar off from God, it is spoken of as: (a) a place of darkness, because God is the source of light, Mt. 25:30; I Jn. 1:5; (b) a place of death, since God is the source of life, Rev. 21:8; Rom 6:23; Jn. 5:26; (c) and, a place of misery, since God is the source of comfort, Rev. 20:10; II Cor. 1:3. Yea, hell is Godforsaken! Too, hell is a place of separation from our loved ones (Mt. 25:31-46). In contrast, heaven is a place where we will be forever with God and our loved ones (I Th. 4:13-18). (5) Hell is a real place of unrelieved pain (Lk. 16:23-25, 28). The rich man requested only a drop! Where such a small thing is considered of such great relief, we have an indication of the intensity of the pain and misery. In hell men suffer a million deaths; a second and seconds will seem as millenniums. Yes, there is consciousness in hell! According to Luke 16:19-31, in hell men see (verse 23), feel (verse 24), talk (verse 24), reason (verse 30), and remember (verse 25).

Notice these descriptions of hell, pointing up the fact that it is a place of unrelieved pain: (a) tormented day and night forever and ever, Rev. 20:10; 14:10-11; (b) punishment, Mt. 25:46; Heb. 10:27-29; (c) tribulation and anguish, Rom. 2:8-9; (d) no rest, Rev. 14:11; and, (c) gnashing of teeth, Mt. 25:30; 8:12. However, in heaven there will be no pain (Rev. 21:4). (6) Hell is a real place where memory lives (Lk. 16:25). The rich man's memory reverted back to this "lifetime" (verse 25). He could remember Lazarus, that water was cooling, the things he received in this life, his father, and his brothers (their number, their need of repentance, and the extent of their hardness). Memory can be a blessing. Old age is largely sustained by the diet of memory. But, in hell memory is transformed into an eternal, gnawing curse. The condemned will remember every prayer prayed, every plea presented, every privilege proffered, every exhortation extended, every class conducted, and every opportunity offered. Yea, they will remember every tender persuasion of their companion, their children, and interested friends. Oh, the cutting, slashing, burning and whipping pains of memory experienced by the eternally condemned! (7) Hell is a real place where men will eternally regret having caused others to be damned (Lk. 16:27-28). Commenting on this text, Adam Clark wrote, "The iniquitous conduct of relatives and friends who have been perverted by the example of those who are lost is a source of present punishment to them; and if they come also to the same place of torment, must be, to those who were the instruments of bringing them

thither, an eternal source of anguish . . . these brethren had probably been influenced by his example to content themselves with an earthly portion and to neglect their immortal souls. Those who have been instruments of bringing others into hell shall suffer the deeper perdition on that account." And, we are usually responsible for those who are nearest to us. (8) Hell is a real place where bliss can possibly be seen (Lk. 16:23)... (9) Hell is a real place where men pray, but there is no answer (Lk. 16:24-31)... (10) Hell is a real place men want to leave (Lk. 16:26)... (11) Hell is a real place where men plead for mercy, but none is extended (Lk. 16:24)... (12) Hell is a real place that is inescapable (Lk. 16:26)... The word "gulf" in the text is from the Greek kasma from whence we get our English word "chasm."...

### **Conclusion**

Hell is a real place where men always die, yet never die; never live, yet always live! Hell is a real place where men live forever, but where there is no hope for which to live. The wretchedness of that state no tongue can exaggerate; it defies exaggeration. It will never, never end! Thus, with the most terrifying of all words—hell— still trembling on our lips, we exhort and entreat, we persuade and plead (II Cor. 5:11).

By Wendell Winkler, The Spiritual Sword, Volume 36, Number 2, January, 2005 Alan E. Highers, Editor Published quarterly by the Getwell Church of Christ, 1511 Getwell Rd., Memphis, TN 38111. Article taken from pages 43-47 and redacted to fit our bulletin.



**Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.**