

Mark 9:43-50
Have Salt in Yourselves

“Let the concluding words of our Lord ring in our ears as we leave the passage: ‘Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.’ Let us make sure that we have in our hearts the saving grace of the Holy Spirit, sanctifying, purifying, and preserving from corruption our whole inward man. Let us watch the grace given to us with daily watchfulness, and pray to be kept from carelessness and sin, lest we be overtaken in faults and bring misery on our conscience and discredit on our profession. Above all let us live in peace one with another, not seeking great things or striving from the preeminence, but clothed with humility and loving all who love Christ in sincerity. These seem simple things. But in attending to them is great reward.” Ryken

- I. Isaiah tells us that the key to unlocking the treasure of God’s salvation, wisdom and knowledge is to fear the Lord. To fear him means to sincerely reverence and obey him, both in what we say and in how we live our lives as his representatives. The gift of eternal life obligates us to take seriously the costly grace of Christ dying on the cross for our sins. He has spared those of us who know him from spending eternity in hell and he has given us the privilege of walking on the Way of Holiness. Therefore, we must in every way, live well for him in the days we have left here on earth. We must stay rapture ready!

2 Kings 19:32-35

Isa. 33:5-6

Isa. 33:14-16

Isa. 33:8-10

2 Peter 3:10-13 *10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.*

- II. Jesus talked about the reality of hell more often than he talked about the reality of heaven. In fact, he mentions the existence of hell three times in Mark 9:43-50. The word he uses for hell, *Gehenna*, depicts hell as a terrible place, a place of ongoing pain and suffering. Jesus would not lie about its existence or use unsettling imagery to manipulate someone into getting saved from it. Instead, he gives us a vivid picture of the reality of what it will be like for those who chose to reject the truth of the gospel. He doesn't want one soul to end up there, but unfortunately many do because of unbelief. *I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is **the day of salvation*** (2 Cor. 6:2).

Mark 9:43-48

Lev. 19:28

1 Cor. 6:19-20

Luke 16:19-21

1 Jn. 3:17

Ps. 139:16

Ps. 116:15

Phil. 1:21-23

Luke 12:19-21

Rev. 13b-15

Lk. 12:15

John 11:25

γέεννα géenna, gheh'-en-nah; a valley of Jerusalem, used (figuratively) as a name for the place (or state) of everlasting punishment:—hell.

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

Daniel 12:2 *And many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, but others to shame and everlasting contempt.*

- III. We must never underestimate what it means to be indwelt with the Holy Spirit. He is the salt that seasons the soul to express his fruit to a sin sick dying world. The strength of our relationship with Christ will determine in many ways the willingness of the Holy Spirit to express himself through us. It is also a strong indicator of how much we value our salvation. Paul says, *“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone”* (Col. 4:5-6)

Mark 9:49-50