

# Thus Saith God's Word

by Rev. Ted Brooks, Pastor, West Saddletree Baptist Church

## Hell Is No Joke

I want to ask you the question again. Young boy, young girl, and to you moms and dads, "Have you earnestly, seriously, soberly sought to determine the true value of your soul?"

Have you ever considered its real worth in the light of eternal existence either in a glorious heaven or a terrible hell? According to God's word, not your experience?

Hell, my friend, is no joke. People will say, "Oh man, can't you take a joke." You see, a joke can provoke laughter. Folk will sit up late and watch television to hear jokes. They love to laugh. There are folks who make a living telling jokes. On television and even in our churches, the word hell has been watered down until it has become a joke. "No one ever goes to hell. God loves everybody!" Oh, my friend, God does love people but it is true that He can and does hate people. "I love you, saith the Lord, yet we say, 'wherein hast thou loved us?' Was not Esau, Jacob's brother? saith the Lord. Yet I loved Jacob and I hated Esau." (Romans 9:13)

There are those of you who have made vows to God, saying when you become successful, then you will consider God. Right now, to you it is who has the most marbles at the end who wins. So for you, have you been able to forget hell and put it behind you? And so far you have done well at it. You can't seem to recall the last sermon you heard or read. It is because you have given little attention to the real value of your soul. So far you have been able to disregard and push it aside. You have been watching television and it's actor and hell is not such a bad place because actors go in and out of hell all the time. O, my friend, if there were no knowledge of hell what liberty this would give to indulge in every form of sin and worldly pleasure and allowed to live the life of one's choice without fear. Mister, there is a hell and forgetting it does not eliminate it.

Hell was made for the devil and for those who neglect and lose sight of the true value of their soul. Jesus said, if you do forget and were to convince yourself that hell does not exist, in the end it will be you who shall be turned into hell. (Psalm 9:17 Matthew 25:41)

Do you really want to know what is wrong with America, especially here in Robeson County? America has neglected the law of God. She has perverted from doing right. America is like the prisoner who walks on the street said, "I have done my time." Pulling time does not make it right with God. It is the soul that God has an interest in.

The soul of man is wanting to be set free while the flesh is crying forget hell, have a blast while it lasts.

Most of the young folks in the church today know little about hell. They come in the back door, pizza blasts, musical entertainment. When Peter sent the calling to those who were scattered throughout Pontus Galatia, Cop-pa-do-cia and Bi-thyn-ia, he (Peter) said "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold." (1 Peter 1:18)

Peter was saying, tell all those that you come in contact with that you did not come in through the back door of the church. Tell them that it was with the precious blood of Christ, as lamb without blemish, and without spot, tell them it was sent down from heaven, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which the angel, stood and gazed upon, and desired to look into. (1 Peter 1:12-18)

Thank God for the true church which is a road block to time and eternity. Oh, my friend, your life, my life, should be bound up in our children and grandchildren.

I read of how a fowl in the barnyard, clumsy-footed and heavy winged, flies fiercely at you if you come near her little group of chicks. And God intended every father, mother to be protection and the help of the child.

Jesus came to every dwelling and says to the father and mother, you have been looking after this child's body, soul and mind; the time has come when you ought to be looking after its immortal soul. A story told of a vessel that foundered. The boat was launched. "Many of the passengers were struggling in the water- A mother with one hand beat the waves, and with the other hand lifted up her little child toward the life boat, crying "Save my child." Preacher, that is still the cry of many impassioned mothers, "Save the children." Oh, my friend, when Mom and Dad have never counted the cost, if their souls were to be lost, and lived with a slight hope, all of us, that our children may escape our faults. When we hide our imperfections and think they will steer clear of them. My friend there is a poor chance of that taking place. Did you know that if you are a

dishonest person, your children will more likely follow the vices of your sin than to choose one's virtues? One of the saddest things to be seen is a child early in life and know the sin which they see is a parent's own fault, copied of the child. I will say again, have you counted the cost. Wait now! Don't push it aside. Have you counted the cost, if your soul were to be lost?

Having the most marbles won't do. In other words, how long will you go on placing no value on the things of God? Your flesh has convinced you that the promises of God are vague, valueless, powerless, to you, you have declared God is simply not known. All you can see is the present, to see things you can feel and touch, those carry the weight. What you see is what you value, because you are governed by sight and not of faith. To you the present is all that matters. It is everything you have declared the future to be mere un-influential.

With you, my friend, God is calling a meeting. You need to be told in the end, having the most marbles will not win. Solomon turned and saw the oppression of the tears that had no comforter and he saw at that time "power was on the side of their oppressors but he noticed all go unto one place, all are of the dust and all turn to dust again." (Ecclesiastes 4:1 (3:3 (20)).

God is calling a meeting. You need to settle it now. You will reap what you sow. Again, have you counted the cost, if your soul were to be lost? Let me tell you a few things about hell.

Hell is no resort. It is not a place to go and settle your nerves. It is no place to go fishing or to ski. And it certainly is no place to carry your family.

If you want to know how long it takes to get there, I can assure you that airplane pilots on strike will not affect the travel. Job said they spend their days in wealth and in a moment go down to the grave. (Job 21:13)

How is that for breaking the sound barrier? Young boy, young girl, do you want to know the people in hell? Isaiah said "Hell beneath enlarges itself and opened her mouth and mean man shall be brought down." (Isaiah 5:14-15)

The mighty man shall be humble and the eyes shall be humble. Somebody said, where is hell; but those that seek my soul to destroy it shall go into the lower part of the earth. (Psalm 63:9)

Go enter. God's word tells us men are cast down to hell with them to descend into the pit. (Ezekiel 31:6)

Something else you need to know about hell: "It is a place of sorrow." (Luke 16:24.) "A place where the rich man cried.

Let me ask you again, have you counted the cost, if your soul was to be lost?

The rich man lifted his eyes and cried for mercy. Why did he cry? He was in torment, begging for water. He was in grief, weeping, wailing "Just for a drop of water."

Have you counted the cost? Here are some things which will not be in hell. No flowers on the banks of hell. No beauty of nature. No birds singing. No comfort of children playing and laughing.

No friendship or joy. No Mom. No Dad, brother or sister. No family reunion over at Mom's. No love or peace. No ray of light. No water. No mercy. No pity. No Christian. Nothing but Christ rejecters, murderers, blasphemers, swearers, haters of God, drinkers and liars. These, my friend, will be your neighbors.

Have you counted the cost? In hell there will be no dope dealers or

Cherry's fashions  
and  
Native American  
"Articles of Quality"  
Open  
9am till 5pm  
for more information call  
(910) 521-0620

peddling. In hell there will be no habits to break. There will be no dirty magazines and there will be no child molesting in hell. In hell all games will be over. Have you counted the cost, if your soul was to be lost?

If I were to tell you how many men, women, boys and girls I have preached this sermon to and I were to tell you how many of them said, "Preacher, I want to live a little before I get saved," you would be surprised. Just this past week I pleaded in the hallway of the hospital for a man's life. He replied, "I'll wait."

Because I call, "I have called and ye refuse. I stretched out my hand and no man regarded, ye set at naught all my counsel and would none of my reproof. I will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer. They shall seek me early, but they shall not find me." (Proverbs 1:23-28)

The funerals I have preached each said "I have got a lot of living to do." I drove over 100 miles to witness to a person on his bed, dying. I pleaded for him to count the cost. When I read Romans 10:9-12 he said, "Mama use to read that same scripture when I was a boy." The sad thing, is he couldn't count the ways the world had entered through his eyes and ears and death had entered. He had wandered out of the list that God had set in the calling, and there was nothing left to find but death.

Have you counted the cost if your soul were to be lost?

Let me warn you, there is a line that is drawn by rejecting God, where the call of his spirit is lost and you hurry along with pleasure and with the crowd. Don't barter your hope of eternity for a moment of joy at the most for the glitter of sin and the things it will win.

While the door of mercy is open to you, ere the depth of his love you exhaust, won't you come and be saved? Won't you whisper I yield? Oh friend, it costs more to be lost than to be saved.

There is danger while you wait. You can become irresponsible, not capable. Romans 1:24. God said I gave them up. They are going to do whatever they want, so I gave them up.

Let me ask you this before I close: have you become non repentant, not sorry for your sins? Don't care what folks say, I do as I please? If so, you may be pushed to the edge. Jesus said a strong man on his way to spoil your goods while you are at peace. (Luke 11:21)

A few pages back I told you of the man who said his mother read scripture to him. Later when I visited him again, he said, "Preacher, I woke up this morning, I couldn't breathe. I was in the worst, excruciating pain in my body."

Friend, you cannot mock God with a false profession. Formality, not conforming. He knows who loves him and who pretends. "Behold you have sinned against God. Be sure your sin will find you out."

Sinner man, like a blood hound on the trail of a fleeing murderer,


the divine justice of God will soon overtake you. (Ezekiel 3:16)

I ask you again, have you counted the cost?

One hundred years from now, if not all will be beneath the clay. Seventy-five years. Twenty-five years. Ten Years. Five years. I year. Even days and months. Have you counted the cost?

AUTO ACCIDENTS  
WRONGFUL DEATH  
PERSONAL INJURY

DWI &  
TRAFFIC OFFENSES  
Of All Kinds



**RONNIE SUTTON**  
Attorney At Law

Free Initial  
Consultation

Call 24 Hours  
A Day  
7 Days a Week

**"PROTECTING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS"**  
(910) 521-4797  
208 Union Chapel Road

**ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS  
NEED MONEY?**

EXCELLENT RATES AVAILABLE BEGINNING AT 6.625%

Credit Problems      Pay Off Taxes and Leins  
Bill Consolidation      Closing in 8-10 Business Days  
Home Improvements      Up to 125% on Appraised Value

**...JUST TELL US HOW MUCH YOU NEED:**

Application taken by phone til 6 PM  
VA & NC Licensed  
Mortgage Corp.

\*FREE  
CONSULTATION  
\*APR  
7.282      CALL TOLL FREE TODAY  
(888) 322-9503

First Horizon Home Mortgage



**INSESSION  
BIRTHDAY  
PARTIES  
ONLY  
\$50.00**  
(an \$80 value)  
includes

- Admission & skates for the Birthday Child & 11 guests
- Additional skaters are \$4.50 each
- 1/4 sheet Skate Cake and All paper products
- A Small Drink and Hot Dog for each skater (refills extra)
- Invitation
- Supervision by a party hostess
- Snack Bar Area Decorations
- A Gift for the Birthday Child and Passes for Guests
- Happy Birthday announcement & special Birthday Song Skate

No outside food or refreshments allowed in the building

Non-Refundable \$25.00 deposit required  
MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE

**PEMBROKE SKATELAND**  
(910) 521-0990



**Modular  
Homes**

# LAND! LAND! LAND!

130 Lots In Different Locations

Bring In Your  
W-2's And Use Your  
Refund As A Down  
Payment On Your  
New Or  
Used Home

- \* N.C. Cultural Center, Pembroke
- \* Chicken Rd. Off Hwy 74
- \* The Intersection Of Hwy 72, West And Pine Log Rd. Lumberton
- \* Odum Road

- \* Union Chapel Area (Paul Rd.) Pembroke
- \* Wire Grass Rd., Lumberton

**Singlewides Land Home Packages** Starting At **\$299** Month

**Doublewides Land Home Packages** Starting At **\$399** Month

**HOMES FOR \$1,000**

Including Refrigerator & Range

**HURRY!! FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!!**

14 Repo's & Pre Owned Homes

**SAVE THOUSANDS!!!**

10 New Homes - Elegant Interior Design - Selling At Cost

**9 Different Locations Ready to Move In**

**Singlewides & Doublewides**

Payments As Low As **\$199<sup>00</sup>**

**We Have A Great First Time Buyers Plan!!**

If you've Been On Your Job For 2 Years Come Get Your New Home

If You've Been Shopping Come See Us Before You Make That Final Decision

**JAMESTOWN MOBILE HOME SALES**

**738-4300**

On Hwy. 72 West In Lumberton Near Converse And Nash Finch