

FIVE LIES THAT LEAD TO HELL

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the beginning God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, a perfect paradise where they didn't have to worry about sin or death, and they had unhindered fellowship with God. There was only one rule: Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; if you do, you will surely die. But along came the devil in the form of a snake. He tempted Eve to disobey God by lying to her. He said, "You won't die! You will be happier!" Eve believed that lie and sinned, plunging the entire world into sin, sorry, and suffering. Sin entered the human race because of a lie.
2. Lies are dangerous. Lies are the devil's flaming arrows with which he attacks us. The Bible calls him a liar, and the father of lies (Jn 8:44). If the devil can convince you to believe a lie, then he can convince you to disobey God and ruin your life.
3. Today we are going to look at five of the most destructive lies on earth. These are the most destructive lies because they lead to hell. Each of these lies are designed to ruin not just your life on earth, but to ruin your life for eternity.
4. These lies are especially dangerous because they are so popular. The vast majority of people believe one or more of these lies; only a small minority do not.
5. Most people believe one or more of them. It is my hope that if you believe one of these lies, I can change your mind and lead you to the truth.

II. THE FIVE LIES

1. This life is all there is.

- i. YOLO – "You only live once." We live, and then die, and then cease to exist. We live seventy or eighty years and then become worm-food. There's no God. There's no afterlife. There's no heaven or hell. Therefore, don't worry about the afterlife. Don't prepare for the afterlife. Don't waste your time with religion.

Just think about life on earth. Just think about today – the here and now.

- ii. The truth is that there is life after death.
- iii. **Hebrews 9:27** “And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment”
 - 1. Notice the word “after.” Life on earth is not all there is. When you die, you do not cease to exist. Something happens afterwards. It’s called Judgment Day. God will judge every human being who has ever lived, and then you will be sent to one two possible destinations – heaven or hell.
- iv. **Matthew 25:46** “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
 - 1. Notice three facts about the afterlife:
 - a. There are only two possible destinations – eternal life, or eternal punishment.
 - b. Your destination will be eternal. There are no second chances. There is no hope of annihilation. There is no hope for a transfer.
 - c. Eternal life is reserved for the righteous. To be righteous does not mean “sinless perfection,” because there is only one person who never sinned – Jesus Christ. The righteous are those who have a right relationship with God.
 - i. Therefore, your most important purpose in life is to discover who God is, and how to have a right relationship with God.
 - ii. **Romans 3:22** “The righteousness of God is through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe, since there is no distinction.”
 - 1. The only way to have a right relationship with God is through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - 2. We are sinners deserving hell, but God sent Jesus to die in our place, for our sins.

3. We can receive God's forgiveness by believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

2. Good people go to heaven.

- i. Most people believe that you get to go to heaven as long as you are a good person. It doesn't really matter what you believe, as long as you are good enough.
- ii. There are three problems with this view:
 1. It lacks clarity. How good is good enough? Where is the bar? What is the standard? It is unclear.
 2. It lacks certainty. How can you know if you've been good enough? There's no way to no for sure. All one can do is hope for the best.
 3. It lacks reality. Is there anyone who is actually good? We all think that we're pretty good when we compare ourselves to bad people, but what about when we compare ourselves to holy God?
- iii. There are three Biblical truths that counter this lie:
 1. No one can be made right with God by being good.
 - a. **Romans 3:20** "For no one will be justified in his sight by the works of the law"
 - b. You cannot earn your way to heaven by being good.
 - c. Why not?
 2. No one is good.
 - a. **Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
 - b. **Romans 3:10** "There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even on."
 - c. Not only is no one good enough, but nobody is good, period.
 3. You must be perfect to earn your way to heaven.
 - a. **Galatians 3:10** "For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, because it is written, Everyone

who does not do everything written in the book of the law is cursed.”

- b. If you try to get to heaven by being good person, you are cursed. Why? Because you have to be perfect. You must do everything written in the law. And nobody is perfect.
- iv. Good people don't go to heaven, forgiven people do.
 - 1. If you had to be good to go heaven, heaven would be empty of human beings.
 - 2. That's why God offers His forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Christ paid for our sins, and if you believe in Him, God will forgive you and give you eternal life.
 - 3. **Acts 10:43** “All the prophets testify about him that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.”
 - 4. The question is not Are you a good person? but Are you forgiven?

3. There are many paths to heaven.

- i. Everyone who believes this also believes lie #2 – it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're a good person. But we've already proven that to be a lie.
- ii. This lie is called religious pluralism – there are multiple religious paths that are equally valid – Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc.
- iii. But the Bible is very clear that there is only one way to heaven.
 - 1. **John 14:6** Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
 - 2. **Acts 4:12** “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”
- iv. If there's more than one way, then why did Jesus die?
- v. If people don't have to believe in Jesus, then why are we commanded to make disciples of all the nations – even at the risk of our lives?

vi. If there's more than one way, then why does the Bible say that we must believe in Jesus to go to heaven?

1. **John 3:16** "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

4. God wouldn't let anyone go to hell.

- i. The argument is that since God is love (1 Jn 4:8), then He would not send anyone to an eternal hell. Therefore, people have come up with alternative views:
 1. Universalism: Everyone goes to heaven.
 2. Annihilationism: This is also called conditional immortality. Only those who believe in Christ live forever, while unbelievers cease to exist when they die, or after a temporary time in hell.
- ii. The Biblical doctrine of hell is that it the place of eternal torment for those who reject Jesus Christ.
- iii. There are several problems with this lie:
 1. God is not only loving, but just.
 - a. Love is not His only attribute. He is also holy, righteous, and just. It would be unjust for God to let the guilty go free. How would you like it if a judge let a pedophile, or rapist walk free? We would call it an injustice.
 2. There are more people in hell than in heaven.
 - a. **Matthew 7:13-14** "13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. 14 How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it."
 3. God did not create hell for people (Mt 25:41).
 - a. God's original plan for hell was to punish the devil and his demons, not people. People only go there if they reject salvation through Jesus Christ.
 4. Jesus spoke more of hell than heaven.
 - a. He spoke more about hell than anyone else.

- b. What did Jesus teach about hell?
 - i. It is a place of misery (terrible pain). Jesus described it as a place of weeping (continual sobbing), wailing (crying out; weeping gone grotesque), gnashing of teeth (in severe pain), and darkness (Lk 13:28; Mt 13:42; Lk 13:28; Mt 8:12).
 - ii. It is a place of finality. Once you go to hell, your eternal station is fixed. There are no second chances (Lk 16:26).
 - iii. It is a place of eternity. You exist in hell forever. Jesus called it...
 - 1. The fire that never goes out. Mt 3:12
 - 2. The place of eternal fire. Mt 18:8
 - 3. An unquenchable fire. Mk 9:43
 - 4. Eternal punishment. Mt 25:46
- 5. God doesn't want anyone to go to hell.
 - a. **1 Timothy 2:16** "This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
 - b. **2 Peter 3:9** "The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance."
 - c. **C.S. Lewis** said, "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'Alright, then, have it your way.'"
 - d. He doesn't send people to hell; people send themselves by rejecting Jesus Christ.
- 6. Eternal life is a free gift available to all who believe.
 - a. It's not like God has only made salvation available to a select view. The offer of salvation is available to everyone – regardless of your sins, and the only condition is faith in Jesus Christ.

b. **John 3:16** “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

- iv. Hell is real for those who die without Christ.
- v. Instead of questioning why God would send people to hell, focus your attention on making sure that you go to heaven.

5. All you need to do to go to heaven is to believe in Jesus.

- i. The problem with this lie is that it is actually true, if you understand the meaning of the biblical word “believe.”
- ii. **John 3:16** “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”
- iii. The biblical word “believe” means trust or faith. It carries the idea of relying upon, resting on, depending on, leaning on. It is not simply believing things about Jesus, although that is involved; it is trusting in Him; relying on Him; depending on Him; leaning on Him. You may believe all of the facts about Hitler, that he was the leader of Germany in the mid twentieth century and plunged the world into war, and carried out the holocaust against the Jews, but that does not mean that you are Nazi. You may believe in Raising Canes, but that doesn’t make you a chicken strip. What does it mean to “believe in” Jesus? It involves two elements.
 - 1. You must trust in Jesus as Savior.
 - a. Or to put it negatively, you must not trust in anything else to save you.
 - b. You must believe that Jesus is the Savior, the only Savior, and you must not trust in good works, religiosity, ritual, or any other god.
 - c. A helpful way to test your faith is to answer this question: Why should God let you into heaven? If your answer is along the lines “I’m a good person,” or “I try my best to follow Jesus,” then it shows your trust is not in Jesus, but in yourself – your performance.

- d. Trusting in Jesus as Savior is the equivalent of the denial of self-righteousness. It is the realization that I am a sinner, and I can't do anything to save myself, or to make myself more savable. All I can do is trust in Christ.
 - e. The difference between religion and Christianity is "Do" versus "Done." Religion is all about what you need to "do" to qualify for heaven. Christianity is all about what Christ has "done" to qualify us for heaven. Our trust must be completely in what Christ has done, and not what we might do.
2. You must trust in Jesus as Lord (repentance).
- a. To put it negatively, you must not trust in yourself as Lord.
 - b. This is the denial of self-rule.
 - c. It is handing over the steering wheel of your life to Jesus Christ.
 - d. It is making the decision to let Christ be the ruler of every arena of your life, which includes the commitment to carry out all His will, and the relinquishment of anything contrary to His will.
 - e. As **Charles Spurgeon** put it, "You and your sins must separate, or you and your God will never come together"
- iv. Many people believe in Jesus as Savior, but not as Lord. And many people believe in Jesus as Lord, but not as Savior.
- 1. Some believe in Jesus as Savior, but they live in rebellion to Christ, disregarding His authority. This is not saving faith.
 - 2. Some believe in Jesus as Lord, and are very conscientious about Christ's authority, but they obey because they are trying to qualify for heaven. This is not saving faith.
- v. Faith and repentance are two sides of the same coin – penitent faith.

III. CONCLUSION

1. The most infamous lie in history is the one known as the blood libel. This was the medieval lie leveled at Jews in some European countries that accused the Jews of killing Christian children to use their blood to make Passover matzo. The Jews were tortured to death, and Jewish communities were slaughtered as a result.
2. Lies can be extremely destructive, especially lies that can affect your eternity. I hope you are not deceived today. I hope you are not believing and lies that lead to hell.
3. Maybe this sermon exposed a lie or two that you had been believing. If so, that's really good news.
4. Perhaps you would like to become a Christian this morning; to ensure your salvation.