

As I was sleeping peacefully a few nights ago I awoke to find Mary-Emma standing beside the bed. She spoke in a small seven year olds voice and asked this question, “Are monster’s real?” Marlinia was quick to answer a definitive, “NO.” Mary-Emma then asked, “Are you sure?” if as if we might be keeping some “adult secret” that monsters are actually real. With that answer Mary-Emma promptly asked if she could take up residence in our bed for the remainder of the night.

Now we as adults know that monsters as made up in the mind of a seven year old child do not exist. Yet, we are fearfully aware that modern day monsters take on the form of evil in our present world. Yes there are monsters that lurk in the darkness of sin I our society and the “lion roars and seek who he may devour”. But monsters as Mary-Emma most likely dreamed about—simply—aren’t—REAL.

The bible teaches in Matthew 25:31-46 about something that is very real. In fact, in that passage of scripture we find that God’s Word states very clearly, at the final judgment the righteous will enter heaven to enjoy everlasting life in heaven and the unrighteous and wicked go into everlasting punishment. You see reader, hell, despite the denials of many, is REAL. Sin demands the place of punishment. If there was no punishment for sins, then there could be no commandments or law. Law without penalty is null and void. And that would make the sacrifice of Jesus useless because there would be no need to be saved from something that has no consequence whatsoever. The reality of life after death demands the reality of hell. Jesus teaches us in Matthew 22:22-23, that there is life after our physical death. Yet, hell was not originally made for mankind. According to Matthew 25:41, it prepared for the devil and his angels. Nevertheless, when men and women join the devil in his work and live in that bondage to sin, they must suffer the same fate as the devil himself.

Many in the world today find so difficult to believe in a place such as this. They make the comment that if God was or is such a loving, caring God; He would not create a place such as hell, therefore, hell must not be real and is only the crude idea of man wanting to oppress and scare people to turn to God. God is just and righteous. He sovereign and He is Lord of all Lords and King of all Kings. If no punishment were given for violation or transgressing against the commandments of God, then God would not be just. Being a just and righteous judge, God is will reward those who are heirs of His salvation and punish the wicked and evil.

Hell is a real place. It is eternal. It is complete and utter outer darkness. It is a place that burns with fire and brimstone for eternity. There is never ending unrest and a place where hope is dashed for eternity. Because once that final destination is reached, there is no getting out. People will not be in hell because God wants them there. He desire’s all of us to be saved (I Timothy 2:1-4). They will not be there because God lacked the ability to save them (Romans 1:16). If a person ends up in hell—PAY CLOSE ATTENTION HERE READER—THAT PERSON IS LOST BY THEIR OWN FREE CHOICE AND HAS ABSOLUTELY NO ONE TO BLAME BUT THEMSELVES.

In our world today monster’s such as vampire’s, werewolf’s, zombie’s, or goblin’s do not exist, but the reality of evil, sin and the eternal punishment of hell are. We simply need to prepare our lives and live in such a way that is pleasing to God. We must see the reality of evil, know the temptations will come and be ready to defend our souls against the fiery darts of the adversary by donning the full armor of God. May we see the passing pleasure’s of sin for what they really are—A pathway to place prepared for the devil and his angels.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes