

Addictions

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I wonder how many people would change their ways if they were to see a glimpse of hell but for a moment? I wonder if it would strike fear within them to make a change? Do you remember after 9/11 how people started talking more about God and remembering Him more? Then, after awhile, God was gone and forgotten again. Getting a glimpse of hell might cause a change, but would it last? Probably not. Some might change for the good. However, the majority likely would not change. Why? Addiction.

You can show a smoker a picture of a black cancerous lung as the consequences of smoking. Do they quit? No. Why? Addiction.

You can show a drinker pictures of diseased livers and fatal car crashes as consequences of drinking. Do they quit? No. Why? Addiction. We don't have to go any farther than God's Word to find a glimpse of hell and what kind of place it is. The Bible says hell is a place of everlasting fire and punishment (Matt. 25:41-46), a place of outer darkness (Matt. 8:12), a place of everlasting destruction (2 Thess. 1:9), a lake of fire (Rev. 19:20), a place of torment (Luke 16:24), and a place where the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:47-48). God's Word tells us who will be in hell: the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41), all who are disobedient (Rom. 2:8-9), unbelievers (Rev. 21:8), erring members of Christ (2 Pet. 2:20-22) and those who never obey the gospel (2 Thess. 1:8).

So there. We've just been given a glimpse of hell. If erring humanity could read the above, would they consider changing their ways? Probably not. Why? Addiction. People are too addicted to the pleasures of this world to change their lives. Even knowing the consequences of sin people just can't stop loving the things of the world. Just as the smoker and drinker knowing the outcome of their addiction, just can't stop. Friends, we are at war with a very powerful adversary, Satan. He is also known as the devil, the tempter, the deceiver, the god of this world, and the serpent.

He is very good at what he does. He makes sin fun and enjoyable. Let us read and study the message in 1 John 2:15-17. Further, remember that Jesus tells us we have to deny ourselves (Luke 9:23). We are not here to serve and please ourselves, but we are here to serve and please God (Hebrews 12:28). We are to be a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). In the Bible, we read of the rich man that died and opened his eyes in hell being in torments. I wonder if he wished that he would have given up the things of this world to serve the Lord? A most definite "YES"! Don't miss heaven for the world. -Samson, Alabama