

Tailpiece:

In 1998 the Lord sovereignly showed a believer, who had up to that time been in obscurity, what the unseen state, or hell was like. 23 minutes later he came back a changed man. He now **knows** what he has been saved from. He has gone, if you like, from faith or believing, to knowledge.

His description of his experience is horrendous; finding himself in the deepest darkness at first, with claws reaching and pulling at him and in a state of absolute terror, the only shaft of light rapidly disappearing, he was then transported to the lake of fire itself and described the heat as so unbearable that he would have done anything for a drop of cold water, he said he felt his very flesh would peel off his bones and was surprised that it did not.

Beloved, **that** is what we have been saved from when we believed on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We didn't just 'make a commitment' to Jesus as we so often hear it described, we received rescue from the most horrendous and awful fate.

Hell is real; torment is real - for the unbeliever. Should that not be a cause for constant rejoicing no matter what our circumstances?

Surely if we fully understood what we have been saved from, we would be of all people the most joyous *and* most anxious to tell everyone the way of salvation.

If you have a computer, you can reach the website by 'Googling' '23 minutes in hell'. The man concerned has written a book, his name is Bill Wiese, is available from www.amazon.co.uk. Included below is a review which you can read if you go onto the site:

"Whether or not the author really did go to hell is immaterial. What matters more is that what he said about the existence of hell and its horrors are found in scripture. The first part of the book deals with his own testimony, and what he claims happened to him in hell. The second part of the book is a citation of scripture on hell.

I found the second-half to be heart-convicting. According to the author, there are about 150 verses on hell in the Bible. Many are listed down in the book. I checked the verses in his book against those in the Bible. All tallied. And then the reality sinks in: hell is really a place. It is not to be trifled with. There is no good thing there, no flower, or leaf, or even mercy, because God is not there. And all good things are from God. But the starkest and saddest truth is this: it was never meant to be a place for people, whom God created for eternal fellowship with Him. Such a horrible place was only meant for Satan and his fallen angels. Yet, so many souls are there, people who never heard about God, or who turned their backs to God. What this book did for me was point me back to the importance of evangelism - in God's loving plan, no one, not a single soul, should have to go to hell."