

Truth Be Told

Picture this in your mind: You're feeling sick, so you visit your doctor. After conducting some tests, your doctor dismisses your symptoms, saying they are nothing and will pass in a few days. But soon, you become more ill: pain, exhaustion, shortness of breath, and an inability to function. You return, and now you get an alarming diagnosis and are told there's no cure. However, your doctor has access to a proven cure but never reveals the information. What kind of person would someone be if they knew of a life-saving treatment and never told you? Clearly, this individual should not be allowed to practice medicine. Now, let's use that scenario as it applies to many churches today. There's a tendency among many pastors to avoid speaking about any Scriptures that sound negative. Why? Well, no one enjoys a sermon that preaches judgment, hell, or tells people they will spend eternity in the lake of fire if they don't repent. But let's reflect on this for a moment. C. S. Lewis once wrote, *"There is no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than this, if it lay in my power. But it has the full support of Scripture and, specially, of Jesus' own words."* The Bible is the eternal, inerrant, Holy Spirit-inspired Word of God, which tells us that rejecting Jesus Christ leaves no pathway to salvation or heaven. Jesus consistently compared hell with the kingdom of God, telling us that hell is the only alternative to an eternity spent in perfect fellowship with God forever. Jesus mentioned fire in relation to hell at least twenty times, as well as describing hell as *"outer darkness"* **Matthew 8:12:** *"but the sons of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* Pastors and all believers have a responsibility to share this truth and propose the "cure." We, and pastors, must confront difficult topics with those willing to listen, explaining that this is the illness God says we have. We are all born with a disease called sin, a spiritual sickness that separates humanity from God and will lead to spiritual death (hell) if not "cured". Thankfully, there is a remedy to avoid hell. God offers us reconciliation with Him so that we never have to experience hell. That reconciliation was made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, His Son. Jesus, the One who warned us about hell so often, is also the One who saves us from hell. Jesus told us, **John 14:6:** *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."* Through faith in Christ, anyone can be reconciled to God. Jesus gives the promise, **John 5:24:** *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."* If you haven't trusted Him yet, don't wait any longer. Turn to Him today, because there will be a time when it will be too late.