

Introduction:

Mark 9.42-48. Jesus taught more on hell than anyone else in the Bible. He tells us of its punishment, *Matthew 25.30; 10.28.* There were at least two ways Jesus stressed how bad hell will be. The first by talking about its torment, *Luke 16.23-24.* Jesus used words such as fire and brimstone, torment, eternal punishment, etc. Second, what we should do so as to not go there. Our passage in *Mark 9* hell is so bad we should be willing to give up and even suffer in order to escape hell.

I) The Eternal Nature of Hell.

A) **The worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.**

1. Gehenna- place outside of Jerusalem.
 - a. Garbage dump- smell of rotting animals, human waste, rotting food scraps, etc.
 - b. Fire used to burn up the trash.
 - c. Place of worms and bug eating that which was not burned up.
 - d. Also a place in the Old Testament where children were sacrificed to the idols.
2. Hell is comparable in the sense our soul is eternal, the fire will not go out because our soul will never cease to exist. The worm will not die because it eats on that which is eternal, our soul.

B) **This is figurative way to describe hell.**

1. The people of Jerusalem knew about Gehenna and how disgusting place it was.
2. Another picture is painted for us in *Revelation 14.9.13*.

II) Jesus Says To Cut Off and Pluck Out

A) You determine what you will do.

1. Others may tempt you but ultimately you are responsible for what you do.
2. Don't "let" something or someone to come between you and God.
3. There will be no comfort in knowing those who caused you to be lost will also be suffering, *Mark 9.42*.

B) Do not give someone or something the power to control you

1. Drugs and the drug dealer, covetousness and the merchant, idolatry and the temple priest, etc.
2. God's words to Cain, still holds true today, *Genesis 4.7*.

III) Don't "Let" Someone or Something Cause to Be Lost.

A) Some will allow sexual sins to come between them and God.

1. Common today for young people to "live together" without marriage, *Hebrews 13.4*.
2. Many a marriage has ended because one person desires somebody besides their spouse, *Mark 10.12; Luke 16.18*.

- a. Most of the time the person leaves their spouse and never repents of their sin. They die in a lost condition.
- b. In such cases they have "let" someone to draw them away from their marriage and God.

B) Don't "let" a brother or sister in Christ cause you to be lost.

1. Christians can and should be a great source of encouragement, *Hebrews 10.24*.
2. But some get their feelings hurt – a personal slight, they did not shake my hand, did not speak to be, etc.
3. Most of the time they did not and still do not know why you left the Lord. *Matthew 5.23-24; 18.15-17* would solve these problems.
4. But instead of doing what the Bible says they pick up and leave the Lord.

C) Hypocrites in the church.

1. They see a Christian sin and it can be discouraging.
2. Maybe they are struggling with sin and need your help, *Galatians 6.1-2*.
3. Maybe they are being hypocritical and need to be reproved.
4. Ironically, they will not go to "church" with a hypocrite but they will spend eternity with them in hell.

5. Remember it would be better to suffer here than in hell.

D) False teachers can cause you to be lost, *Romans 16.17*.

1. You must study to find out for yourself what is in the scriptures, *2 Timothy 2.15*.
2. Many have been drawn away because they trusted in the man and not the Bible.
3. You must cast off whatever will cause you to be lost.

E) Ungodly friends, *Proverbs 1* describes those who would entice you.

1. *1 Corinthians 15.33* speaks of this also.
2. Be careful who you associate with and what they want you to do.
3. Don't "let" them cause you to be lost.

F) A preacher you might not like.

1. Did not like how they taught on a subject, their attitude.
2. They hurt my feelings
3. James warns all teachers about their teaching and responsibilities, *James 3.1-2*.
4. You are to follow Christ, follow the preacher only as long as he is following Christ, *1 Corinthians 11.1*.

Conclusion:

You are responsible for what you do. Don't allow something or one to cause you to be lost.