

# #Why Death is a "Luxury" That Doesn't Exist in Hell

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

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We spend our entire lives running from death. We view it as the ultimate enemy. We exercise, we take vitamins, we wear seatbelts, and we pray for protection, all to avoid the grave. The human survival instinct is the strongest force in our biology.

But there is a strange paradox that occurs in the human experience when suffering reaches a certain threshold.

When a person is in excruciating physical pain—perhaps trapped in a burning building or suffering from a terminal, agonizing disease—their relationship with death changes.

They stop fearing death and start *\*desiring\** it.

In those moments of extreme torment, death stops looking like a monster and starts looking like a friend. It looks like an Exit Door. It looks like relief. It looks like the "off switch" to the pain.

We often take for granted the biological mercies God has built into our current existence.

\* If you are in too much pain, your body goes into shock and you pass out. That is a mercy.

\* If you are exhausted, you fall asleep. That is a mercy.

\* If the body takes too much damage, you die. That is the ultimate biological mercy. It is the cessation of sensation.

But the Bible describes a reality where this specific mercy is removed. It describes a place where the "off switch" has been disabled.

Revelation 9:6 paints one of the most terrifying pictures in all of Scripture:

"During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them."

We often define Hell as fire, darkness, or separation from God. All true. But perhaps the most haunting definition of Hell is simply this: The place where death is no longer an option.

In Hell, death would be the greatest luxury imaginable. To cease to exist would be a lottery win. But it is a luxury that is eternally denied.

Today, we are going to walk through the heavy theology of the "Second Death." We are going to examine the 7 Reasons Why Death is a Luxury in Hell. This is not to scare you for the sake of fear; it is to make you run to the Cross with a renewed sense of gratitude. Because Jesus tasted this "deathless death" so that you would never have to.

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Number 1: The Design of the Resurrected Body — Built to Burn, Not to Ash

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To understand why death doesn't exist in Hell, we must first understand the doctrine of the Resurrection.

Most people think only Christians get resurrected. The Bible teaches that everyone gets resurrected.

John 5:28-29 says, *"A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned."*

Currently, your body is mortal. It is fragile. If you put your hand in a fire, the nerves burn, the flesh consumes, and eventually, the hand turns to ash and stops feeling. The damage destroys the receiver of the pain.

But in the resurrection, the wicked are given Immortal Bodies.

These are bodies designed for eternity. They are indestructible. They cannot get sick, they cannot age, and—crucially—they cannot disintegrate.

This changes the physics of judgment.

In our current world, fire consumes fuel. Once the log is burned, the fire goes out.

But in Hell, the body is like the Burning Bush that Moses saw: "It was on fire, but it was not consumed." (Exodus 3:2).

Imagine a nervous system that is heightened to feel everything, but removed of the capacity to go into shock.

Imagine a body that can feel the full weight of God's holiness as fire, but never turns to ash.

The luxury of death is the luxury of "falling apart." When you die, you fall apart, and the sensation stops.

But in Hell, the sinner is given a body that is engineered to endure. They are given the hardware of eternity to pay a debt of eternity. The tragedy of the lost is that they possess the power of an endless life (Hebrews 7:16), but without the connection to the Source of Life. They are an engine running forever on the fuel of their own destruction.

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## Number 2: The Removal of "Common Grace" — The End of Sleep

We live in a world saturated with what theologians call "Common Grace."

Common grace is the goodness of God that He showers on everyone, regardless of whether they love Him or hate Him.

Jesus said, *"He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."* (Matthew 5:45).

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- \* The atheist gets to enjoy a delicious steak.
- \* The dictator gets to enjoy a beautiful sunset.
- \* The criminal gets to enjoy a refreshing glass of cold water.
- \* And everyone gets to enjoy Sleep.

Sleep is a "micro-death." It is a temporary suspension of consciousness. No matter how bad your day was, no matter how broken your heart is, you can eventually lay your head down and escape reality for 8 hours. Sleep is a buffer. It is a daily dose of mercy.

Hell is the specific removal of Common Grace.

Revelation 14:11 says, *"And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night..."*

Imagine the psychological torture of insomnia, multiplied by eternity.

Imagine wanting to close your eyes and just "check out" for ten minutes, but being unable to.

The luxury of death is the luxury of Unconsciousness.

In Hell, the soul is fully awake. Hyper-aware.

There is no "drifting off." There is no "fading to black."

The sinner is stripped of every buffer. They are wide awake to their reality, forever.

When we attend funerals, we write "R.I.P." (Rest In Peace) on the tombstone. We view death as a "Rest."

But for those outside of Christ, death is the end of all rest. It is the beginning of the eternal "all-nighter." The removal of sleep is the removal of the escape hatch.

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## Number 3: The Suicide of the Soul — The Wish That Can't Come True

One of the darkest realities of the human experience is suicide. It is the tragic final attempt of a person to take control of their suffering by ending their consciousness. It is the belief that "Non-existence is better than this existence."

In Hell, the spirit of suicide will likely be rampant, but the *\*act\** of suicide will be impossible.

You cannot kill a spirit.

God breathed His breath into man (Genesis 2:7), and man became a living soul. That breath cannot be un-breathed. You are an eternal being. You had a beginning, but you have no end.

This is why Jesus warns in Matthew 10:28: *"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."*

Man can end biological functions. Man cannot end ontological existence.

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Imagine the frustration of a soul that wants to self-destruct but cannot.

They might cry out to the mountains, *"Fall on us and hide us!"* (Revelation 6:16).

They are begging for annihilation. They are begging to be crushed into nothingness.

But the mountains will not fall. The existence will not dissolve.

The "luxury" of death is the idea that you can opt-out.

In Hell, there is no opt-out clause. You are obligated to exist.

This is why C.S. Lewis described Hell as a door that is locked from the inside. The soul curls in on itself, wanting to be its own god, but finding that being its own god is a universe of torture. It wants to destroy itself, but it is held in existence by the very God it rejected.

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Number 4: The Time Distortion — The Horror of the word "Forever"

Death is a punctuation mark. It puts a period at the end of the sentence of pain.

If you have a root canal, it hurts, but you know it will end in 45 minutes. The hope of the "End" makes the pain bearable.

Hope is functionally defined as "the expectation of a better future."

But what happens when you remove the concept of "Future"?

What happens when you remove the clock?

Hell is the entrance into the Eternal Now.

There are no calendars in the Lake of Fire. There are no weekends. There are no holidays.

This creates a psychological environment of Hopelessness.

The sign above Dante's Inferno read: *"Abandon all hope, ye who enter here."*

Why? Because hope requires change, and Hell is the state of permanent, unchangeable reality.

The luxury of death is that it marks a transition.

In Hell, there are no more transitions.

When a prisoner is given a life sentence, they mark the days on the wall. Why? Because counting gives them a sense of progress.

In eternity, you cannot mark the wall. A million years is not a "dent" in eternity. A billion years is not "progress." You are no closer to the end after a trillion years than you were when you started.

This realization—that "this will never, ever, ever stop"—is a form of mental torment that we cannot comprehend.

It is the death of Hope. And the death of Hope is far worse than the death of the body.

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## Number 5: The Memory Loop — The Worm That Dieth Not

Jesus used a very specific, gruesome image to describe Hell in Mark 9:48:

**"Where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched."**

Historically, this referred to the Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna), a garbage dump outside Jerusalem where maggots (worms) constantly ate the rotting flesh and fires constantly burned the trash.

But theologically, many scholars believe the "Worm" refers to the Conscience and the Memory.

When a person dies on earth, their brain decomposes. Their memories fade.

But in the afterlife, the memory is perfectly preserved.

In Luke 16, Abraham says to the Rich Man in Hell: "Son, remember."

That might be the two scariest words in the Bible.

"Remember."

\* Remember the gospel tract you threw away.

\* Remember the sermon you slept through.

\* Remember the grandmother who prayed for you.

\* Remember the times the Holy Spirit tugged on your heart and you said "Not yet."

The "Worm" is the gnawing regret of the conscience. It eats at you from the inside.

"I didn't have to be here. I chose this. The door was open."

The luxury of death is Amnesia. When you are dead (biologically), you don't remember your failures.

In Hell, you cannot forget. The tape loop of your rejection of Grace plays over and over and over.

You cannot kill the memory. You cannot silence the conscience. You are forced to review the evidence of your own guilt for eternity. The courtroom never closes.

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## Number 6: The Isolation — The Death of Community

There is a foolish joke people make: "I want to go to Hell; that's where all my friends will be. We'll have a party."

This is a lie. There are no parties in Hell.

There is no friendship in Hell.

Hell is the place of Outer Darkness (Matthew 22:13).

Sin, by its very nature, is selfish. It curves inward.

Hell is the final, fully matured state of sin. It is a place of utter, absolute selfishness.

C.S. Lewis suggested that Hell is a vast, gray city where everyone lives millions of miles apart

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because they cannot stand each other.

When you are in deep pain, you don't want to talk. You don't want to hang out. You retreat into yourself.

Imagine a place where every being is fully consumed with their own agony and regret. There is no camaraderie. There is no shared suffering. There is only solitary confinement.

The luxury of death on earth is that we often die surrounded by family. We die holding hands. We die with connection.

The Second Death is a solitary event.

You are cut off from God, and you are cut off from others.

You are trapped inside the prison of your own ego, which you spent your whole life building. You wanted to be independent from God? Hell is the granting of that wish. It is total independence. And it is total loneliness.

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Number 7: The Presence of God — The Fire of Truth

Finally, we must correct a theological misconception. We often say, "Hell is the absence of God." But God is Omnipresent. He is everywhere. Psalm 139:8 says, *"If I make my bed in the depths (Sheol), you are there."*

So, how is God present in Hell?

He is present in His Justice, but absent in His Mercy.

In Heaven, God is a Fire that warms and illuminates.

In Hell, that same Fire burns and consumes.

It is the same God, experienced through a different relationship.

To the believer, God is the Sun of Righteousness. To the unbeliever, God is a Consuming Fire (Hebrews 12:29).

The "Fire" of Hell is not necessarily a physical fire like a campfire; it is the fire of Truth.

It is the raw, unfiltered exposure to the Holiness of God.

On earth, we can hide from God. We can hide behind our money, our reputation, our lies.

The luxury of death is that we can hide in the grave.

In Hell, there is no place to hide. You are naked before the Truth.

You are forced to see yourself exactly as God sees you, without the covering of the Blood of Jesus.

That exposure—that burning shame—is the torment.

You want to die to escape His gaze, but you cannot. You are locked in a room with the Truth, and you have become a Lie.

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Conclusion: The Exit That Jesus Opened

Why share such a heavy, terrifying message? Is it just to be morbid?

No. It is to make the Cross of Jesus Christ the most beautiful thing you have ever seen.

Jesus Christ went to the Garden of Gethsemane, and He looked into the cup of God's Wrath.

He saw the Second Death. He saw the eternity of Hell compressed into a single moment.

And He drank it.

On the Cross, Jesus screamed, *"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"*

In that moment, the Father removed Common Grace. He removed the comfort. He turned His face away.

Jesus experienced the "Second Death" so that you would only have to experience the "First Death" (physical death).

He took the hopelessness so you could have Hope.

He took the thirst so you could have Living Water.

He took the isolation so you could be adopted.

Because of Jesus, death has been transformed for the believer.

For the Christian, death is not a wall; it is a door.

It is not an end; it is a beginning.

It is not a "Second Death"; it is "Eternal Life."

The Exit Door of Hell is locked. But the Entrance Door to Heaven is wide open right now.

It is unlocked by the blood of the Lamb.

Do not rely on death to be your savior. Death is a terrible savior.

Rely on Jesus. He conquered death, He holds the keys, and He is inviting you to life.

"I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." (Revelation 1:18)