



## *Wells of Salvation Ministries*

Sermon Outline 16      Author: Edmund E. Wells

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### “Why You Are Not In Hell”

Scripture – 2 Peter 3:1-14      Text – 2 Peter 3:10

**Introduction:** By all rights, the human family should be firmly and finally entrenched in the eternal regions of outer darkness. Man’s violation of God’s first commandment doomed him to death. Why did he not enter hell immediately? All men since have sinned and come short – I have; you have – why are we not in hell today? Think of your past misdeeds, your former wickedness. Perhaps your present plans for committing further evil, then consider the question, "Why am I not in hell?" You are not there because of the:

#### I. Day Of Life

1. Gift of God
  - A. God planned man
  - B. God made man
    - a. Shaped him
    - b. Gave him of His breath
2. Extended by Him
  - A. Job – breath in His hand
  - B. Often heals body
    - a. Not a one here but what has recovered from some sickness, or narrowly averted some accident
3. Why?
  - A. God desired creature to love Him by choice
  - B. God not a sadist

#### II. Delay Of Love

1. God’s Attitude
  - A. Not willing any should perish
  - B. No pleasure in death of wicked
  - C. Desires our fellowship
    - a. That we repent – turn to Him
  - D. Desires our good
    - a. Romans 8:28
2. God’s Action
  - A. Delayed execution in Eden
    - a. Accepted substitute in beasts
  - B. Extended stay of execution
    - a. Continued acceptance of substitutes – sacrificial animals
  - C. Pardoned
    - a. Accepted perfect substitute

- (1) Gave up Heaven's perfect joy to come to earth
- (2) Gave up Earth's imperfect joy to go to grave
- (3) Was lifted up to heights after volunteering to die
- D. Urges man's acceptance of pardon
  - a. Many for some imagined reason or some foolish excuse refuse (Men invited to feast, Man and Governor)
    - (1) Loss of pleasure – can't compare with that to be obtained
    - (2) Receipt of terrible hardships – can't be compared with that awaiting the lost

### III. Destruction Of Lost

- 1. After repeated refusals of God's mercy
  - A. Habit of saying "no" formed
    - a. Past exhibits no fearful consequences
      - (1) No tragedy resulted
      - (2) Another opportunity has always followed
  - B. God must and will eventually accept your answer as final
    - a. "Ephraim joined to idols"
- 2. In fullness of God's time
  - A. Antediluvians – 120 years
  - B. Canaanite nations – four generations from Abraham
    - a. Genesis 15:16 – "for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full"
  - C. Sodom, Gomorrah – after years of prosperity – about 500 years
  - D. Saul – about 40 years
  - E. Judas – less than three years
  - F. Ananias, Saphira – perhaps a matter of a few hours
  - G. For You -- ?

**Conclusion:** (Text) The day of the Lord will come for you! Only His longsuffering keeps you from hell this minute. Will you seek safety in His forgiveness now? You are not in hell because God, in His Love, wanted to give you this chance to repent.