
Packing Tips For the Trip to Hell

We are all acquainted with losing something. Loss brings disappointment because we miss it. We miss an appointment, phone call, plane, favorite TV show, etc. and feel a sense of loss. Yet, we hope to make up for these losses. All losses are not easy to make up, for example, the tax deadline on April 15th or a court appointment. Even worse, what if you miss heaven? If you miss going to Heaven you have missed all there is and lost all there will ever be.

Most people miss things because they fail to make proper preparations. No one plans to miss Heaven, but many will because they failed to plan. In a sense, if you do not plan to go to Heaven you are planning not to go, or you are in effect planning to go to Hell.

The Bible makes it clear that some will miss Heaven. Jesus said, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"* (Matt. 7:21). Those who refuse

to obey God have no hope of Heaven in contrast with those who keep God's commandments. *"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city"* (Rev. 22:14).

When you plan to go somewhere you start packing suitable items for the trip. If you are packing for the trip to Heaven there are some things you will need and some things you will not need. However, if you are not planning on going to Heaven then you might want to get packing for Hell.

First, bring a *powerful flashlight*. The wicked are known to love darkness on this side of the grave (John 3:17-21), but they are really going to experience blackness of darkness forever in Hell: *"raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever"* (Jude 13). The preaching of the apostles was to *"call men out of darkness, into his marvelous light"* (1 Pet. 2:9), delivering them from the power of darkness, and translating them into Christ's kingdom of light (Col. 1:13). Yet if you love the darkness in life you will never see the light of Heaven in death.

Hell is described as *"a lake of fire"* (Rev. 20:15). So, you might want to

bring a *fire proof boat*.

Although there may be a lake, there will be no water. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus the rich man could not find even a drop of water for relief. So he called to Abraham, *"Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame"* (Luke 16:24). Better bring a tanker of *water*.

In the parable of the talents the one talent man who neglected to prepare for the master's return was cast out into the outer darkness where *"there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"* (Matt. 25:30). The term "gnash" means "to grind the teeth together" according to Webster. The gnashing and biting of a wounded animal. If you value your teeth it sounds like you need to bring a *mouth guard*.

Go ahead and pack plenty of *pain reliever*. The punishment of Hell is so painful that it would be better to lose a hand or pluck out an eye, than for the whole body to be cast into Hell (Matt. 5:29,30). Of the wicked, Jesus said, *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life"* (Matt. 25:46).

Next to pain reliever bring a lot of *first aid cream* with you. Hell is a place where there will be burning (Matt.

13:40).

Since there will be a great deal of pain in Hell you can also expect weeping (Matt. 25:30). Vine's says that weeping is "any loud expression of grief." It would be wise to pack a good pair of *ear plugs*.

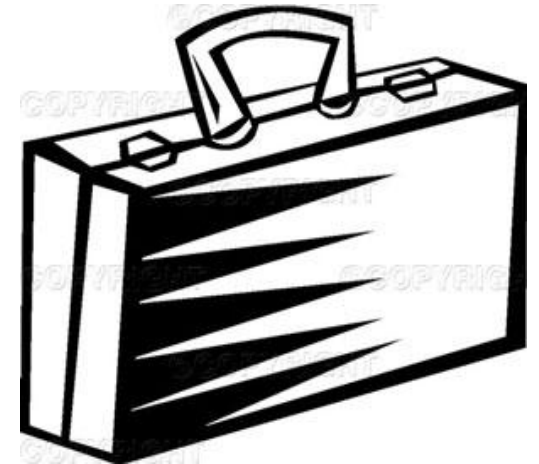
While at the drug store you want to pick up a big *bottle of sleeping pills*. Hell is a place where there is no rest. The wicked "*shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night*" (Rev. 14:10,11).

Finally, bring your *regrets*. The rich man regretted that he could not warn his brothers about the place of torment (Lk. 16:27,28). You may spend eternity regretting that you never stepped out into the aisle at church to be baptized into Christ during the invitation song, or all the times you neglected to come forward in repentance, confessing your sins. Life is filled with so many regrets why would anyone want to pack them for eternity?

The good news in Christ is that you do not have to pack any of these things to prepare for your trip to Heaven. No aspirin or ear plugs are needed

because in heaven God will wipe away all tears, and we will sing songs of praise to God with the saints of all ages. Forget about towing a fire proof boat or hauling water, because the river flows with the water of life from the throne of God. Heaven will be a place of rest, so leave the sleeping pills behind. Do not bother packing a flashlight because God is the light of heaven, and there is no night there. When you arrive at the gates of Heaven you will leave all your regrets behind. So, instead of packing for Hell, you better get packing for Heaven, today!

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Your are Invited to attend the

Forum Terrace Church of Christ

which meets at

**2446 Arkansas Lane
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052**

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Internet: **www.fourmterrace.com**

Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:30 am

Worship Service.....10:30 am

Worship Service.....5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:30 pm