



## Sermon Notes: The Great Divorce

### 1. There's a great reversal.

- a. The rich man loses everything and is tormented.
- b. The poor man gains everything and is comforted.

### 2. There's a great punishment.

- a. It's fiery.
- b. It's final.
- c. It's fair.
  - 1) Hell is always freely chosen.
  - 2) Hell is your freely chosen false identity going on forever.

### 3. There's a great Savior.

Theme: Until you accept the full awfulness of hell, you'll never appreciate the full awesomeness of salvation through the free grace of Jesus Christ.

- a. Jesus took the full punishment our sins deserve.
- b. Jesus invites us to be rescued through repentance and faith.



## Application Questions: The Great Divorce

1. Prior to this message, what had you heard about hell? How did you picture it?
2. What does our culture believe about hell? What is the basis for these beliefs?
3. What's your gut reaction when you read in Scripture that hell is a place of eternal, conscious anguish in an unquenchable fire? [Follow-up: Which seems more horrible to you: your sin or what God says is the consequence of your sin?]
4. In *God in the Dock*, C.S. Lewis wrote: "It is not a question of God 'sending us' to hell. In each of us there is something growing, which will BE hell unless it is nipped in the bud."
  - What do the biblical symbols of fire and darkness suggest hell does to people?
  - What in each of us is producing those same outcomes?
  - What does this have to do with Romans 1:24, 26, 28?
  - How is this illustrated in the parable in Luke 16?
5. C.S. Lewis called hell "*the greatest monument to human freedom.*" Tim Keller wrote, "*All God does in the end with people is give them what they most want, including freedom from himself. What could be more fair than that?*" (*The Reason for God*)
  - How do these statements invite you to think about hell differently than the pop-culture view of God hurling people into hell while they cry out for mercy?
  - How do you see this illustrated in the parable in Luke 16?
6. How does accepting the full awfulness of hell help you appreciate both the means and the reality of your salvation from it?
7. What would you be willing to change or sacrifice to see God use you (personally) and Grace City to rescue more people from a Christ-less eternity through the hope of the Gospel? Is there anything you would not be willing to change or sacrifice for this end goal?
8. What one specific thing will you do with this message?