

Get rid of anything that will lead you to Hell!

Little 10-year -old **Timmy** was helping out in **his dad's machine shop** one Saturday, when he got hurt in a terrible accident.

His left hand got caught in some **machine gears** and was severely mangled. They rushed him to the hospital **but the doctors** were unable to repair it ... **so they amputated** his hand.

When he awoke after surgery, **his Mom and Dad** were there in the room with him and **they were** beside themselves with grief at Timmy's loss of his hand.

Then **Timmy** made the remark, "*It's ok ... I won't be needing my hand in Heaven!*"

Wow! What a **graced remark!**

What **an insightful thing** for a **10-year-old** to even think of ... and believe.

What **a comforting thing** for his **troubled Parents** to hear him say.

It's ok ... I won't be needing my hand in Heaven!

Not only did **Timmy's remark** indicate he had **every intention** of getting to Heaven, but it **also** showed that he had **the understanding** ... that he wouldn't be needing **his body parts** in order to live there!

How true that is!

You see, **once we're in Heaven**, we won't need **anything at all** ... for we'll be with **Almighty God** ... who is *all in all*.

We won't need **anything physical** ...
we won't need our **eyes** or our **ears** or our **tongue** or our **nose**
we won't need our **hands** or our **feet**

Because **our immortal soul** will be united with **God** who is **pure Spirit**.

And our existence will become **one of sheer happiness**
because **we** will be with **Him who is ... Love Itself**.

So again, there is **no part of our body** that we will ever need **for Heaven**.

Understanding this will help us to process what **Jesus** tells us in the **Gospel** today.

In these **8 verses** from **Mark**, we hear Jesus speak about Heaven and Hell.

In **what ratio** did you hear Him speak?

He speaks once about **Heaven** ... and **three times** about **Hell!**

He says, “*Anyone who gives you a cup of water because you belong to Christ ... will surely not lose his reward.*”
making a clear reference to Heaven.

And **then Jesus speaks three times** of **how sin will send us into Gehenna**,
making a clear reference to Hell.

It sounds like Jesus absolutely does not want us to go to Hell.

Do you believe Hell exists? Yes or no?

If you even hesitate answering that question, **then let me ask you this:**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? Hopefully you’re here because you do.

Well, Jesus Christ ... spoke about Hell. So, **Hell exists!**

The word Jesus used today is the Hebrew word “Gehenna” ...
a word that **the Jews used to refer to a place of**
eternal torment and suffering for the damned.

What does eternal mean? It means never ending!

Today Jesus describes Gehenna as the place:
“where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

Here He uses the very words the Prophet Isaiah used 500 years before Jesus
when Isaiah ended his book of the Bible saying, “*They shall go out and see the*
corpses of the men who rebelled against me; their worm shall not die, nor their fire
be extinguished; and they shall be abhorrent to all mankind.” (Isa. 66:24)

This is **Gehenna** ... the place of unquenchable and perpetual fires.
Jesus speaks of it 12 times in the **New Testament**.

Yet, there are **people today who deny that Hell exists** ...
which is their way of saying that Hell is too horrible a place to even think about!

And so ... **many people don’t!**

But that's not good! We need to think about Hell: Jesus wants us to think about Hell.

Why? ... so we avoid it!

Consider this: if you were a golfer playing a new course, you'd appreciate the Caddie telling you where **all the hazards were ... like **the pond** that is dog leg right.**

Why? So you can avoid it!

So you can do everything in your power to keep from ending up in the hazard.

It's the same with Hell ... it's **an awful hazard ... and you need to know it's there so you can do everything in your power to miss it and stay on the way to Heaven.**

Yes, Hell exists ... **whether you believe in it or not.**

We acknowledge that Hell exists each time we profess our **Creed and say:**

"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead."

If everyone went to Heaven, there wouldn't be any need for **judgment would there?**

Our Catechism puts it this way:

"We can only be united with God if we freely choose to love Him. But we cannot love God if we sin gravely: against Him, against our neighbor or against ourselves. To die in Mortal sin without repenting and without accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from Him forever by our own free choice."

So now you've heard today from Sacred Scripture & Sacred Tradition; **Hell exists!**

How many Mortal sins does it take to go to Hell? **One!**

Don't kid yourself into thinking that just because you're doing several things **good ... that **the grave sin you're also doing** won't send you to Hell.**

It will!

Mortal sin cuts you off from Diving Life!

Consider those **strings of Christmas Lights that you'll be pulling out in **2 months** to light your **Christmas Tree** and outdoor **Bushes**. **Some of those sets of lights** are wired in series which means that if one light goes out ... they all go out.**

How many **bad lights does it take to cut off power to the whole set? **One!****

One bad light brings darkness to the whole set of 50!

It's the same with the Soul.

While Venial Sins weaken the **flow of Divine Life in us ...**

one Mortal Sin cuts off the **flow of Divine Life** in us!
(Adultery, Fornication, Masturbation, Killing, Stealing, Doing Drugs, Missing Mass)

If we die in **Mortal Sin**, we will be cut off from God forever ...
our soul will be in **Hell**.

So awful would this be for us ... **that Jesus** who died to redeem us,
tells us to take drastic action to insure we don't commit **Mortal sins**.

Today, **He** warns us to turn away from whatever it is that causes us to **sin** ...
to the degree that we **would literally** cut off any part of our body
that continues to cause us to fall into sin.

Hell must be **unbelievably awful** for **Jesus** to suggest such drastic action as this.

Hear how Jesus describes Hell ... He calls it ... unquenchable fire!

Those **poor residents in California** have been battling Forest fires for weeks now
and they've suffered significant damage to their **homes** and **property**.
But one day soon ... **those fires** will go out ... they will end.

Damage has been done ... **but the fires** will finally be put out.

Not so in Hell! There the fire is **unquenchable** ... it will never go out!
How horrible!

This indicates that there will be **actual sensory suffering** in **Hell** ... and that **those parts of our body** that caused us to sin will be burned in a never-ending fire.

Jesus warns us that **we don't want to go to Hell**.
And **He** tells us to take whatever action is necessary
to insure that we don't end up there.

Today, Jesus tells us to cut off those body parts that make us fall into sin.

Is your **foot** taking you to **places** where you can get **alcohol** or **drugs**
so that you can get **drunk** or **high**

- **Cut it off** ... for it's better to enter **Heaven** with 1 foot than enter **Hell** with 2!

Is your **hand** causing you to steal things or to abuse others?

- **Cut it off** ... for it's better to enter **Heaven** with 1 hand than enter **Hell** with 2!

Is your **eye** causing you to look at **pornography** so that your heart is filled with lust
and you **perform impure acts**?

- **Pluck it out** for it's better to enter **Heaven** with 1 eye than enter **Hell** with 2!

Please recognize **how serious this is.**

Some people, like 10-year -old Timmy, lose parts of their body by accident.

**But Jesus is telling us ... to get rid of a body part by intention ...
any body part that is ... that is causing us to commit mortal sin!**

We need to stop doing whatever is sinful ... because **to continue in sin
is jeopardizing our chance for **Heaven** ... and assuring our arrival in **Hell.****

Fear works for me! I believe in Hell and I don't want to go there!

And it's not just the fire that motivates me to avoid it at all costs ... it's **the fact** that
I'd be in eternal torment knowing that I was offered Heaven and ended up in Hell!

That's a regret that will **never ever** go away ...
there, you'll have **forever** to consider the fact that:
God offered you Heaven and you ended up in Hell

You know, they say there's **a difference** between Northern and **Southern** Baptists.
The **Northern** Baptist says, "*There ain't no hell.*"
And the **Southern** Baptist says, "*Hell there ain't!*"

Southern Baptists believe in Hell ... and we Catholics believe in Hell too!

Jesus spoke of it ... and we believe Him.

Hell is nothing to kid about. Hell is real! Hell exists!
And **Hell** is the eternal destiny for those who sin gravely against God.

**If you believe in Hell, then you're on the road to avoiding it, because you'll make
decisions and **choices** that will insure that you don't go there.**

But if you don't believe in Hell, then you're a **sitting duck for the devil,
who delights in people not believing in Hell, because
then they'll act as if there were no bad eternal consequences to what they do.**

Let's take heed of **Jesus' warnings** and beg for the grace to turn away from sin,
to cut off and pluck out any body parts that lead you to sin.

Because as little Timmy told us, *you won't be needing them in Heaven!*