



## *Pastor's Comments*

In large print at:  
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### **Smoking or Nonsmoking?**

Years ago, I put the following ad on Service Electric TV2: **“Think about this: Where Will You Spend Eternity – Smoking or Nonsmoking?”**

A man called in response to the ad and left a message saying he did not believe that “scare tactics” like this are the most effective representation of Christ’s message. He said, “I find it disconcerting as a developed believer.” Many today say they believe in **heaven** as the Bible teaches, yet they utterly reject the clear references to **hell** in Scripture.

Robert Ingersoll, a famous lawyer and atheist in the latter part of the nineteenth century, once delivered a blistering lecture on **hell**. He called **hell** “scarecrow of religion” and told his audience how unscientific it was, and how all intelligent people had decided there was no such place. A drunk in the audience came up to him afterward and said, “Bob, I liked your lecture; I liked what you said about **hell**. But, Bob, I want you to be sure about it, because I’m depending upon you.”

Jesus spoke of the reality of **hell**, **“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”** (Matthew 10:28). He did not hesitate to confront hypocrites with this truth, **“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”** (Matthew 23:33)

On an American troopship, the soldiers crowded around their chaplain asking, “Do you believe in **hell**?” “I do not.” “Well, then will you please resign, for if there is no **hell**, we do not need you, and if there is a **hell**, we do not wish to be led astray.”

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