

Heaven & Hell

Hell & the Believer

Mortification of sin

Matthew 5:29-30: "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

E. Donnelly: "If you want to assure yourself that God has saved you from hell, then set to work killing your sins. Aim at a lifetime of conscious scrupulous obedience. Determine in your heart to turn away from wrongdoing, to wrestle against temptation. Read the Bible, seek God in prayer, listen to the preaching of the Word, cultivate Christian fellowship. Avoid everything that takes you from God."

Psalms 119:37: "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity: and quicken me in thy way."

Romans 8:13: "If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live."

John Owen: "Be killing sin, or it will be killing you."

Contentment of heart

Contentment says: "I know God has given me everything I need to be happy." It also says: "I am satisfied with what He has brought me in my life. The Lord knows exactly what I need and I rest in His care and provision."

Jeremiah Burroughs: "To be well skilled in the mystery of Christian contentment is the duty, glory and excellence of a Christian."

Discontentment is a poor witness in this world, and it robs the children of God of happiness and peace of mind. Illustration: Asaph in Psalm 73.

Love to Christ

God's people who are forgiven much also love much (Luke 7:47). But what did it cost Christ to save his people? It cost Him hell, the inexpressible anguish, pains, terrors and hellish agonies especially on the cross. The Father laid on Him the iniquity of His people and did not spare His own Son, but visited Him in judgment. He took my damnation to give me salvation. He suffered my hell to take me to heaven (Gal. 3:13; Gal. 6:14). This should humble God's people and lead to greater love to Him.

Seriousness in life

We live in a world pursuing fun, entertainment and laughter. The Lord Jesus said: blessed are they that mourn (Matt. 5:4). Christ is described as the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (Is. 53:3). Who should we imitate?

E. Donnelly: "How can we go through life giggling while millions around us are on their way to damnation? If a plague were raging, with dead bodies lying everywhere, what would you think of people who skipped lightheartedly through the corpses, laughing because they had found a cure for themselves?"

Psalm 119:136: "Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law." True, a Christian knows joy, but there is a difference between biblical joy and worldly frivolity.

E. Donnelly: "An awareness of hell should produce in us an underlying seriousness, a gravity, a realism among the lost and dying."

Zeal for evangelism

People all around us are on their way to destruction. Only the gospel will point them to the Saviour from hell: the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore the church has the calling to evangelize (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:7; 1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Tim. 1:8).

Robert Dabney: If we do not evangelize, we are in effect saying we don't believe in hell.

E. Donnelly: "The doctrine of hell should motivate us to speak out. We need to repent of our apathy and hardness of heart. We should gaze into hell until we can almost feel the pain which awaits the unconverted."

Hudson Taylor: "Men and women of England, millions are perishing at this moment. What are you doing to rescue them?"

Worship of God

Psalm 86:12: "I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and will glorify thy name forever more. For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell."

Hebrews 12:28-29: "... let us have grace, whereby we serve God acceptably, with reverence and with godly fear, for our God is a consuming fire."

Ezekiel Hopkins: "Even those who stand highest in love and favour of God and have the fullest assurance thereof and of their interest in Him as their God ought notwithstanding to fear Him as the sin-avenging God and consuming fire!"