

THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

- A. There is no such thing as annihilation, that a person, after he dies, doesn't exist anymore. People have an eternal soul, and will go to either heaven or hell.
- B. There is no such thing as purgatory, a place where people are temporarily punished before they go to heaven. That teaching is not in the Bible.
- C. Do not be flippant about this subject, or flippantly use the word hell.
- D. In our culture, people do not think about hell like they used to, and the main reason is because it is not taught in families and churches like it should be.
- E. If people do not believe in sin, or in a God who punishes sin, then they are not going to think there is a hell.
- F. There is sin, and a holy God who punishes all sin. Either you believe Jesus Christ was punished for you, or you'll be punished forever in hell and pay for your own sins.

II. 2 THESSALONIANS 1:8-9

- A. Retribution means vengeance or punishment; it is that which proceeds out of justice. God is holy and just, and He must punish all sin. Romans 12:19, Hebrews 10:30
- B. Retribution is for those who do not know God. They reject the gospel, for they do not obey God's command to repent of their sins and believe in Christ. 1 John 3:10
- C. God is just, and therefore, unbelievers will pay the penalty for their sins. James 2:10
- D. This penalty is eternal destruction which is another way to describe hell. Unbelievers will continually and eternally be destroyed, that is, eternally be punished.

III. MATTHEW

- A. Matthew 5:22. The word hell is from the Greek word Gehenna, which referred to this big garbage dump east of Jerusalem, a place that was continually burning. The way God punishes people in hell is with fire. Being burned is painful.
- B. Matthew 18:8-9. Hell is referred to as "*eternal fire*," a "*fiery hell*." Mark 9:43-48
- C. Matthew 25:41, 46. Jesus speaks of "*eternal fire*," and that it's "*eternal punishment*." A person who dies will go to hell where he will experience eternal punishment and pain, or go to heaven where he will experience eternal life.

IV. JOHN 3:16

- A. The person who believes in Jesus Christ will receive eternal life, and the person who does not believe in Jesus Christ will perish.
- B. The word perish means to destroy utterly, similar to 2 Thessalonians 1, which says that those who aren't saved will "*pay the penalty of eternal destruction*." Luke 13:3

V. OLD TESTAMENT VERSES

- A. Psalm 1:6 – *“The way of the wicked will perish.”* The Greek Septuagint
- B. Psalm 52:5 – *“God will bring you down to everlasting ruin.”*
- C. Psalm 81:5 - *“Those who hate the Lord would cringe before Him, and their punishment would last forever.”*
- D. Psalm 92:7 – *“Fools do not understand that though the wicked spring up like grass, and all evildoers flourish, they will be forever destroyed.”*
- E. Daniel 12:2 – *“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”*

VI. LUKE 16:19-31

- A. Hell is often referred to as Hades (It is called Sheol in the Old Testament).
Vines - *“the region of departed spirits of the lost.”*
- B. Hell / Hades is a place of torment, of agony, of pain, a place where there is fire.
- C. Hell is a place where there is no mercy, no letting up of the pain.
- D. There is a great separation between those in hell and those in heaven.
- E. Those in hell will not be able to escape, will not be able to get out of hell.

VII. DEGREES OF PUNISHMENT IN HELL.

- A. If a person hears a lot of truth about God and rejects Him, then he will be subject to more punishment. Matthew 11:20-23, Hebrews 10:26-31
- B. Those who are more sinful and wicked will suffer more in hell. Hitler and Stalin
- C. False teachers, those who teach lies about God, Jesus Christ, and the gospel, will be punished more severely in hell than others. Matthew 23:13-15, 33

VIII. THE LAKE OF FIRE – Revelation 20:10-15

Hades is a temporary place of punishment, but the lake of fire is permanent. Unbelievers are now cast into Hades. At the end of the millennial kingdom, all unbelievers from all time will be cast into the lake of fire. *“He will be tormented with fire and brimstone... and the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they will have no rest day and night.”* Revelation 14:9-11, Matthew 13:41-42

IX. OUR JOB IS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

We are to tell people about sin, death and hell. We are to tell people to believe in Jesus, for He’s the only One who can save people from the everlasting fires and pains of hell, and who can give people everlasting life. Matthew 28:19-20

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH,
BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. John 3:16