

THE REALITY OF HELL AND ITS PART IN THE BIBLICAL GOSPEL

*"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

1. The Rudeness of Hell

- a. It was first questioned by those who doubted the Bible.
- b. It was seen as repugnant by those who thought themselves too sensible.
- c. It was seen as unfair by those with a distorted view of sin, God, and holiness
- d. Then it was turned into metaphor for self-condemnation
- e. People think hell is metaphor, indecent, unloving, and unscientific
- f. To talk about it means you are being unkind, rude, uneducated, and bigoted.

2. Myths About Hell

- a. It is not the Greek underworld run by the god Hades
- b. It is not what you see in far side cartoons, or where "everyone knows your name"
- c. It is not a garbage pit next to Jerusalem called Gehenna
- d. Hell is not just death – Mark 9:42-48, Matt 10:27-28
- e. It is not temporary but forever – Matt 25:45-46, 26:24, Rev 14:10-11, 20:10, 21:8
- f. It is real: the Bible describes it – Job 11:8, Dan 12:2, Isa 66:22-24, John 5:28-29
- g. Jonah was there (Jon 2:2), Jesus was there (Matt 12:40, Acts 2:31)
- h. Hell is not just about the word (Sheol, Hades, Gehenna), but about the doctrine
- i. Hell is not the gospel, but you can't have the gospel without hell – 2 Thess 1:8-9

3. The Bible and Hell

- a. The first mention of hell about the product of God's anger towards sin - Deu 32:22
- b. God was said to be present even in hell, people cannot escape God – Psa 139:8
- c. Hell was made not for humanity, but for sin – Mat 25:41
- d. John the Baptist, Jesus, spoke of hell – Matt 3:12, 5:28-29, 8:10-12, 13:39-42
- e. Paul speaks of hell – 2 Thess 1:8-9, Rom 1:18, 2:5-9, 2 Cor 5:10-15, Acts 24:15

4. Eternal Torment and a Loving God

- a. How could a loving God send someone to hell for everlasting torment?
- b. God is the judge of all. Sin is a serious offense towards God – Psa 51:4, Rom 6:23
- c. The punishment is not only determined by the crime, but by the victim (God)
- d. Hell is a place of punishment, but also destruction (conquer), and separation
- e. The good news about hell, is that you don't have to go there, you can be saved
- f. God's love provided salvation from the problem we created: 2Cor 4:4, 5:21
- g. Our gospel delivers souls from this pain of being without God – Rom 5:8-11, 6:23
- h. God is not willing that any should perish - 2 Pet 3:9, 1 Tim 2:4
- i. Believe the gospel! Trust God! Choose life!