

NO HOPE IN HELL

A STUDY OF POSTMORTEM SALVATION

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope"

~ 1 Thessalonians 4:13

1. Salvation From Within Hell

- a. Universalism either comes from ignorance, Bible denial, or now, hope against hope
- b. It cannot be true at the moment of death, at final judgment, so when?
- c. 'Christian' Universalism (salvation after death): in the end (in hell) all will be saved
- d. What does God's word say about salvation from within hell? It doesn't.

2. A Dispensational Problem

- a. There is a major dispensational problem with the idea of faith after death.
- b. They preach sin as if it is the garden, and God's love as if it is heaven.
- c. 'Contradictions' about God's judgment/love are not contradictory, but dispensational
- d. Paul is not the pattern in hell, but in life, in this dispensation - 1 Tim 1:16, 1Cor 15:8
- e. Time of salvation is now, not in hell - 2 Cor 6:1
- f. Why did Jesus need to die a horrible death in suffering for a secret? 1 Cor 2:7-8
- g. God chose the foolishness of preaching to save them, not hell - 1 Cor 1:21
- h. Unbelieving Israel shown mercy through living believers not hell - Rom 11:32
- i. 2 Peter 3:6-9 - Peter says God is longsuffering, until he comes in wrath.
- j. This dispensation is longsuffering of God (not hell).
- k. They must invent a resurrection not in the Bible for the saved from hell.
- l. Universalism takes an end result (eschatology) and interprets the Bible with it.

3. Restorative Purging

- a. Universalism requires God making hell out of his grace instead of his justice.
- b. Purgatory → a Catholic doctrine that is not taught in scripture
 - i. 1 Cor 3:15 is the burning of works, not men.
 - ii. 1 Cor 15:51-52 - Our glorification happens "in a moment"
 - iii. When we die we are present with the Lord, gain - 2 Cor 5:6-9, Phi 1:21
 - iv. We are one with Christ now: his blood atones, cleanses, not us. 1 Cor 6:11
- c. For the universalist, the most effective salvation program is in hell.
- d. Death, judgment, then no more opportunity to have faith - Heb 9:27
- e. No opportunity in the grave - Ps 6:5, 88:1; Wrath hardens - Rev 9:20-21, 16:8-10
- f. God sends judgment not to soften hearts, but to harden - Jer 9:15, Isa 6:9-10
- g. Why would Paul be upset about his kinsmen if they will be saved - Rom 9:3, 10:1
- h. There is no need for the cross if hell can purge sins and cleanse you.
- i. It is no longer punishment, if it is where you will be saved.
- j. Restoration will happen when peace comes to the universe, not all are saved.

4. Endless Opportunity

- a. No Biblical example of unbeliever coming to faith after death, but the opposite.
- b. Can they escape? Luke 16:25-31, Matt 25:33, Mark 3:29, 9:44-48, Jn 3:36, 8:21,24,
- c. It is certain - Heb 10:26; end is destruction - Phi 3:19, door is shut - Luke 13:22-24
- d. What will it take? John 5:39-40, Matt 12:13-14, Jn 11:46-53
- e. How long will it take for him to come to faith? >1000 years? Rev 20:6-7, 14
- f. What is the difference between 1000 years vs 1 billion years (eon) vs for ever?
- g. No more opportunity to repent at death, your everyday choice made final. Repent!

5. No Hope in Hell

- a. There is no hope for those in the grave - Isaiah 38:18, Prov 11:7, 14:32
- b. They received not the truth, that they might be saved - 2 Thes 2:10
- c. There is no hope, because the only hope is in believing the gospel of grace (DBR)
- d. What is greater for God to suffer long or for God to end all suffering?
- e. God already sent all for us to believe - scripture, Spirit, Son, preachers, Israel, angel
- f. *What is universal?* 1) Salvation now available to all by the cross, 2) not applied to any until faith, 3) submit to God will be universal, 4) glory to God will be in his reign
- g. All universalism makes the Biblical record a sub-story of their greater system.
- h. If there is hope in hell, then it is not hell. Universalisms final hope is false.