



The Journey

Lesson #5

Do You Believe in Hell?

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What do you know about Hell?





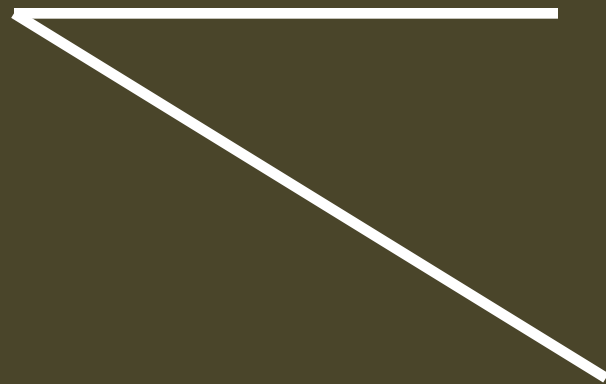
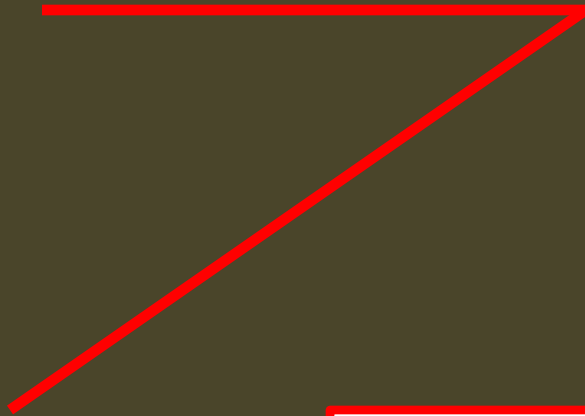
A Popular Point of View

I believe in God, but I cannot fathom the idea that he would have people tortured for eternity. It really doesn't make any sense. A punishment is meant to teach people a lesson so that they don't the same mistake again. It's not like people from other cultures or people who don't believe are evil. It sounds to me like something that was added to the bible by the church to control the masses.





Hell is a Concept and a Place.



Luke 16:19-31





□ 10 Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. 11 And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. 12 I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave[b] gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. 14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. 15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.





No One Would Choose Hell

- **Matt 8:11-12** And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven.
12 But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."





No One Would Choose Hell

- It has been said that some people choose Hell, but that makes no sense.
- When there are only two choices, and you choose against one, it does not mean that you want the other.
- No rational informed person chooses hell.





No One Would Choose Hell

- When one rejects God and His offer of salvation he is not choosing Hell because it's a better alternative.
- Such a choice, when the facts are known, is not only irrational, but it's unthinkable.
- People who make light of Hell know not of what they speak.





Is Hell Everlasting?

- **“I was led to question the traditional belief in everlasting conscious torment because of moral revulsion and broader theological considerations, not first of all on scriptural grounds. It just does not make any sense to say that a God of love will torture people forever for sins done in the context of a finite life.... It’s time for evangelicals to come out and say that the biblical and morally appropriate doctrine of hell is annihilation, not everlasting torment.” Clark Pinnock**





Is Hell Everlasting?

- What we read from Clark Pinnock is the wisdom of man trying to overcome the truth of God that he finds objectionable.
- The doctrine of Hell was not invented by man, but by Jesus.
- In the words of Jesus Hell is a place of everlasting pain, and torment.





Is Hell Everlasting?

- **Mark 9:42-48 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched — 44 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched — 46 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire — 48 where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' NKJV**





Is Hell Everlasting?

- ❑ **Math 25:41 "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."**
- ❑ **Math 25:46 "Then those on the left shall go away into eternal punishment."**






Why Don't We Talk About Hell?





Why Don't We Talk About Hell?

- It is sad that a number of years ago, certainly within the lifetime of all of us present in this room, one of the royal princesses of the realm coming out of a cathedral service in England spoke to the dean of the chapter of the cathedral, and said to him, "Is it true, dean, that there is a place called 'hell?'" To which the dean apparently replied, "Madame, the Scriptures say so, Christian people have always believed so, and the Church of England confesses so." To which she responded, "Then in God's name, why do you not tell us so?"
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Why Don't We Talk About Hell?

- Is it possible that we forget at times just exactly what we've been saved from?
- I think many times we try to persuade people to come to Christ based upon his goodness, but is that part of the argument.
- It has been my experience that no one seeks God's forgiveness through Christ until they sense the hopelessness of their condition without Him.





What About Lost Loved Ones?

- George Mueller, the British pastor who loved orphans and lived by faith in a most remarkable way, prayed daily for some people for fifty-two years. He never saw their conversion, but his biographer tells us that a couple of them were converted at his funeral.

- We can pray When we do we have great power.





What About Lost Loved Ones?

- ❑ What about unsaved loved ones who die before us? How do we handle that?
- ❑ Blessing #1 is that we rarely if never know for certain where they are.
- ❑ We live in a world where hardly anyone has been completely sheltered from the gospel – there is always hope of a ‘thief on the cross’ experience.





What About Those Who Just Can't Seem to Shed Some Sin?

- ❑ **Matt 5:29-30** If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. NKJV





What About Those Who Just Can't Seem to Shed Some Sin?

- We could understand Jesus' warnings as saying stop sinning or you will go to Hell.
- But I doubt that is the case – I think far more likely the warning is for anyone who thinks that salvation is fire insurance and nothing more.
- Salvation is not a “get out of jail free card” and a license to an unchanged life.





What About Those Who Just Can't Seem to Shed Some Sin?

- To the person who struggles all of their lives against sin the message is “thank God for the struggle”.
- The mere fact a struggle exists is strong evidence you have a new nature.
- If you have assurance you have a new nature then you just have to settle that “Eternal Security” yes or no question.





Questions

