

I. Introduction.

- A. Hell is an extremely unpopular subject.
- B. Yet deep down people know hell exists. Ro. 1:32
- C. There are many false ideas about hell.
 - 1. Some deny that there is any afterlife (materialism). Heb. 9:27
 - 2. Some think hell is where Satan reigns in a competing realm to heaven. Rev. 20:10
 - 3. Some think hell is a place where people can have a good time together. Lu. 13:28
 - 4. Some claim hell is on earth.
 - 5. Some think hell is located in the center of the earth.
 - 6. Some imagine that only the very worst people go to hell.
 - 7. Some believe the lost will have a second chance. Heb. 9:27 Luke 16:26
 - 8. Many believe in Purgatory. Lu. 23:43 Ro. 8:1 Heb. 10:12
 - 9. Some believe everyone will go to heaven. Rev. 20:14

II. What can we know about hell?

- A. Hell is a place (Sheol, Hades, Gehenna). Acts 1:25 22:13 Ps. 89:48 49:15 Prov. 5:5 Deut. 32:22 Luke 16:31 Rev. 20:13-14 Mt. 5:29 10:28 18:9 23:33
- B. Like heaven, there will be two phases of hell.
 - 1. The souls of the lost who die immediately go to an intermediate place of torment. Luke 16:23f Acts 1:25 II Pe. 2:4,9
 - 2. At Christ's return the bodies of the lost will be raised and then they will be judged and cast into the lake of fire forever. John 5:28-29 Rev. 20:11-14 Acts 24:15
- C. Hell is more awful than you can imagine. Rev. 14:11 Isa. 48:22
 - 1. Those in hell are separated from God. Mt. 22:13 8:12 25:46,41 II Th. 1:9 Pr. 11:7
 - 2. Hell is described as a place of fire. Ps. 11:6 Isa. 26:11 30:33 33:14 Nah. 1:6 Mt. 3:12 5:22 13:40-42,50 18:9 25:41 Lu. 16:24 17:29 Mk. 9:48 Re. 20:10,14-15 21:7-8 14:10-11 19:20 Dt. 32:22 He. 10:27 Jude 1:7 Nahum 1:6 Mal. 3:2
 - 3. Hell is described as a place of darkness. Mt. 25:30 22:13 II Pe. 2:4,17 Jude 1:13
 - 4. Hell is called a pit (abyss). Luke 8:31 Isa. 24:17 Rev. 9:1-2 11:7 17:8 20:10
 - 5. Hell is a place of torment, agony, shame, and sorrow. Luke 16:23,25,28 13:28 Mt. 25:30 8:12 22:13 24:15 13:42,50 Rev. 21:9-10 Rom. 2:8-9 Dan. 12:2
 - 6. There is no relief from the sufferings of hell. Mark 9:48 Isa. 66:24
 - 7. Hell is called the second death. Rev. 21:8
 - 8. Hell is an imprisonment. II Pe. 2:4,9 I Pe. 3:19 Jude 1:6 Mt. 18:35 Luke 12:58
 - 9. There is no escape or second chance. Luke 16:26 13:25-27 Heb. 9:27 Mt. 25:46
 - 10. There will be degrees of suffering/punishment. Mt. 11:20-24 II Pe. 2:14 Lu. 12:47f Rev. 18:6-7 Mark 9:42
- D. Who will go to hell? Mt. 25:41 13:41-42 Rev. 20:15 21:8 II Pe. 2:4
- E. In the day of judgment humanity will be divided. Mt.25:41 Da.12:2 Joel 3:12 He. 9:27
 - 1. No act, word, or thought is hidden from His gaze. Mt. 12:36-37 16:27 Luke 12:3 Ob. 1:15 I Jo. 3:20 Rev. 20:11-1 Ps. 94:11 Ro. 2:16 I Co. 4:5 Ecc. 12:14
 - 2. All of us are guilty and deserve condemnation. Eph. 2:3 Rom. 3:23,20
 - 3. The only escape is through God's mercy in Christ. John 14:6 Phil. 3:9 Rom. 3:24f
 - 4. The great crime of the lost will be their rejection of God. Jo. 3:18-19 12:48 Is. 66:4
 - 5. God's judgment is based upon righteousness and truth. Ps. 9:8 Ro. 2:2 Gen. 18:25

III. How can we answer objections against the biblical doctrine of hell?

A. How can a loving God cast His children into hell? I John 4:8b

1. God's love is consistent with His other glorious attributes. Isa. 6:3 Rom. 5:8
2. God's love is not defined by human sentimentality. Eph. 1:3f

B. How can hell be fair?

1. Almost everyone believes that certain sins must be avenged for God to be just. Jer. 12:1 Hab. 1:3 Rom. 12:19 2:15
2. We fail to see how great our own sin and guilt is. Rom. 3:10-23 Mt. 22:37
3. Hell is fair because God is perfectly just. Re. 18:6f 22:20 Ps. 51:4 9:7-8 Ec. 12:14
4. None in hell truly desires heaven. Dt. 30:19 John 3:19 Rom. 1:28 Isa. 66:4
5. How can those who haven't had a full and equal opportunity to hear the gospel be condemned? Rom. 1:18-20 2:15 3:10-11,18,23
6. What about infants who die? II Sam. 12:22-23
7. It is not our place to judge or argue with God. Dan. 4:35 Rom. 9:20f 11:3

C. What did Jesus say about these things?

1. Jesus spoke more of hell than heaven. Mt. 5:22,29,30 7:13 8:12 10:28 13:40-42,50 18:9 22:13 23:33 24:51 25:30,41,46 Mk. 9:43-48 Lu. 12:5 13:28 16:23-26 17:26f
2. The most terrifying descriptions of God's wrath come from our Savior's lips.
3. Jesus warns that many will be shocked in the day of judgment. Mt. 7:21-23,13-14
4. Jesus Himself faced the full terrors of God's wrath. Luke 23:42 Rom. 5:9
5. The Son will carry out God's judgment. John 5:22 Mt. 16:26-27 Rev. 6:16
6. This is why some try to remove many of Jesus' words from their Bibles.

D. Will the lost be annihilated in the final judgment? Mt. 25:46 13:40

1. Why do people believe in annihilationism? Mt. 10:28 II Th. 1:9 Ps. 37:2,10 145:20
2. The Bible teaches everlasting punishment of the wicked in hell. Mark 9:48 Mt. 8:12 25:46 Dan. 12:2 Rev. 21:11 20:10 II Th. 1:9
3. What is the harm in believing in annihilationism?

E. How can we be happy in heaven knowing that some are in hell. Rev. 18:20 Mk. 7:37

IV. Why should we proclaim the biblical doctrine of hell?

A. All Scripture is profitable. II Tim. 3:16-17 Isa. 40:8 Acts 20:27

B. Hell displays God's glorious attributes. Ps. 145:17.

1. God is the just judge. Dan. 4:37 Ps. 5:4-6 9:7-8 58:11 97:1-2 101:1 145:17 45: 6-7 Rom. 10:15 I Pe. 4:5 Mt. 10:15 Isa. 30:18 Heb. 6:1 Isa. 13:11 Dt. 1:17 Acts 17:31
2. God has wrath (holy anger) against evil. Ps. 7:11 Joel. 2:31 Rom. 2:5 Dt. 4:24 Heb. 12:29 Nahum 1:2-6 John 3:36
3. God is holy. Isa. 6:3 Ps. 99:9 I John 1:5 Hab. 1:13.
4. God is sovereign and almighty. I Chron. 29:10-11 Isa. 43:23-24
5. Hell also displays God's love and grace. Rom. 11:22 5:8 Ps. 103:10

C. The truth of hell makes us realize just how guilty we are.

D. Hell is the measure of the price Christ paid for us. Ro. 3:23-26 5:9 I Pe. 3:18 Ga. 3:13

E. The truth of divine wrath motivates the lost to repent. Mt. 3:7 10:28 Lu. 12:5 13:23f

F. The truth about hell motivates us to evangelize. Rom. 10:13-14 9:2 I Cor. 2:2,5, 9:22

V. Concluding applications.

A. You will stand before God's judgment seat and give account. Heb. 9:27 Am. 4:12

B. Turn to Christ that your sins may be blotted out. Isa. 1:18 Ps. 103:10-12 Heb. 2:3

C. Proclaim the whole counsel of God, including His holy wrath.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why is the doctrine of hell so unpopular?**
- 2. Who will be in hell?**
- 3. How would you reply to someone who says he plans to have a great time in hell?**
- 4. What would you say to someone who objects that hell is inconsistent with God's love?**
- 5. How would you answer the claim that hell is just non-existence?**
- 6. How can spending eternity in conscious torment be fair and just?**
- 7. Is it completely accurate to say "God hates the sin but loves the sinner"?**
- 8. What benefits do we gain from studying what the Bible teaches about hell?**
- 9. Why is it important to preach about God's wrath?**
- 10. How can you be sure you will not go to hell?**