

Hell - continued

Hell is Reasonable

God's justice with mankind demands a hell. God is just and cannot ignore or overlook sin (Romans 2:11).

God's love toward mankind demands a hell. God loves all mankind and he gave his Son to die on the cross for all mankind. When anyone rejects this love and sacrifice, he deserves a punishment called hell (John 3:16).

God's creation of mankind demands a hell. God created mankind with free-will and the ability to choose right and wrong, good and evil. When anyone freely chooses to do wrong and evil, this person rightly deserves to be punished in hell. And, let's not forget, all mankind are told about this place ahead of time so as to avoid it if they so choose (Matthew 23:37; Romans 2:5-10).

God's sovereignty over mankind demands a hell. God created all mankind and rules over all mankind. Because he made us, he has the right to direct our lives through his word. He also has the right to save us and to judge us in hell if we reject his salvation (Matthew 25:32,46; Revelation 20:10 – 21:8). - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Self praise is not a good recommendation.
- The Christian has to sift facts from fiction as reads through the book of life.
- There is no "spring break" from our duties and responsibilities to God.
- If you truly love God, you will respect God's word and the presentation of it.
- Money can fill your hand, but not your heart.
- Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Last week in *The Warfield Bulletin*, I wrote about “Heaven and why I want to go there”. This week, I want to consider the eternal alternative, hell. If we miss heaven, we hit hell. What does the Bible teach about hell? In particular, how can an all-loving God send anyone to hell?

Hell and Modern Culture

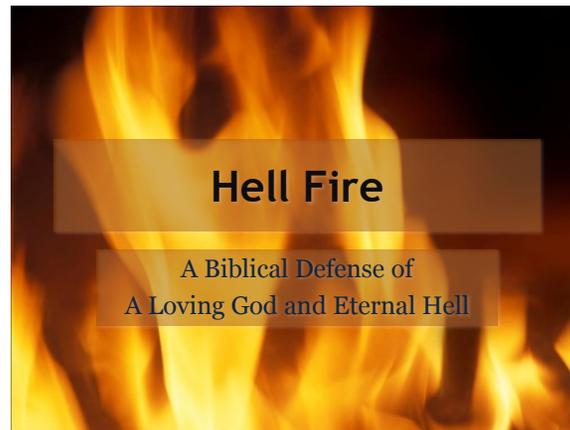
Surveys show that many people are more likely to believe in heaven than hell. (No big surprise.) Why do so many people reject hell? First, hell is contrary to their personal preference. Second, many people have a wrong concept of God’s love and the punishment of evil.

The “Problem” of Eternal Hell

Many people think that hell is a “problem”. It’s not a problem, of course, for God, but it is for them. It’s a “problem” because they don’t like the idea of eternal punishment. They ask questions like this: If God is all-loving, then why punish the wicked at all – why not rehabilitate them? If punishment is justified, then why punish the wicked for ever – why not have a temporary hell? If the wicked need punishment, why hell – why not annihi-

lation? If God is all-loving, why punish anyone – why not save everyone including the wicked? These are good questions, but they miss the real point.

Instead of accepting Bible truth, what many people have done is try to come up with alternatives to hell: rehabilitation, purgatory, annihilation, and universalism. They think they know better than God about how to treat the wicked.



Hell is Real

The fact is, hell is real. Let’s consider what Jesus and his apostles said and wrote about hell. When you read the scriptures below you will discover six truths about hell: 1) hell is real, 2) hell is a conscious existence, 3) hell is a fixed place, 4) hell is torment, 5) hell is separation from all that is good, and 6) hell is eternal.

First, Jesus affirmed the existence of hell. He said: *“And if thy hand cause thee to stumble, cut it off: it is good for thee to enter into life maimed, rather than having thy two hands to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire. And if thy foot cause thee to stumble, cut it off: it is good for thee to enter into life halt, rather than having thy two feet to be cast into hell. And if thine eye cause thee to stumble, cast it out: it is good for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell; where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched”* (Mark 9:43-47).

See also Matthew 5:22,29,30; 8:12; 10:28; 13:30,40,42,49-50; 18:8-9; 22:13; 23:15,33; 25:41,46; Luke 12:5.

Second, the apostles of Jesus affirmed the existence of hell. James wrote: *“And the tongue is a fire: the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the wheel of nature, and is set on fire by hell”* (James 3:6).

See also 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Hebrews 6:2; 2 Peter 2:4,17; Jude 7,13,22-23; Revelation 14:11; 19:20; 20:10-15; 21:8; 22:15)

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