

THE “HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN” SERIES

ROMANS 12:1-2

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

IS HELL REALLY REAL, AND WHAT IS IT LIKE? – PART 1

*A SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP, HOLINESS
AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Eternal Life, Sanctification, Growth, Hell

Romans 12:1-2

I **beseech** (urge, personally challenge, plead) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that you present** your **bodies** a living sacrifice, **holy, acceptable** to God, *which is your reasonable service.* :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now (once there was) no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,

There are pictures that come to mind when
you hear about ***the topic of Hell.***

“like the bearded old man walking about with his sign...
“repent - the end is near”

Then there’s the picture of “Dante’s Inferno” of those winged, mutated Half-devil, half-man demons with pitchforks and leotards

“Hell” is a strange topic to take on.

First of all, the word Hell is a very popular word and used freely. But very few people stop to consider that word or the possibility of Hell - until much later on in life, *but most certainly at the end of life !*

It’s an emotional topic - by nature

- 1.) **Some people have felt like it’s their responsibility** to argue away the existence of hell. They do this because it is their understanding that a real, true and fair loving God could never allow the existence of hell or the use of it.
- 2.) **Another group of people have suggested** that hell is only a “temporary” or “part-time” place - that hell works for them because, after all some people need a spanking or two for all the wrong they have done.
- 3.) **Some people believe that everyone is going to hell**, in a handbasket and there’s nothing you can do about it – so eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.
- 4.) **There is one other basic view.** I call it “Your Mama’s View” and it goes something like this “God would never send anyone to hell, hell is just to scare people into going to church”

And Then There’s God’s Word on Hell

“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”

IS HELL REALLY REAL AND WHAT IS IT LIKE ?

1.) The Origin of Hell

1a.) Is hell really real?

the answer to that question **depends....**

It **depends** on – who you listen to.

Today many modern theologians say things like this;

- (It’s a **metaphorical** hell)
- (it’s the life you’re living now in a **symbolic** sense)
- (it’s a hell that only lasts as long as your earthly sins have **warranted**)

2 Peter 2:4

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Revelation 1:18

I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hell and of Death.

Revelation 20:12:15

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. :13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. :14 Then Death and Hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. :15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

THE ORIGIN OF HELL

1b.) What is hell like?

It's a Place of Perfect **JUSTICE**.

(we have been polluted and diluted by our culture that justice is a "situational" thing. - God is not prejudiced and cannot be swayed !!!)

We are told that it is of infinite **PUNISHMENT**.

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Hell, Hades goes by several different names in the Bible and is much more diverse than one might think...

tarterus, abuso, gehenna, sheol, the lake of fire, the bottomless pit.
Each of them, according the Bible serve a function, a purpose...

It is Like “Real” says the Bible

John 5:28-29

Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice :29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

THE ORIGIN OF HELL

1c.) Is hell forever?

Today Many People Struggle With This Doctrine of the Bible.

“Can Hell Really Be a Really, Really Long Time of Suffering?”

>>>>> **BUT WHY THE QUESTION** <<<<<<

could it be that we’re not able to grasp the reality of Hell?
How many things do you and I NOT understand ?

Matthew 18:8

“...everlasting fire.”

Matthew 25:46

And these will go away into **everlasting punishment**,
but (equal to is) the righteous into **eternal life**.”

everlasting punishment

αιωνικος aionios, *ah-ee-o'-nee-os*; a perpetual, timeless, state

Consider This for a Moment, or a Lifetime !

“Could it be that the act of rejecting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Rescuer is of such terrible magnitude, that Hell is the just and perfect punishment for such an act?”

“Does Hell sound extreme to us because we have such a low Estimation of His Holiness, Life, Suffering, Death and Resurrection ?

Life compared to... *what?*

Purity compared to... *what?* / **Death** compared to... *what?*

Heaven compared to... *what?* / **Hell** compared to... *what?*

“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN” *IS HELL REALLY REAL AND WHAT IS IT LIKE ?*

2.) The Purpose for Hell

1 John 4:8

God is love.

2 Peter 3:9

...The Lord is not willing that **any should perish** but that all should come to repentance

John 3:17

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

THE PURPOSE FOR HELL

2a.) To **punish the demonic hosts**

There Is A Remarkable Passage Found In...

Revelation 12:3-4

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. :4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

Jude 6

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.... :7 these are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of **eternal fire**.

Matthew 25:41

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire *prepared for the devil and his angels*:’

THE PURPOSE FOR HELL

2b.) To **memorialize** the Nature of God

Luke 16:19-31

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. :20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, :21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. :22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. :23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. :24 “Then he cried and said, ‘*Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*’ :25 But Abraham said, “*Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. :26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.*’ :27 “Then he said, ‘*I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, :28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.*’ :29 Abraham said to him, “*They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.*’ :30 And he said, “*No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.*’ :31 But he said to him, “*If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.*’ ”

THE PURPOSE FOR HELL

2c.) To **answer** every man’s prayer

Remember This Now Friend...

1 Timothy 2:4

For it is God... who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Luke 19:14

But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ***“We will not have this man to reign over us.”***

John 3:18-19

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. :19
And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light,

Matthew 23:33

How can you escape ***the condemnation of hell?***

Matthew 18:9

“...cast into ***hell fire.***

“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”
IS HELL REALLY REAL AND WHAT IS IT LIKE ?

3.) The Place of Hell

3a.) It's where God is not

Remember This Too Friend...

James 1:16-17

Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. :17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

There is Nothing Good There !

(you made it here tonight, you're safe for now, its good.

No one in hell can say that...

There are no Gifts There !

(there was a breeze off the ocean, crystal clear, 83 degrees, perfect.

No one in hell can say that...

Think About The “Good Things” That the Lord Gives

Food, clothes, water, health, mercy, grace....

No one in hell can say that...

Romans 2:4

do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that it is the goodness of God that leads you to repentance?

No one in hell can say that...

THE PLACE OF HELL

3b.) It's absent of His influences

Matthew 25:30

...the place of **outer darkness**. (the darkest of dark - blackness)
There will be **weeping** and **gnashing** of teeth.'

A terrifying picture of the absences of hope, of
love, of others

*There is not a person in the house tonight,
nor a man alive that can tell us
What it's going to be like to be without the God's influence...*

I Often Think of - - “The Blessed Atheists”
He's got it so good and cant figure out why.....

THE PLACE OF HELL

3c.) It's what makes it what it is

It's a place of: Terror
It's a place not fit for human souls

It's a place of: Suffering

There is a collective state of physical, mental and spiritual suffering

It's a place of: Burning

There is a burning of the flesh, but not the consuming of it

It's a place of: Isolation

It's a place of being totally alone

It's a place of: Darkness

There is a darkness that is beyond this world

It's a place of: Falling

There is a sense of forever falling

It's a place of: Thirst

Thirst and other basic comforts cannot be found

It's a place of: Pain

There is a gnawing or a biting that doesn't end

It's a place of: Regret

Opportunities to have accepted Jesus will be remembered

It's a place of: Fatigue

The treading of the lake of fire is there

Don't You Wanna Escape The Judgment of Hell ?

End of Study
