

e t e r n i t y

HELL

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor
January 19, 2014

INTRODUCTION

- *God has set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.* (Ecclesiastes 3:11b)
- Dilemma: We are designed to live forever but currently we're experiencing death

FINAL RESURRECTION

- John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Daniel 12:2

FINAL JUDGMENT

- Amos 4:12; James 5:9; John 5:22,27; Acts 10:42; 17:31; 2 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 20:11-15

HELL

- 1 It really exists
 - Hell was originally created for the devil and his fallen angels (Matthew 25:41)
 - W.G.T. Shedd - *Eternal perdition is like any other danger. In order to escape danger, one must believe it. Disbelief of it is sure destruction.*
- 2 God is not there (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; cf. Isaiah 59:2))
- 3 It is a place of endless suffering
 - ▶ Hell is a place (or state) of future, conscious punishment for the wicked
 - Eternal separation from (the presence of) God
 - Constant, endless torment and suffering of both body & spirit
 - ▶ Jesus' metaphors used for describing Hell
 - Gehenna • Weeping • Gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28)
 - Everlasting fire (Matthew 25:41), everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46), eternal damnation, (Mark 6:29), fiery furnace (Matthew 13:42), unquenchable fire (Mark 9:48), where the worm never dies (Mark 9:48)

- ▶ Other NT metaphors used for describing Hell
 - Everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:9), blackest darkness... forever (Jude 13), everlasting chains (Jude 6), the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:6,10,14-15), the Second Death (Revelation 20:14)
- ▶ *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* (Matthew 10:28)

OBJECTION: How could a loving God ever send someone to a place of eternal suffering? Isn't that inconsistent with His character?

- *Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?* (Genesis 18:25)

4 People send themselves there

QUESTION: What about the people who die without ever hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Do they go to Hell?

- Faulty thinking behind this question
 - 1 We are all pretty good people who deserve to go to heaven (Romans 3:23; 6:23)
 - 2 What about the "noble savage"? (Romans 2:15; 3:10)
 - 3 Doesn't ignorance absolve us from the guilt of breaking the law? (Romans 2:12)
- *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.* (Acts 4:12)

THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL SHOULD...

- 1 Make every undecided (unsaved) person tremble (Luke 13:3,5)
- 2 Make every professing Christian diligently do self-examination (cf. Matt. 7:22-23)
- 3 Lead the truly redeemed to explode in praise to God
- 4 Stir up our urgent responsibility to share Christ with others

Please Affirm One:

- I believe in the reality of Hell.
- I do not believe in Hell.
- I am uncertain what I believe about Hell.



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Lesson Aim: *To grow in our understanding of the reality of Hell and living with an eternal perspective today.*

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study time and/or discussion.

Ice-breaker: Briefly describe how each of the following have influenced your view of Hell: Our culture? Cartoons and/or media? Your upbringing?

1. Why is there so little talk (teaching) on Hell, especially in the western church?
2. In the message last weekend, Pastor Scott stated that no one in Scripture speaks more about Hell than Jesus Christ. What are some things Jesus says about Hell in the following verses?
 - **Matthew 10:28:**
 - **Matthew 25:30:**
 - **Matthew 25:41:**
 - **Mark 9:43-49:**
3. How would you respond to someone who mistakenly believes that Jesus did not teach about Hell?

4. With the growing number of teachers/churches dropping the idea of hell, why shouldn't we?
5. Is the doctrine of Hell compatible with God's love for all humanity? Why or why not?
6. **READ Revelation 20:11-15.** Why is Judgment Day such an unpopular topic (even among Christ-followers)?
7. Why is it important that we talk and think about Judgment Day?
8. How does the reality of a future Judgment Day influence the decisions we make today?
9. What are some things that make it difficult for you to focus on eternity?
10. What can you do this week to turn your thoughts from temporary to eternal things?

Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our friendly, message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.