

(Scripture Reading Passage)

Mark 9:42-48 (CSB)

42 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to fall away –it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

43 “And if your hand causes you to fall away, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and go to hell, the unquenchable fire. 45 And if your foot causes you to fall away, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. 47 And if your eye causes you to fall away, gouge it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 48 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

(Title)

It’s Hard to Come to Grips with Hell.

Mark 9:42-48

Whatever Happened to Hell?

Mockery | “In heaven, all the interesting people are missing.” -Nietzsche

Dismissal | “After a person dies, then nothing...”

Contempt | “I could never believe in a God who would send people to hell.”

Why do we Have a Problem with Hell?

See Hell as Unjust | 1 Peter 1:17 (Quote Slide Here)

Underestimate the Complexity of God | Isaiah 55:8-9

Don’t Want to Submit to God | Genesis 3:4-6 (Scripture Slide here)

Value Feelings or Human Logic over Truth | Jeremiah 17:9-10

(Quote Slide)

Edward Donnelly, *Biblical Teaching on the Doctrines of Heaven and Hell*

We are in no position to criticize the penalty because we have little understanding of the extent of the guilt involved. Our concept of sin is utterly inadequate. Even the most sensitive conscience has little awareness of sin’s true wickedness and we are simply not competent to assess how much punishment it deserves. We cannot appreciate how awful a thing it is to disobey God, nor are we able to weigh up the relative seriousness of our various offences against his law.

(Scripture Slide)

We Want to Judge for Ourselves

4 “No! You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. **5** “In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3:4-6 (CSB)

Is Hell Real?

Jesus Spoke of Hell as a Real Place | Matthew 10:28 (Scripture Slide here)

Jesus Said Go to Great Lengths to Avoid Hell | Mark 9:42-48

Jesus Said God Made Hell | Matthew 25:41

Jesus Used Hell as a Warning Against Sin | Luke 16:19-31

Hell is Often Paralleled With Heaven in the Bible | Matthew 24:46 (List Slide Here)

(Scripture Slide)

Hell is a Real Place

“Don’t fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” -Jesus, Matthew 10:28 (CSB)

(List Slide)

Some Parables of Jesus with Heaven and Hell Paralleled

The Ten Virgins

The Talents

The Sheep and the Goats

The Wheat and the Tares

The Wedding Banquet

What is Hell Like?

Valley of Hinnom was Jesus’ go-to Example | *Gehenna* 11 Times

“Outside,” Away from God’s Presence | Matthew 25:10-12

Darkness | Matthew 22:13

Pain and Torment: Unquenchable Fire | Matthew 3:12

Conscious Anguish and Sorrow; “Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth” | Luke 13:28

Regret and Recognition of Guilt; “Their Worm Does Not Die” | Mark 9:48

Deserved Punishment for Sin | Colossians 3:25 (Scripture Slide here)

Eternal | Matthew 25:46 (Quote Slide)

(Scripture Slide)

Deserved Punishment for Sin

For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong he has done, and there is no favoritism. Colossians 3:25 (CSB)

(Quote Slide)

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*

The parallel between “eternal life” and “eternal punishment” indicates that both states will be without end. “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” **Matthew 25:46**

3 Interpretations of the Eternal Punishment of Hell

Eternal Conscious Punishment: Sinners Suffer Conscious Punishment Forever

Conditional Immortality / Annihilationism: Sinners Punished for a Time Decided by God; Then Cease to Exist

Ultimate Reconciliation / Christ-centered Universalism: Sinners Punished for a Time; Then Allowed into the Kingdom of Heaven

Who is Going to Hell?

You and I Don't Get to Decide | John 8:7

God/Jesus Judges Rightly | Deuteronomy 32:35

Sinners Die and then Face Judgement | Hebrews 9:27

Everyone is a Sinner; Everyone Deserves Hell | Romans 3:23; 6:23

Our Fate as Sinners Is Hell | John 3:16 (Scripture Slide here)

(Scripture Slide)

Unless God Intervenes, We Perish

For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (CSB)

Is There Any Hope in the Face of Hell?

No Hope in Good Works | Ephesians 2:8-9

No Hope in Avoiding Evil | John 3:3,18; Isaiah 53:6

No Hope in Second Chances After Death | Hebrews 9:27

No Hope in Other Religions, Beliefs, or Systems | John 14:6

Our Only Hope is Jesus the Christ Who Died for Us | Romans 5:8

(Quote Slide)

John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*

The New Testament makes clear that the atoning work of Christ... is the one and only way for anyone to get right with God. The problem of sin is universal, cutting people off from God. The solution to that problem is the atoning death of the Son of God offered once for all.

(Scripture Slide)

Put Your Faith in Jesus Who Took Your Punishment

⁴ Yet he himself bore our sicknesses,
and he carried our pains;
but we in turn regarded him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced because of our rebellion,
crushed because of our iniquities;
punishment for our peace was on him,
and we are healed by his wounds. Isaiah 53:4-5

Summary Truths About Hell

Hell is Real and Terrible!

No One Wants to Go to Hell!

God Rightly Judges Sinners!

Every Sinner is Destined for Hell!

Jesus Christ is Our Only Hope!

Next Steps

Not yet a Believer in Jesus?

-Put your faith in him as your Savior.

-Repent of your sins and follow Jesus who is

The Way, the Truth, and the Life. The Only Way to God!

from **John 14:6**

Already a Believer in Jesus?

-Give God thanks and praise for the grace that is yours in Jesus!

-Make firm your faith. Do not be swayed by arguments and “new” ways of thinking about Biblical truths.

-Join God in sharing the Good News of the hope of Jesus.

¹³ For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? **Romans 10:13-14**

Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will do it.

(For Website)

Prayer Points

Pray for those in our church who are struggling to understand and believe the truths of God regarding God's righteous judgement of sinners. Pray that they will submit to God's sovereignty and trust in his grace and goodness.

Pray for those in our church, community, and world who are lost in their sins and need to hear and believe that Jesus is the Savior and their only hope.

Pray for us to be bold in our evangelism and confident in our sharing of Jesus.

Pray that the Truth of God will prevail in the hearts and minds of our western society which dismisses God and his truths; putting forward their own narrative.

Discussion Questions

What do you think of when you think of hell?

How has your understanding of hell impacted you over your lifetime?

Why do you think the doctrine of hell is so difficult for people to accept?

What are the arguments against hell's existence that you find most sympathetic?

Is God just and good and loving when he judges sinners?

What Scripture passages impact you the most about hell and God's judgment?

How have your views changed or not changed after the sermon on hell?

What impact does your view of hell have on the realities of hell?

What impact do your beliefs about hell have on your joining God on mission to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10)?

Additional Study

["Are We Proclaiming a Hell We Don't Deserve and a Christ We Do?"](#) by Peter Gurry

Biblical Teaching on the Doctrines of Heaven and Hell by Edward Donnelly

Two Views of Hell by Edward William Fudge and Robert A. Peterson

Biblical Faith: Doctrines Every Christian Should Know by Clarence H. Benson

Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions (chapter 4) by John Piper

[Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God](#) Sermon by Jonathan Edwards