

“H... E... Double Hockey Sticks”

2 Thessalonians
October 20, 2013

III We must pay much closer attention to living with self discipline under God's word, (2 Ths. 1: 1-3: 18)

A. The wrath of God is a very present reality for those who do not believe the gospel, (vs. 1: 1 – 12)

6. The Gospel Promises The Real Judgment Of Those Who Do Not Believe In Christ, (vs. 9)

Message Emphasis: Many do not understand what Hell's punishment will be. The prevalent thought today is that Hell is a place where I can do whatever I want unconstrained. Perhaps there is some truth to this but the reality of Hell is that it is separation from God.

9.1) Hell Is Permanent; There Is Not Getting Over It

...many think Hell is like the “cold” – suffer through it for a little while

Our Text Says, **“Suffer The Punishment Of Eternal Destruction” – 1)** *“When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ 2) Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, 3) when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out.” (Luke 13:25–28, ESV)*

- 1) There is a definite time when life as we know it will stop – *“Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found...” (Psalm 32:6, ESV)*
- 2) In that time there will be no rationalizations or excuses – *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46, ESV)*
- 3) There will be many who think they qualify but who are shut out – *“I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 8:11–12, ESV)*

9.2) Hell Is Definite; There Is A Quality Standard That Must Be Met

...many think Hell grades on a “curve”

Our Text Says, **“Away From The Presence Of The Lord” – 1)** *“Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a **right** spirit within me. 2) Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 3) Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:9–12, ESV)*

- 1) There is a definite standard that has to be met – *“Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”” (John 3:3, ESV)*
- 2) There is a definite punishment for not meeting the standard – *“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.” (Romans 8:9, ESV)*
- 3) There is a definite “restoration” that must occur to remain in the presence of the Lord – *“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Corinthians 3:17, ESV)*

9.3) Hell Is Ontological; Either You Get It Or You Don't

... many think Hell can be avoided at the last minute

Our Text Says, **“Away From The Glory Of His Might” –** *“For if we go on **sinning** deliberately after **receiving** the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that **will** consume the adversaries. Anyone who has **set aside** the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has **trampled** underfoot the Son of God, and has **profaned** the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has **outraged** the Spirit of grace? For we know him who **said**, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a fearful thing **to fall** into the hands of the **living** God.” (Hebrews 10:26–31, ESV)*

- 1) You either have a love for God's glory or you don't
- 2) You either run toward God's might for salvation or you run away from it

*****What Must I Do To Be Saved? ***** **Message Directive:** Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul; ONLY in Christ can you see Hell for what it really is and repent. **“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:22, ESV)**

““And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”” (Isaiah 66:24, ESV)

7. The Gospel Promises The Real Glorification Of Christ When He Confirms The Testimony, (vs. 10)

8. The Gospel Prepares The Real Faith Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 11)

9. The Gospel Prepares The Real Grace Within The Life Of Every Believer, (vs. 12)

B. The wrath of God is a very present reality governed by the ordained decrees of God, (vs. 2: 1 – 17)

C. The wrath of God is a very present reality that must be avoided even in its temporal aspects, (vs. 3: 1 – 18)