

# THE NECESSARY HOLINESS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Mark 9:42-50

(ESV)

[42] “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. [43] And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. [45] And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. [47] And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, [48] ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ [49] For everyone will be salted with fire. [50] Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

## INTRODUCTION

**Hebrews 12:14**—[14] *Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*

Jesus understood that to downplay the doctrine of hell was to downplay the need for holiness.

Biblical warnings are often the means that God uses to cause believers to persevere in faith and in holiness.

Let Jesus’ warnings of judgment drive you to pursue the holiness that you so desperately need.

## DO NOT CAUSE OTHERS TO STUMBLE

*skandalizó* = cause others to stumble, specifically in their faith

Not causing someone to stumble does not mean softening the offense of the gospel.

Softening the gospel is actually what would cause someone to stumble.

How is the gospel softened?

1) When we alter its content.

**Galatians 1:8**—[8] *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.*

**James 3:1**—[1] *Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.*

2) When we deny it with our conduct.

**Galatians 2:11–14**—[11] *But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. [12] For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the*

*circumcision party. [13] And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. [14] But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"*

3) When we demand conformity to legalism.

## **DO NOT BECOME COMPLACENT ABOUT YOUR SIN**

One of the marks of the disciple of Christ is the continual battle and victory over indwelling sin.

**1 John 3:6**—[6] *No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.*

Holiness is a necessary byproduct of salvation, and we must pursue it with all our might.

The battle against sin is an all-encompassing battle.

**Romans 6:17–18**—[17] *But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, [18] and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

**Galatians 5:13**—[13] *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh...*

Gaheena = Hell / a valley outside of Jerusalem called Valley of Hinnom

Three things we learn from Jesus about hell.

- 1) Hell is a real place
- 2) Hell is a place of awful punishment
- 3) Hell is an eternal place.

Sin is born in the heart and bound to our desires.

**James 1:14–15**—[14] *But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. [15] Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

**Titus 2:14**—[14] *[Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

## **DO NOT EXPECT COMFORT IN SANCTIFICATION**

Grace does not make holiness easy; grace makes holiness possible.

**2 Timothy 2:1**—[1] *You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus...*