

Introduction

1. I have been deeply burdened this week with the reality of hell.
2. Probably because I have been hearing of so many people I know or know of dying.
3. Somebody calculated that at least 100 people a minute go to Hell. That's a fearful thought. (MacArthur, John F., Jr. [John MacArthur Sermon Archive](#). Panorama City, CA: Grace to You, 2014. Print.)
4. I have always believed in the doctrine of hell because the Bible teaches it.
5. R.C. Sproul says, "There is no biblical concept more grim or terror-invoking than the idea of hell. It is so unpopular with us that few would give credence to it at all except that it comes to us from the teaching of Christ himself.
6. The Bible teaches that hell is a place prepared for all those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. It was originally prepared for the devil and his angels (Mat.25:41).
8. "Hell is not for people who are all criminals. Hell is not for the bad guy on the block. Hell is for everybody and anybody who refuses Christ." (MacArthur, John F., Jr. [John MacArthur Sermon Archive](#). Panorama City, CA: Grace to You, 2014. Print.)
9. This Anglo-Saxon word was associated with the underworld.
10. It became synonymous with the words you've heard: gehenna and sheol.
11. In the LXX, sheol was often translated hades.
12. In the OT, it often referred to the dead in general (Deut.32:22) or the grave (Num.16:33).
13. Gehenna originally referred to the Valley of Hinnom where a there was a garbage dump where fires constantly burned, furnishing a graphic symbol of eternal

torment. (MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [The MacArthur Study Bible](#). electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.).

14. Some believe this was also the place that was cursed because it was the location of child sacrifices (Jer.7:31; 9:2-6).
15. Later in rabbinical literature and the translation of the OT, it referred to the suffering of the damned.
16. Jesus referred to gehenna as a state of eternal suffering.
 1. Matthew 10:28, "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
 2. Mark 9:43–44, "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.
17. Hell is described as:
 1. Eternal punishment (Mat.25:46)
 2. Eternal fire (Mat.25:41)
 3. Fire and brimstone (Rev.14:10)
 4. Furnace of fire (Mat.13:42)
 5. Eternal destruction (2 Thess.1:9)
 6. Unquenchable fire (Mat.13:12)
 7. Torment
 1. Luke 16:23 says, "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom."
 2. Revelation 20:10 says, "(10) And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."
 3. Notice he says "they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."
 4. Not only is this true for the devil and his angels but also for all those who reject Jesus.
 5. Charles Spurgeon said, "Over their heads reads he words 'forever.'"

6. This is a sober reality.
 7. But many churches have stopped preaching on hell.
 8. Why?
 9. Ignoring it will not make it go away.
 10. In fact, to ignore what the Bible teaches about this place is a dereliction of duty.
8. The Bible says this place is a place of "outer darkness" (Mat.8:12).
18. So I want to take a short break in our study of 1 Corinthians to remind you of this horrible place so that you will warn sinners and call them to repentance.
19. Not everyone believes in hell:
1. In 1996, the Barna Research Group took a survey and discovered that "Three in ten adults (31%) see hell as an actual location: 'a place of physical torment where people may be sent.'"
 2. Four in ten adults (37%) say, 'hell is not a place, but it represents a state of permanent separation from the presence of God.'
 3. Describing hell as merely a symbolic term, not referring to a physical place was true for two in ten Americans (19%)."
 4. Herbert Riggle says, "In these days of skepticism and unbelief the Bible doctrine of hell has become very unpopular. Indeed, I think that I am safe in saying that not one half of the Protestant ministry believe it, and that a much less number teach it." (Riggle, Herbert M. [*Hell and Everlasting Punishment*](#). James L. Fleming, 2005. Print.)
20. The cults are no different:
1. Jehovah Witnesses say that "the doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true" (LG, p.99).
 2. Christian Science says, "Hell is mortal belief, error, lust, remorse, revenge, sin, sickness, death...that which worketh abomination or maketh a lie. No final judgment awaits mortals, for the judgment day of wisdom comes hourly and continually" (SH, 558:1-4;291:28-29).

3. Atheist Colonel Robert Ingersoll said, "The idea of hell was born of revenge and brutality on the one side, and cowardice on the other...I have no respect for any human being who believes in it. I dislike this doctrine, I hate it, I despise it, I defy this doctrine...this doctrine of hell is infamous beyond all power to express" (Discipleship Journal, Issue 34, p.12).
21. It doesn't matter if you don't believe it, dislike it, hate it, despise or defy it, it's true because the Bible says it is.
 22. The Bible teaches there is a place called hell in which the wicked will be punished:
 1. Psalm 9:17 says, "The wicked shall be turned into *hell*."
 2. Psalm 55:15 says, "Let them go down quick into *hell*."
 3. Proverbs 7:27 says, "Her house is the way to *hell*."
 4. Isaiah 14:9 says, "*Hell* from beneath is moved for thee."
 5. Isaiah 14:15 says, "Thou shalt be brought down to *hell*."
 6. Luke 16:23 says, "In *hell* he lift up his eyes, being in torments."
 7. Matthew 5:22 says, "Shall be in danger of *hell-fire*."
 8. Matthew 5:29-30 says, "Thy whole body should be cast into *hell*."
 9. Matthew 10:28 says, "Both soul and body in *hell*."
 10. Matthew 18:19 says, "Cast into *hell-fire*."
 11. Matthew 23:15 uses the phrase "Child of *hell*."
 12. Matthew 23:33 says, "How can ye escape the damnation of *hell*?"
 13. Mark 9:43 uses the phrase "To go into *hell*."
 14. Mark 9:45, 47 uses the phrase "Cast into *hell*."
 15. James 3:6 uses the phrase "Set on fire of *hell*."
 16. 2 Peter 2:4 uses the phrase "Cast them down to *hell*."
 23. Is it not a marvel that in the face of such a solid bulwark of eternal truth men will deny that there is a hell? As well deny that there is a God and a heaven in which he dwells? (Riggle, Herbert M. [*Hell and Everlasting Punishment*](#). James L. Fleming, 2005. Print.)
 24. To add to that list, there are 20 different phrases in the Bible for hell (some we already mentioned):
 1. Devouring fire (Isa.33:14)
 2. Unquenchable fire (Mat.3:12)
 3. Hell fire (Mat.5:22)
 4. Destruction (Mat.7:13)
 5. Outer darkness (Mat.8:11)
 6. Everlasting fire (Mat.13:42)

7. Hades (Mat.11:28)
 8. Furnace of fire (Mat.13:42)
 9. The fire that will never be quenched (Mat.9:43)
 10. The flame (Lk.16:24)
 11. Chains of darkness (2 Pet.2:4)
 12. Bottomless pit (Rev.9:1)
 13. Place of torment (Rev.20:10)
 14. The wine of the wrath of God (Rev.14:10)
 15. Lake of fire (Rev.20:14-15)
 16. Second death (Rev.20:14)
 17. The lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Rev.21:8)
 18. Everlasting punishment (Mat.25:46)
 19. Everlasting chains (Jude 6)
 20. Everlasting destruction (2 Thess.1:9)
25. Charles Spurgeon said, "Perhaps it would not be possible for any man to get a fair idea of the torments of the lost without at once becoming mad. Reason would reel at such a sight of horror. One moment listening to the shrill screams of spirits tormented, might forever drive us into the depths of despair, and make us only fit to be bound in chains whilst we live on earth. Raving lunatics surely we must become" (Spurgeon's Sermons, Vol.4, p.166).
26. Paul said in Acts 17:30-31, "(30) Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, (31) because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."
27. The Bible speaks of this horrific place of judgment and punishment.
28. And it says that Jesus Christ will be the one to condemn unrepentant sinners to this place.
29. So...

LESSON

I. Hell is a Real Place

1. Three Greek words are used for hell in the NT:

1. Gehenna (12 times)

1. The name comes from hinnom, the name of the valley SW of Jerusalem
2. It was a place desecrated by King Ahaz (2 Chron.28:3)
3. Ahaz used this valley to erect an altar to the pagan god Molech
4. Jesus used this place to speak of the place of eternal torment because it was later known as the place where trash continually burned

2. Hades (11 times)

1. It's general meaning is the "place of departed spirits, both righteous and wicked" (James Boice, p.479)
2. Hades is the Greek rendering of the Hebrew sheol
3. Jesus described it in the parable in Luke 16:19-31 as having two parts

3. Tartaros (1 time) occurs in 2 Peter 2:4, "(4) For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment."

2. Depending on the translation, the word "hell" occurs between 13-23 times in the NT:

1. KJV - 23 times
2. NKJV - 13 times
3. RSV - 13 times
4. NASB - 13 times
5. NIV - 14 times

II. Hell is Punishment

1. It is the place where unbelievers suffer the just penalty for the sin
2. Every NT writer states hell as punishment:
 1. Matthew (Mat.5:20-30;24-25)

2. Mark (Mk.9:42-48)
3. Luke (Lk.16:19-31)
4. Paul (2 Thess.1:5-10)
5. Author of Hebrews (Heb.10:27-31)
6. James (Jas.4:12; 5:1-5)
7. Peter (2 Pet.2:4-7)
8. Jude (Jude 1:13-23)
9. John (Rev.20:10-15)

3. 3 passages are most striking:

1. Matthew 25:31-36 says, "(31) 'But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. (32) All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; (33) and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. (34) 'Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (35) 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; (36) naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'"
 2. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 says, "(5) This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. (6) For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, (7) and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, (8) dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (9) These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (10) when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed."
 3. Revelation 20:10-15 says, "(10) And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (11) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were

opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. (14) Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

III. Hell is Destruction

1. Matthew 7:13 says, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it."
2. Romans 9:22 says, "What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?"
3. Philippians 3:17-19 says, "(17) Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. (18) For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, (19) whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things."
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 says, "(3) While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape."
5. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 says, "(5) This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. (6) For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, (7) and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, (8) dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (9) These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (10) when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed."

6. Hebrews 10:27 says, "(26) For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES."
7. James 4:12 says, "(12) There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?"

IV. Hell is Banishment

"The idea of hell as banishment, separation, exclusion, or being left outside occurs in the writings of most New Testament authors." (Morgan, Christopher W., and Robert A. Peterson. [*What Is Hell?*](#). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2010. Print. Basics of the Faith.)

Jesus says in Matthew 7:23, "Depart from Me."

In 2 Thessalonians 1:9 says, "These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

Revelation 20:15 says, "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

D. James Kennedy said, "When he calls, he is never answered; when he seeks he never finds. In a word, he sinks to a death beyond prayer, a condemnation beyond forgiveness, and doom beyond the reach of Christ" (Why I Believe, pp.74-75)

V. Hell is a Place of Suffering

1. Revelation 20:10 calls it a place of "torment."
2. Isaiah 33:14 calls it "everlasting burning."
3. Matthew 8:12 calls it "gnashing of teeth" (which speaks of inconsolable grief and unremitting torment, MacArthur)

4. It will be a place where there is "no rest"

1. Revelation 14:9-11 says, "(9) Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, (10) he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (11) "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

5. It will be a place where there is no light

1. Psalm 49:19 says, "He shall go to the generation of his fathers; They will never see the light."

6. It will be a place of "outer darkness" (Mat.8:12)

7. It will be a place of divine wrath (Rev.14:10)

8. It will be a place of thirst (Lk.16:24)

9. It will be a place of memory and remorse (Lk.16:19-31)

10. It will be a place of "no deliverance" (Ps.7:2)

VI. Hell is Eternal

Jesus appeals to Isaiah 66:24 when he warns his hearers that going to hell means "unquenchable fire," a place "where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43, 48).

The term "everlasting" is used when referring to the duration of hell:

1. Everlasting burning (Isa.33:14)
2. Everlasting fire (Mat.18:8)
3. Everlasting punishment (Mat.25:46)
4. Everlasting destruction (2 Thess.1:9)
5. Everlasting chains (Jude 6)

Charles Spurgeon said, "On every chain in hell, there is written 'forever.' In the fires, there blaze out the words, 'forever.' Up above their heads, they read 'forever.' Their eyes are galled, and their hearts are pained with the thought that it is 'forever.' (Ibid., Vol.1, p.314).

CONCLUSION

1. Hell is forever
2. It is a place of torment
3. It is a place of judgment for sin
4. If you come to Christ then there is "no condemnation" (Rom.8:1) because Jesus took the punishment for you.
5. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
6. But if you never repent and surrender your life to Jesus Christ, this is the judgment that awaits you.
7. And as Spurgeon said, "On every chain in hell, there is written 'forever'" and there will be no escape as you experience the full fury of the wrath of God and are tormented night and day in the presence of the angels and Jesus.
8. My plea to you this morning is to come to Jesus.
9. You say, "I've come."
10. My second plea then is 2 Corinthians 13:5, "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?"
11. Peter said in 2 Peter 1:10, "(10) Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble."
12. Let's pray.