

Part 15 The Doctrine of Christ – Jesus Teaching on Hell

1. **Hell – Definition:** *A spiritual and physical realm of evil and suffering, often traditionally depicted as a place of perpetual fire beneath the earth where the wicked are eternally punished after death.*
 - a) Hell = place of destruction, condemnation, and punishment.
 - b) In some places hell refers to the grave and in other places it refers to the place of disembodied spirits.
 - c) Hell is the place of eternal punishment for the wicked.
 - d) There are several different terms used for hell in the Bible.

2. **Hades** – Translated as “*hell*” 10 times in the King James Bible [Mat_11:23, Mat_16:18, Luk_10:15, Luk_16:23, Act_2:27, Act_2:31, Rev_1:18, Rev_6:8, Rev_20:13-14 (2)] and one time as “*grave*” [1 Cor. 15:55]
 - **Thayer’s Definition:** ᾍδης, *hadēs*, 1) name Hades or Pluto, the god of the lower regions 2) Orcus, the nether world, the realm of the dead 3) later use of this word: the grave, death, hell
 - a) Hades = the place of the dead.
 - b) Hades in the ancient Greek view is a place for all the dead in the depths of the earth ruled by Pluto.
 - Pluto was the supposed Greek god of the underworld, enemy of all light.
 - c) Purgatory? The Roman Catholic’s doctrine of “*purgatory*” or as they often call it, “*final purification*,” must be expelled as a myth and not something that is true or real. They believe that purgatory is a place or state of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners that have died but are destined to go to heaven. They must first go to purgatory and go through a purification process to achieve holiness. Meanwhile their loved ones still alive here on earth pray for them and offer “*indulgences*.” An indulgence is either some type of good deed or work or even an offering of some kind which is thought to reduce the amount of suffering or the length of time someone must spend in purgatory.
 - d) Where does the idea of a purgatory come from?
 - The Roman Catholic Bible includes the Apocrypha.
 - There is a passage of Scripture in **2 Maccabees 12:38-45** which says this:

38 Judas then rallied his army and moved on to the town of Adullam where, as it was the seventh day of the week, they purified themselves according to custom and kept the Sabbath.

39 Next day, they came to find Judas (since the necessity was by now urgent) to have the bodies of the fallen taken up and laid to rest among their relatives in their ancestral tombs.

40 But when they found on each of the dead men, under their tunics, objects dedicated to the idols of Jamnia, which the Law prohibits to Jews, it became clear to everyone that this was why these men had lost their lives.

41 All then blessed the ways of the Lord, the upright judge who brings hidden things to light,

42 and gave themselves to prayer, begging that the sin committed might be completely forgiven. Next, the valiant Judas urged the soldiers to keep themselves free from all sin, having seen with their own eyes the effects of the sin of those who had fallen;

43 after this he took a collection from them individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmas, and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an action altogether fine and noble, prompted by his belief in the resurrection.

44 For had he not expected the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead,

45 whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. Hence, he had this expiatory sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.
 - e) So, hey, give a large offering to the church or perhaps slip the priest some cash and help your loved one get out of purgatory! It’s a win-win situation! (jk)
 - f) Some of Christ’s greatest teaching about hell is found in Luke 16:19-31. It is the real account of the rich man and Lazarus. This is not a parable as some believe and teach, it is an actual account of real people.

Luke 16:19-31

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

- ❖ Let's stop here for a minute and talk about *Abraham's bosom*. From this teaching Hades was in two compartments; saved (called paradise) and unsaved (called hell). To us *Gentiles*, a term such as Abraham's bosom doesn't mean much because we only think about Heaven. Well, to the Jews who clung to the fact that they were "*seeds of Abraham*," and they referred to him as "*Father Abraham*," to be in his presence was a symbol of being in *Paradise*. Being in his bosom was symbolic of the feasts or meals that they would have where they laid on couches or reclined backwards as they ate and rested upon the bosom of the person behind them. Such as what the Apostle John did with Jesus during the *Last Supper*. For the Jews, the thought of laying in Abraham's bosom was a picture of being in Paradise or as we would think of Heaven. -- So, for our Sunday school lesson's sake, we can say Lazarus was in a "*type*" of heaven.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

- g) It appears the two separate compartments of hades were done away with when Christ was ascended. We understand that is what Paul is referring to in ***Ephesians 4:8-10*** *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*
- If I understand it correctly, after Jesus sacrificed his life on the cross of Calvary, his body was taken off the cross and buried in a tomb; however, his spirit descended into the lower parts of the earth, which would be hades, and he proclaimed victory of death, hell, and the grave, and then he led those that were captives in Abraham's bosom, out of captivity and ushered them into Heaven. Those in Abraham's bosom would have been the Old Testament saints that died before the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
 - The O.T. Saints had to come through Jesus. No one could enter Heaven before Him. Jesus is the captain of our salvation, he is the first fruit of the resurrection, he is the first fruit of all them that slept. ***1 Corinthians 15:20-23*** *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

- So, as far as we can tell, the two compartments of Hades then became one and that is where the souls of lost men and women go to await judgment and eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire (which is what most people are talking about when they speak of hell).
- When you die your soul either goes to heaven, or it goes to hell and your body rots in the ground. Your soul has a type of bodily form as we see in the story of Lazarus and the rich man. There will be a resurrection when body and soul unite. The believers receive a new body.
- The rich man in hades is a representation of those souls that are lost and are awaiting final judgment at the Great White Throne.

Revelation 20:11-15

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Notice that in **verse 14** it says “**And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.**” The word “**hell**” here is translated from the word “**hades**,” therefore, hades is cast into the lake of fire making the lake of fire the **final hell**.

- 3. Gehenna** – Translated as “**hell**” 12 times in the King James Bible [Mat_5:22, Mat_5:29-30 (2), Mat_10:28, Mat_18:9, Mat_23:15, Mat_23:33, Mar_9:43, Mar_9:45, Mar_9:47, Jas_3:5-6 (2)]
 - **Thayer’s Definition:** γέεννα, **geenna**, Hell is the place of the future punishment call “**Gehenna**” or “**Gehenna of fire**”. This was originally the valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where the filth and dead animals of the city were cast out and burned; a fit symbol of the wicked and their future destruction.
 - The popular expression for the Valley of Hinnom was Gehenna.
 - Many times, Jesus warned the lost that they would go to Gehenna, a place where the worm never dies, the fire is never quenched, it is the same as the lake of fire.
(Gehenna is a descriptive comparison of hell)
 - The term second death is where the lake of fire, or Gehenna, is the place of inhalation of the wicked and lost.
- 4. Sheol** – Translated as “**hell**” 31 times in the King James Bible. [Deu_32:22, 2Sa_22:6, Job_11:8, Job_26:6, Psa_9:17, Psa_16:10, Psa_18:5, Psa_55:15, Psa_86:13, Psa_116:3, Psa_139:8, Pro_5:5, Pro_7:27, Pro_9:18, Pro_15:11, Pro_15:24, Pro_23:14, Pro_27:20, Isa_5:14, Isa_14:9, Isa_28:15 (2), Isa_28:18, Isa_57:9, Eze_31:16-17 (2), Eze_32:21, Eze_32:27, Jon_2:2 (2), Hab_2:5]
 - **Brown-Driver-Briggs Definition:** she'ol, שאַל / שְׂאֵל, The underworld, grave, hell, pit. The abode of the dead.
 - Sheol is from the old Hebrew word, Shaal. It is the place of the grave or the unseen state of the dead.
 - In the New Testament **Hades** is used in the same way as Sheol is used in the Old Testament.
 - The darkness and gloom of the grave is suitable for the using of the word Sheol.
 - It is the abiding place of the miserable.
 - In Psalm 9:17 the word Sheol is translated as **hell**: **Psalms 9:17** *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*
 - Sheol is the opposite of Heaven.
 - Acts 2:31 there is an indication that Hades is meant as the grave.

5. Tartarus – translated as *hell* (1) time in the King James Bible [2 Peter 2:4]

- **Thayer's Definition:** *ταρταρόω, tartarōō*, 1) the name of the subterranean region, doleful and dark, regarded by the ancient Greeks as *the abode of the wicked dead*, where they suffer punishment for their evil deeds; it answers to Gehenna of the Jews.
 - a) Tartarus is the Greek name for the deepest abyss of Hell.
 - **2 Peter 2:4** *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to **hell**, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

6. Other names for Hell

- **Everlasting fire** - **Matthew 25:41** *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*
- **Eternal punishment** – **Matthew 25:46** *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*
- **Outer darkness** – **Matthew 8:12** *But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- **The deep (abyss)** – **Luke 8:31** *And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.*
- **Eternal destruction** – **2 Thessalonians 1:9** *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*
- **Bottomless pit** – **Revelation 9:1-2** *And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*
- **Lake of fire** – **Revelation 19:20** *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

7. Hell is prepared for

- **The devil and his angels** – **Matthew 25:41** *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*
- **The wicked** – **Revelation 21:8** *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*
- **Fallen angels** – **2 Peter 2:4** *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*
- **The Beast and False Prophet** – **Revelation 19:20** *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*
- **Worshippers of the Beast** – **Revelation 14:9-11** *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, (10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall 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 ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*
- **Rejecters of the Gospel** – **Matthew 10:14-15** *And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. (15) Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.*

8. Jesus teaching on hell

- a) **It is a literal place - *Matthew 5:21-22*** *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: (22) But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*
- b) **It's a place of damnation - *Matthew 23:33*** *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*
- c) **Many will be going there - *Matthew 7:13-14*** *says: Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and **many there be which go in thereat:** 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*
 - o **Then further on down in the same chapter of Matthew Jesus says: *Matthew 7:21-23*** *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*
- d) **It's a place of unimaginable torment – *Mark 9:43-48*** *And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: (44) Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. (45) And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: (46) Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. (47) And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: (48) Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*
- e) **It is a place of remembrance and regrets – *Luke 16:25*** *But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*
- f) **It is a place of eternal separation – *Luke 16:26*** *And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

Conclusion: Hell is real; it's where lost sinners go when they die. It's hot, it's miserable, it's agonizing, and it's eternal. While all of those things are bad, the very worst part of being in hell is that you will be forever and eternally separated from God with no chance of ever receiving forgiveness or redemption.

Fortunately for us, because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we do not ever have to go there. We simply by faith, believe in the Lord Jesus and trust that he paid our sin debt for us, and look to Him as our Savior.