

The Doctrine of Hell

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[0 : 00] This is a message that is a solemn one. A solemn one. Preachers are duty bound and called upon to deliver objective truth, ultimate truth, to declare the whole counsel of God.

A sombre message. A sombre message. A dread subject. I have to tell you the truth. I must. To declare what is absolutely true. And the truth can be offensive. And today's message is a solemn doctrine. A shocking doctrine. A dreadful doctrine. A neglected doctrine. Yet true. The doctrine of hell.

The doctrine of hell. A doctrine largely ignored. But it is the truth. The truth. And the truth of hell should disturb us. It should stir us. It should motivate us.

Imagine Aussies are not much different. But 67% of American adults believe in a hell. 67%. But less than 25% believe they will go there. While 25% believe their friends will be there. So that's interesting, isn't it?

You know, that should make us think. 25% believe they. Less than 25% believe they will go there. While 25% believe their friends will go there.

[2 : 01] People can hate the idea of hell. People can hate the idea of hell. Of being held accountable to a holy God. It's not something that comes easily to modern man.

And people can love their sin. And people can love their sin. And want to stay in their wickedness. But this doesn't make hell any less real. And so, the awesome, needful responsibility to speak about this subject. It's important because it's in the Bible.

And so, we should think about the truth of hell. Matthew 13. The Lord Jesus tells about this place. He says, So shall it be at the end of the world. The angels shall come forth and sever the wicked from among the just.

And shall cast them into the furnace of fire. There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. These are strong words. It's a graphic picture, isn't it?

You can almost hear the sights and sounds of such a place. Hell is a place. It is a place of final judgment for unbelievers.

[3 : 33] And hell speaks to us of the judgment of God. The severity of God. The doctrine of hell should stir us to seek after God.

In the Bible it says, It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. It's a fearful thing. And so hell should be something that stirs us to a fearfulness of God.

There was a man, Sir Francis Newport. He was head of an English infidel club. Now, infidels are those who deny God. And this man, Francis, was on his deathbed.

And he said this, You need not tell me there is no hell. For I already feel my soul slipping into its fires.

Wretches cease your idle talk about there being hope for me. I know I am lost forever. These were among his last words that he spoke.

[4 : 41] This man, he denied God, denied hell, denied the Bible. In his deathbed, he knew it was real. And so hell should stir us.

It should prompt us, brothers and sisters. Prompt us to urgency. To flee from the wrath to come, as the prophet says. To flee to that sure refuge and shelter that Christ is for your soul.

To find hope while you still can. It's been said that man's natural instinct is to ignore hell. To ignore it.

Just pretend it doesn't exist. To soften it. Make it more palatable. To tone it down. To redefine it. To make jokes about it, as comedians often do.

And to flat out deny it. Some do that. But it doesn't make it not so. It doesn't make hell not real. Just to deny it.

[5 : 41] All of these things dishonour God's word. So ignore it. Soften it. Tone it down. Redefine. Deny. Others would avoid the subject.

Oh, we just won't talk about that subject. It's too hot to handle it maybe. They think. Not a subject to bring up in polite conversation.

Unless you're swearing. Some will use that word, won't they? Yet the Bible is clear about hell. It's clear about this place. The second death.

And hell must be spoken about. Why? Because the enduring, unchanging word of God tells us of this place. It's here.

We read of it. It speaks of it often and very clearly. Revelation 20 verse 11 through 15.

[6 : 36] John writes, And I saw a great white throne. And him that sat on it. From his face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

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. And the sin 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.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

These are shocking words. Yet true. The truth of hell.

[7 : 43] It should sober us. The truth of hell. It's tied in with other biblical truths. With man's sin. God's holiness. And of the cross of Christ.

These three things. Hell points us to these things. Man's sin. God's holiness. And the cross of Christ. Man's sin. And guilt. That offends the holiness of God.

God is infinitely just. And holy. And God in his mercy. Has made possible the way of pardon. He's made possible man's redemption.

Man's deliverance from this awful place. But the sinner outside of Christ. Stands guilty. Condemned.

Hell bound. He or she must be punished. This is what we read. I'm telling you the truth because I must. I can't turn it down.

[8 : 47] Because it's too important for you to hear it. Hell shows God's love. Strangely. Such a place shows God's love.

Why? Because we see God's love demonstrated in full measure. So that no one need go to such a place. Because of the cross. No one needs to go to such a place.

God's love demonstrated so abundantly. That he took his only begotten son. To the hell of the cross for you. So you need not go to that place.

That he enjoyed the hell of the cross for you. Brother, sister, Christian here tonight. That should make us so glad. So grateful.

So thankful. And the strongest support for teaching the doctrine of hell. Comes from our Lord Jesus Christ himself. The Lord Jesus. He was, you could say, the greatest hellfire preacher.

[9 : 51] That the world has ever known. Because the Lord Jesus spoke of hell so much. More than of heaven. And our Lord describes hell in graphic pictures.

Pictures. In terrifying imagery. We hear of the terror of hell. From the lips of our precious Lord. The terrors of hell. How did he describe it?

As weeping and gnashing of teeth. As a spiritual and bodily destruction. As a fiery furnace. As outer darkness.

As unquestionable fires. As endless torment. And he says in Matthew 25, 46. These, the unbelieving, shall go away into everlasting punishment.

Everlasting punishment. Hell is a picture of absolute separation. And holy hopelessness. Of hopelessness.

[10 : 53] The Bible describes hell in horrific language tonight. You know, friends, I know this is a mournful subject. But a needful one. We need to understand the horrific nature of hell.

So we can fully realise the wonder of the cross. Of God's great love and pardon. Hell is a pit of darkness. A burning wind. A place of torment.

A place where the soul never dies. A place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. There is a place called hell. It's a place.

And it's called hell. It's a horrible reality. A difficult reality. It's real. This is not symbolic. It's as real as heaven.

And it is as eternal. In 2 Thessalonians 1. We read from verse 7. And to you who are troubled. Rest with us. When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven.

[11 : 57] With his mighty angels in flaming fire. Taking vengeance on them. That know not God. And that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall be punished.

With everlasting destruction. From the presence of the Lord. And from the glory of his power. The Lord Jesus coming. In flaming fire.

Taking vengeance. On those who shall be punished. With everlasting destruction. From the presence of the Lord.

And from the glory of his power. When he shall become. To be glorified in his saints. And to be admired in all them that believe. Friends. Hell. Is. A place of flaming fire.

He's going to take vengeance. And he's a jealous God. You can't two time God. You've got to make a choice.

[12 : 54] You've got to make a choice. How are you going to serve him? You're not serving God. You're serving the devil. Whether you like it or not. Whether you realise it or not. That's who you belong to. Friends. You've got to make a choice.

He's a jealous God. And he will. He will take vengeance on them. That know not God. Hell is a place of flaming fire. Revelation 14.11.

It says. And the smoke of their torment. Ascendeth up forever and ever. And they have no rest. Day nor night. Who worship the beast in his image.

He so ever receiveth the mark of his name. Hell is a place of no rest. Imagine that. Now if you have trouble sleeping. Hell is a place of no rest. No rest.

Day nor night. No sleep. No relief. Why do I preach on hell? For one thing.

[13 : 49] Hell is in the Bible. Another reason is we need preaching on hell. Because there are lost souls sitting in church pews. And I don't want to give you any patting on the back.

And I don't want to have to preach your funeral not knowing where you've gone. I'd rather know you've gone to heaven. Otherwise I don't know where you've gone. And it's hard.

It's a hard thing for a preacher to have to stand and preach a funeral. When he doesn't know where the person's gone. And I want to give comfort to the grieving. We don't know where that soul is.

Somewhere. It's somewhere for eternity. Friends. Why do I preach on hell? Because hell is in the Bible. Because lost souls are sitting in church pews. Thinking that maybe turn up once in a blue moon to church.

And I'll have my ticket to heaven. I'll be an alright kind of person. I'll do my good works. And I'll get in there by... He'll weigh. He'll balance up the good I've done. Versus the bad I've done.

[14 : 47] And no. It's not how it works. It's not how it works. We need preaching on hell. Because people need their conscience awakened.

To come to know him. To come to know what lies ahead. If they're outside of Christ. If they reject Christ. If you don't accept Christ, you've rejected him. That's the truth.

That's the reality. People tonight. We need our conscience awakened to consider these eternal truths. When someone gives warning to a lost soul about hell.

It's an act of love. It's love. That prompts us to tell people about hell. We're not wanting to hurt them or harm them.

Or make them feel any worse than they already are. But the preaching of hell is an act of love.

[15 : 47] Not an act of condemnation. Because while we're this side of eternity. There's hope for the hell bound. That's good news, isn't it?

That's the best news you can ever hear. And we need preaching on hell to awaken Christians. To awaken Christians out of their slumber. To awaken the Christians who've grown complacent.

Complacent. Now complacent means couldn't care less. She'll be right. I'll just coast along. We shouldn't be complacent.

Having that kind of take it easy kind of attitude. About winning the lost. About telling others about the only saviour.

It should be so important. That it should be something we're mindful of all the time. And acting on. Why do I preach on hell?

[16:50] Friends, we need to hear it. Why is there a hell? Why is there a hell? I've heard it put that hell is what hell is. Because God is who God is. Now when Isaiah the prophet saw him high and lifted up.

And his train filling the temple. He was terrified. He fell on his face. Woe is me. I'm undone. I'm a man of unclean lips. I've seen the king of glory.

He was sure he was about to die. God is absolutely holy. Absolutely holy. And we should tremble before his majesty and might.

God will not tolerate sin. That is a good thing. It's a good thing. If you're going to spend eternity somewhere. You don't want something that's unclean there.

Why is there a hell? Because there's an absolute necessity for punishment. Once there was a certain preacher who did not believe there was a hell. He taught and believed everyone will be saved.

[17:52] And then his wife died. And she left him as a widower with a little girl to bring up. And this little girl was the idol of his heart. And when she was almost grown, a man enticed her into sin, ruined her and broke his heart.

Then that preacher said, if God Almighty doesn't have a hell for fiends like the one who ruined my child and wrecked my life, he ought to have one.

When we know the gruesome reality of the sinfulness that is all around us, God would be unjust not to have a hell. And the just God does have a hell for such a fiend as that.

And his justice demands that all sinners be punished for the sins they have committed unless they turn and accept the pardon that he offers in Christ.

Why is there a hell? The reason for the existence of hell is grounded in the very nature of the Holy God. Of who he is and what he is. He is sovereign and he is just.

[18:57] He is, as Habakkuk 1.13 says, of purer eyes than to behold evil. God is love, but God is holy.

He loves holiness and purity. And God is both love and wrath. Because God loves purity, he also hates sin and iniquity wherever he finds it.

And love demands an absolute hatred for evil. So hell points us to the cross because we're all hell bound. Because all have sinned.

All have sinned. It's universal. You can't escape it. It doesn't matter what country you come from. It doesn't matter what class you come from. What culture you come from. All have sinned.

All have sinned. And hell points us to the cross because it's our only hope. The haven of rest. That place of rest. That place of refuge. That place of safety.

[19:53] Hell shows us the awesome extent of what he did for us to save us from having to go to such a place. Our Lord's punishment that he suffered on the cross was indescribable.

Grotesque. The wounds. More mud. Than any man. His face. How far God went for us to be saved. People question why. Why is there a hell? Why is there a hell? In a very real way God does not send people to hell. But people choose to go there.

You choose your hell. All who go to hell have only their own selves to blame. The Lord by the cross has made it possible for you to escape that damnation.

He's made it possible to offer the way of salvation to those who will receive it. And it's been said when we look back on our lives from eternity. What will amaze us is not the severity of his justice but the magnanimity of his mercy.

[21:09] I had to practice that word. What will amaze us is not the severity of his justice but the magnanimity of his mercy. The amazing mercy of God.

That he should deign to invite such as we. To be his children. To be saved. Really nobody deserves to go to heaven.

Yet God grants a way. So we can. Hell is a place. A state of final punishment. We read of it especially in the closing chapters of the book.

A day of accountability coming. And we read. It says Revelation 20 verse 15. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Many like to accept that heaven is a place. You know a lot of people like to say. Oh we're all going to heaven when we die. No not everybody is. Many accept heaven as a place.

[22:14] But reject hell as a place. But just as God has reserved a place. And you can make a reservation. Ahead.

In fact you better make one. You don't get a chance when your life's clock ticks its final tick. And your heart beats its final beat. And your breath breathes its final breath. You better have made a reservation. Don't leave it till your death there. But just as God has placed a place of happiness for the redeemed. So God has a place of punishment for those who are not redeemed.

So what will hell be like? A place where the devil and his demons will go. An awful place. The Lord says better that you have. You cut off your hand and gouge out your eye. If it's going to make you go to such a place.

Rather than to go there. There's a crying and a total darkness there. It's described as a lake of fire. Which cannot be put out. A place of fire and blimpstone.

[23 : 16] A place where a fire that is never quenched. A place of intense torment and pain and weeping. A place of darkness and blackness. A terrible place. Away from the presence of God.

And the Lamb. And the holy angels and the redeemed. Some speak of hell as a separation from God. But in some ways God is actually present. He's present in the fullness of his divine wrath. In hell there will be no light. No life. No peace. No joy. No righteousness. No salvation. Dismal darkness and torment. And this is the hell Jesus Christ died to save us from.

No one who is ever in hell will be able to say to God. You put me here. And no one who is in heaven will ever be able to say.

I put myself here. That's a good quote that one. When you get to heaven you can't say. I put myself here. It's God. And salvation is of the Lord. And when you're in hell.

[24 : 18] You can say. You can say in hell. That you put yourself there. Who will be in hell? Many people will be in hell.

From every background, society, religion and culture. There will be a lot of Baptists in hell. There will be a lot of Christian people. I'm saying small c Christian. Nominal Christians will be in hell. Those who do not know God will be in hell. Those who do not obey the gospel of Christ. The sinners, the hypocrites. There will be a lot of righteous people in hell. A lot of church goers in hell. The cowardly, the unbelieving, the abominable, the sorcerers, murderers, idolaters, all liars, homosexuals, adulterers, thieves, covetous people, drunkards, extortioners.

All who have sinned without Christ will be in hell. It's a big broad brush stroke that isn't it? Really, everyone will be in hell who's not saved. That's the bottom line. Where is hell?

[25 : 22] There was a young man who was talking, witnessing one day. He was witnessing some outreach meetings. And he was in this mining village. And he wanted to do something for God.

He's just not long got saved. And he went out and got some tracts and was distributing these leaflets, these gospel tracts. And he met up with some of his old companions.

And they started having a go at him. And as he spoke to them of Jesus. And one of his old mates said, here, can you tell me where hell is?

And the young man looked up and said, yes. It's at the end of a Christless life.

That's where hell is. And how do you get there? The Bible says the highway to hell is wide and the road to heaven is narrow.

[26 : 20] Now, you know, we read of that familiar one where the Lord Jesus tells of the narrow way. And he tells of the broad way.

And he says that many go down the broad way, but there's few that find the narrow way. And he tells how he is the way. He is the way. It's a narrow way.

And few trust him. Friends, these things are dreadful truths, yet needful. I love you enough to tell you this because I care about your soul.

And so should we care about those we know. Care enough to tell them. Care enough to tell them. In hell, there's no fire exit.

There's no exit door. But the good news is, while you still have breath, you can be saved from hell. You can be saved from hell.

[27 : 26] That's the good news. There's a way to be saved. How can we be saved from hell? There's only one way. Only one. Only one name given among men. Only one way.

One truth. One life. One narrow gate. How can we be saved from hell? Through one saviour. The Lord Jesus Christ. The one who died on the cross and rose to bring life to sinful people such as we. And friends, he's such a saviour that he cares for us. He stands with arms open and he wants us to come to him. Friends, this is a sombre subject.

And I don't want it to be some theoretical message that he's talking about some mythical, symbolical place.

And we're all going to go to heaven. And I'm just going to brush it off and pretend I didn't hear it. No. I pray this message will haunt you if you're outside of Christ tonight.

[28 : 32] And haunt you until God chases you down. So he puts up those stop signs on the way to hell that you're travelling enough that you'll stop and turn around.

You know, it's been said that on life's journey, God puts up the stop signs. So you've got no excuse. There's no excuse.

And friends tonight, I urge you if you're outside of Christ to trust him. Trust him now. Trust him tonight. Hell should motivate us. If you're outside of Christ, it should motivate you.

Not that your salvation is some fire insurance policy. But you realise that the cross is what he has done for you. Everything that he has done for you to trust him.

It should motivate you to trust him. To consider the cross today. And hell should motivate us. It should motivate us that are saved. It should inspire us.

[29 : 31] It should energise us. It should motivate. It should constrain us. It should fill us with passion and zeal. A priest of Torrey said this. If you in any way abate the doctrine of hell, it will abate your zeal.

In other words, if you try to tone it down, this thinking about hell, you try to brush it aside, it's going to make your zeal tone down. No, we should get fired up about hell.

We should get fired up and not tone it down. But realise the truth of it, of the doctrine of hell. Hell should motivate us. Hell should motivate us to fear God.

It says, Matthew 10, the Lord Jesus says, and fear not them that kill the body but are not able to kill the soul. But rather fear him. Fear him who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell.

Hell should motivate us to fear him. Hell should motivate us to flee from the wrath to come. The wrath of God. The Lord Jesus says to the religious crowd of his day.

[30 : 38] This is to the church goes. These are those who had, as it were, all the credentials. In Matthew 3, verse 7, this is John the Baptist rather.

He says, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? He knew they were just kind of wanting to have a token kind of religious interest.

They didn't want to flee from the wrath to come. Friends, we've got to flee from the wrath to come. It's coming. The wrath of God is coming. And it's well deserved. We deserve it.

And our land deserves it. Our world deserves it. Every hell-bound sinner deserves the wrath of God. And thank God we can run from his wrath today. And we can run into his welcome arms.

We can run into the refuge who is Christ Jesus tonight. We can run into his arms as the unworthy prodigal ran into the arms of his father and found that comfort and found that embrace and found that undeserved love.

[31 : 42] You can find that undeserved love here tonight. Flee from the wrath to come. And hell should motivate us, we that are believers tonight, to motivate us to action.

To motivate us to action. To motivate us to open our mouths and warn others while we can. To warn others to be saved. In Jude 1.23, Jude writes of others saved with fear, pulling them out of the fire.

It's almost a picture of, if you like, a burning house and people being dragged out while they've still got breath, dragged out of the flames while we can still rescue them.

That's the picture, as it were, of the rescue of souls. Because someone has said, if we really believe in how light we say we do, why aren't we telling more people about the Saviour?

That's a true thought, isn't it? Honestly. And an old creature, Spurgeon, said, Hell should prompt us to pray.

[32 : 57] It should prompt us to warn. It should prompt us to plead for souls and to reach out for souls. And General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, once said this.

He said he would like to send all of his officer candidates to hell for 24 hours as part of their training. Only then would they see the need for the lost to be saved and be able to accept the sacrifice necessary to seriously reach out to those outside God's saving grace.

Could we just picture it? Even just to spend some moments seeing such a place and sensing what it is to be in such a place and realise that the message that we have is so needful for those destined to that place.

Hell should motivate us to action. And hell should motivate us to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. In 1 Thessalonians 1.10 it tells of waiting for his Son from heaven whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Jesus delivers us from the wrath to come. You know, we've talked about the wrath. It says flee from the wrath to come.

[34 : 17] Where do you run to? Run into Jesus' arms. Run to his arms tonight. Run to the Saviour's side. Find that cleft of the rock. Find that place of refuge, that place of safety.

He can be your shield. He can be your fortress. He can be your high tower. He can be that one that you can find complete safety within. And it's eternal.

Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come. It should make us love him. It should motivate us to worship him. Friends, to close. What happens after death for you?

It's a personal question. I pray. I trust. You've trusted Christ. And that can happen in a moment. In an instant of time.

God switches the light bulb on. As it were. In your heart. And you know him. An instant of time.

[35 : 21] Can be that stepping from death into life. That transfer. That translation from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.

That conversion from lost to found. From blind to sight. In an instant.

In a moment. As you realise what the cross means. And you realise that he's made heaven possible for the hell bound. If we'll but trust him.

Friends, I urge you tonight. To trust him. Trust him tonight. There's no guarantee of the future. I know the word tells us.

Boast not of tomorrow. You know. You may not see Monday. It's a reality. There's many stories that gospel preachers tell.

[36 : 19] Of true accounts. Of some who have said. I'll put it off. And when I've had my time of sin. And my time of my own.

Doing my own thing. Then I'll maybe think about it. You may not get that time. Let us pray.

Heavenly Father. We pray. We earnestly pray Lord.

For each soul here tonight. Each never dying soul. Will spend eternity somewhere. We pray Lord.

That each one will know the peace that can come. To know our home in heaven.

Not by works that we have done. But everything that you have done. Lord. As on that cross. You stretched out your arms freely. On that cross. In that body of yours.

You bore our sin. And our penalty was paid. Lord. As we trust you. That account of our own. That debt. That heavy debt. Can be wiped clean. That slate.

[37 : 15] Bears all the marks. All the filthy marks. That defile us of our sin. That can be erased. From your memory banks. Lord. That it will never be remembered.

Lord. We pray. That each one will know. That soul delight. That soul comfort. Of knowing. Of that assurance. That you have died.

And even for the chief of sinners. As Paul said. Even for the worst of us. Not that there's really any shades. Of such Lord. That whatever our state.

However righteous. Or unrighteous we feel. Yet Lord. Our only hope. Is none of that. But it's all of you. It's all of your grace. Lord.

We pray that each soul. Might trust. In your saving work. Tonight. And trust. In the blood you shed. In the hell you suffered. Of the cross. So no one need go there.

[38 : 10] Lord. That we might trust you. And Lord. As believers. Help us. Stir us Lord. Stir us to think. Of the awesome reality of hell. Stir us Lord.

To action. To passion. To compassion. To stir us. To reach out. And to be. Your people. In this place. In these days.

You give us to get. To live. Give us wisdom. To occupy. Until you come. To be about your work Lord. To give that message.

While we can. As your voice pieces. On this planet. To the neighbours. And people we know. Still us Lord. Stir us.

Strive with us. If we're lost tonight. Strive with us Lord. Strive with us. Till we. Crumble. At your feet. In humble surrender.

[39 : 06] And know. That you are God. You are God. And we'll call on the name of the Lord. And be saved. We praise you Lord.

And thank you. In Jesus name. Amen. Thank you.