

THREE HISTORIC BELIEFS ABOUT HELL:

1. _____ – Hell is remedial and eventually all will be saved.
Support Texts: Philippians 2:19-20; 1 Cor. 15:22; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 1:19-20;
1 Tim. 2:4

2. _____ – Hell is eternal in duration but not in consequence.
Support Texts: John 3:16; 1 Cor. 3:17; James 4:12; 2 Pet. 2:3

3. Eternal Conscious _____ – Hell is a state of eternal judgment.
Support Texts: Matt. 25:31-46; John 3:36; Rev. 14:11, 20:7-15

IS HELL ETERNAL? SOME CONSIDERATIONS...

Jesus describes Hell as...

- A place of F _____ (Matt. 13:49-50, etc.)
- A place of D _____ (Matt. 22:13, etc.)
- A place of P _____ (Mark 9:43-48, etc.)

Jesus uses the word “gehenna” (12 times in the Gospels) – The Valley of Hinnom, the garbage dump outside the City Gates of Jerusalem.

MATTHEW 25:41 Then he will say to those on his left (the goats) “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the **eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels.”

MATTHEW 25:46 Then they (the goats) will go away to **eternal punishment**, but the righteous to eternal life.

GREEK “eternal punishment” = *AIONIOS KOLASIS*

- “aionios” can mean “period of time” OR “forever, everlasting”
- “kolasis” can mean “pruning, correction OR “punishment, retribution”

Conclusion:

If Hell is anything less than a serious place of eternal duration, then why the urgency of Jesus and the Apostles telling us to get the message of salvation by grace through faith out to every person on earth?

How could a loving God send someone to Hell? In reality – people send themselves to Hell by rejecting Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. To what extent have you personally wrestled with the question of how a loving God could send someone to Hell? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. Some would argue that a "avoiding Hell" is not the best motivation for becoming a Christian because it is based in fear. Do you agree? Disagree? What would you say in response to that idea? Discuss...
3. Do you agree that if Hell were only temporary, it seems strange that Jesus and the Apostles would place such an urgency upon preaching the Gospel to all people in the world? Share your thoughts...
4. Of the three major views of Hell discussed in the weekend message (Universalism, Annihilationism and Eternal Conscious Punishment), share one thing that is attractive about each view and one thing that is not attractive, in your opinion...
5. Since the Reformation, Protestant believers have placed much emphasis on the conviction that Hell is real and to be avoided. In your opinion, should pastors, preachers and everyday believers place more or less emphasis on Hell than is typical in the Church today? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. Do you think it is possible to be so focused on Heaven and Hell that we (believers) place too little emphasis on the manifestation of Christ's Kingdom in the here and now? Discuss your thoughts on the current climate of "social justice" in the Church today.

How can your life be a vessel for Biblical justice and spiritual salvation without compromising either? Discuss...