

HEAVEN & HELL

AN IMMANUEL SERMON SERIES

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WEEK THREE: HELL – WHEN?

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)

Why preach a sermon series on heaven and hell?

- The Bible talks about heaven and hell, and we want our preaching to be biblical.
- Among Christians, there is great confusion about the doctrine of the afterlife.
- Few of us are so “heavenly minded” that we’re no “earthly good.” (Johnny Cash)
- Every worldview has to answer the question of what happens when we die?
- Like Jesus, we want to _____ sinners about the reality and horror of hell.
- As Christians, we want to _____ the gospel with clarity and urgency.

“Hell is a place of _____ punishment for the wicked.” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*)

What Happens When We Die?

- At death, _____ people experience judgment (Hebrews 9:27-28, Luke 16:19-31 ... the “intermediate” state).
- At the return of Jesus, the dead in Christ will be _____ (1 Corinthians 15:12-58, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- In the end, there will be a _____ judgment (Matthew 25:31-46, Revelation 20:11-15 ... the “final” state).

Objections to “Eternal” Hell

- Some simply _____ that Jesus is the _____ way for sinners to be saved (Universalism, Pluralism, Inclusivism).
- Some hope for _____ - “post-mortem evangelism” (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)
- Some hope for an _____ eternity - “soul-sleep” (Jehovah’s Witnesses).
- Some hope for a _____ afterlife - “Purgatory” (The Roman Catholic Church).
- Some hope for a _____ punishment in hell - “annihilationism” / “conditionalism” (Seventh Day Adventists, John Stott, Edward Fudge, Clark Pinnock, Greg Boyd, Kirk Cameron, John Mark Comer).

Three Reminders

- The punishment of an earthly crime is not based on the _____ spent committing that crime (Numbers 13:25-14:38).
- The experience of _____ does not change the spiritual condition of our hearts (Luke 16:19-31, Revelation 22:11).
- The Bible does suggest that there will be _____ of punishment in hell (Matthew 10:15, 11:22-24, 12:36-37, Mark 9:38-47, Luke 12:47-48, Romans 2:5-6, Hebrews 10:29, Revelation 22:16).

How Should We Respond to the Biblical Teaching on Hell? (Joel Beeke, *Reformed Systematic Theology*)

- “_____ God, not people.” (Matthew 10:28)
- “_____ off sin at all costs.” (Romans 8:13)
- “_____ sinners of hell with tender urgency.” (Matthew 7:21-23)
- “_____ God for salvation in his Son.” (1 Peter 1:3-5)
- “_____ the God of justice.” (Revelation 19:3)