

The Bible's Teaching on Hell

Introduction: The subject of hell is mentioned more in the Bible than the subject of heaven.

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

"Yes," they replied."

- Matthew 13:47-51

What Is Clear About the Afterlife:

1. After death comes judgment for all. - Romans 14:12; Hebrews 9:27

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish."

- Matthew 13:47

"...each person is destined to die once, and after that comes judgment."

- Hebrews 9:27

2. There is a separation process. - Matthew 25:31-46

"When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away."

- Matthew 13:48

3. Those who reject truth will receive God's wrath.

"spiritual anger mixed with justice."

- Romans 1:18-19; Ephesians 5:6

"This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- Matthew 13:49-50

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

- Romans 1:18-19

Questions About Hell:

1. Can a good God justify hell?

*"This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: **God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.**"*

- 1 John 1:5

2. Isn't hell a stiff penalty for not believing in Christ?

"Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified Him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

- Heb. 10:28,29

Consider God's perspective in viewing what all non-believers have done to God:

- Trampled the Son of God underfoot.
- Regarded Christ's blood as unholy.
- Insulted God's Spirit of grace.

3. Does an unbeliever consciously choose to reject Jesus and suffer the consequences? (Romans 1:18-25)

A. God's existence is revealed to all

*"...**what may be known about God is plain** to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — His eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."*

*For although **they knew God**, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."*

- Romans 1:18-21

*"They **exchanged the truth** of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator"*

- Romans 1:25

"...they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God."

- Rom. 1:28

B. Some suppress the innate truth of God.

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

- Romans 1:18

C. No one has an excuse.

"...men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

- Romans 1:20,21

Characteristics of Hell:

The key word to describe hell is anguish.

1. Emotional anguish. - Mark 9:42-48
"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out." - Mark 9:43
2. Physical anguish. - Luke 16:20-25
"In hell, where he was in torment, he (the rich man) looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'
"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony." - Luke 16:23-25
3. Relational anguish. - Luke 16:26-31
"And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us."
"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'" - Luke 16:26-28
4. Spiritual anguish.
"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father..." - James 1:17
"Your Father in heaven causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." - Matthew 5:45
"He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power." - 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

Application Project:

What are the implications of this message?

1. To the unbeliever:
"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." - John 3:36
2. To the believer:
"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." - 2 Corinthians 5:20
3. To the church:
"...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

Parkwood Gardens Community Church

Discipleship Groups

GROW, Year 1 "GROW IN GOD'S WORD" Wednesdays

- The GROW IN GOD'S WORD Discipleship Course is an opportunity for you to learn God's Word. By the end of the year, *you will know your Bible!*
- We will walk through the Bible, book by book, learning:
 - Old Testament History
 - Old Testament Poetry and Prophecy
 - The Life of Christ
 - New Testament History, Letters and Prophecy
- The GROW IN THE WORD Discipleship Course is 38 weeks long, Wednesday nights at the Church from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. We'll begin on **Wednesday night, September 6.**
- Each week there will be a two-hour class, with teaching, discussion and a question and answer time. You will make friends and *Grow in the Word!*
- There are a few chapters of Scripture to read to prepare for each class, and a small amount of memorization during the year.

GROW, Year 2 "GROW IN YOUR WALK" Wednesdays

- The GROW IN YOUR WALK Discipleship course is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn to live like a Christian. By the end of the year, *you will know how to use your gifts & truly live for Jesus.*
- We will examine Biblical teaching about the Christian life, learning:
 - How to Live a Victorious Christian Life
 - Who you really are and how God made you unique
 - Where you can find belonging as a Christian
 - Some deeper theological basics
- The GROW IN YOUR WALK Discipleship Group is 32 weeks long, at the church on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. We'll begin on **September 13.**
- Each week there will be a two-hour class, with teaching, discussion and a question and answer time. You will make friends and *Grow into a victorious Christian life before the Lord!*
- There is a small assignment each week to prepare for class, and some fun opportunities to discover who you really are.

The Bible's Teaching on Hell

Introduction: The subject of hell is mentioned more in the Bible than the subject of heaven.

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

"Yes," they replied."

- Matthew 13:47-51

What Is Clear About the Afterlife:

1. After death comes _____ for all. - Romans 14:12

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish."

- Matthew 13:47

"...each person is destined to die once, and after that comes judgment."

- Hebrews 9:27

2. There is a _____ process. - Matthew 25:31-46

"When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away."

- Matthew 13:48

3. Those who reject truth will receive God's _____.

"spiritual anger mixed with justice."

- Romans 1:18-19; Ephesians 5:6

"This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- Matthew 13:49-50

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

- Romans 1:18-19

Questions About Hell:

1. Can a good God justify hell?

*"This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: **God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.**"*

- 1 John 1:5

2. Isn't hell a stiff penalty for not believing in Christ?

"Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified Him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

- Heb. 10:28,29

Consider God's perspective in viewing what all non-believers have done to God:

- Trampled the Son of God _____.
- Regarded Christ's blood as _____.
- Insulted God's Spirit of _____.

3. Does an unbeliever consciously choose to reject Jesus and suffer the consequences? (Romans 1:18-25)

A. God's existence is _____ to all

*"...**what may be known about God is plain** to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — His eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."*

*For although **they knew God**, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."*

- Romans 1:18-21

*"They **exchanged the truth** of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator"*

- Romans 1:25

"...they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God."

- Rom. 1:28

B. Some suppress the innate _____ of God.

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

- Romans 1:18

C. No one has an _____.

"...men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

- Romans 1:20,21

Characteristics of Hell:

The key word to describe hell is anguish.

1. _____ anguish. - Mark 9:42-48
"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out." - Mark 9:43
2. _____ anguish. - Luke 16:20-25
"In hell, where he was in torment, he (the rich man) looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'
"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony." - Luke 16:23-25
3. _____ anguish. - Luke 16:26-31
"And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us."
"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'" - Luke 16:26-28
4. _____ anguish.
"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father..." - James 1:17
"Your Father in heaven causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." - Matthew 5:45
"He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power." - 2 Thess. 1:8-9

Application Project:

What are the implications of this message?

1. To the unbeliever:
"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." - John 3:36
2. To the believer:
"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." - 2 Corinthians 5:20
3. To the church:
"...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

Parkwood Gardens Community Church

Discipleship Groups

GROW, Year 1 "GROW IN GOD'S WORD" Wednesdays

- The GROW IN GOD'S WORD Discipleship Course is an opportunity for you to learn God's Word. By the end of the year, *you will know your Bible!*
- We will walk through the Bible, book by book, learning:
 - Old Testament History
 - Old Testament Poetry and Prophecy
 - The Life of Christ
 - New Testament History, Letters and Prophecy
- The GROW IN THE WORD Discipleship Course is 38 weeks long, Wednesday nights at the Church from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. We'll begin on **Wednesday night, September 6.**
- Each week there will be a two-hour class, with teaching, discussion and a question and answer time. You will make friends and *Grow in the Word!*
- There are a few chapters of Scripture to read to prepare for each class, and a small amount of memorization during the year.

GROW, Year 2 "GROW IN YOUR WALK" Wednesdays

- The GROW IN YOUR WALK Discipleship course is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn to live like a Christian. By the end of the year, *you will know how to use your gifts & truly live for Jesus.*
- We will examine Biblical teaching about the Christian life, learning:
 - How to Live a Victorious Christian Life
 - Who you really are and how God made you unique
 - Where you can find belonging as a Christian
 - Some deeper theological basics
- The GROW IN YOUR WALK Discipleship Group is 32 weeks long, at the church on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. We'll begin on **September 13.**
- Each week there will be a two-hour class, with teaching, discussion and a question and answer time. You will make friends and *Grow into a victorious Christian life before the Lord!*
- There is a small assignment each week to prepare for class, and some fun opportunities to discover who you really are.

For Further Study (on your own) or Discussion (in a group):

Ice Breaker

1. After reviewing your sermon notes, talk about one thing that was most new, encouraging, challenging, or perplexing to you.

Discussion

2. In John 3:36 Jesus says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” What does Jesus say it takes to escape God’s wrath and receive eternal life?
3. Read Jesus’ depiction of the final judgment (Matthew 25:31-46).
 - a) What is the basis upon which Jesus says we’ll all be judged?
 - b) Who are the sheep and why do they do what they do? What might these “sheep” look like today?
 - c) Where are the goats sent?
 - d) How does this passage affect our concept of how we “worship” God?

So What?

4. Looking over the list of activities that Jesus gave as opportunities to serve (or reject) Him, brainstorm how you as an individual or small group might collectively encourage each other to live out this kind of life as obedience to Christ.