



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
April 28, 2013
Doubts & Answers

desert breeze community church

“Can A Loving God Send People to Hell?”

Luke16:19-31

The Doctrine of Hell is a topic we can't afford to be wrong on. Jesus spoke about hell more often & in more vivid terms than anyone else in the Bible.

Hell Is A Necessary Doctrine To...

Understand Our Desperate Need For God:

- Sin is building my identity on anything other than Christ. Matt22:37-38; Isa59:2; Num6:24-26; Ps16:4, 8, 11
- Any identity other than Christ will control me as I seek it, disappoint me if I get it & devastate me if I lose it. vv23-24; Matt25:30, 41, 46
- Hell is a freely chosen identity apart from God going on forever and ever. Vv24, 27-28, 30; Matt5:22, 18:8-9). Matt6:24, 7:13-14; Rom1:18-32

Overcome Resentment and Revenge and Live At Peace with Others:

- If there is no final judgment then retaliation is justifiable. v25; Matt5:44-45; Rom12:14-21
- The more you understand this final judgment the more you'll pity those who refuse to repent and turn to God. vv23-24; Matt10:28; Acts17:28; James 1:17 Acts 14:16-17; Ps104:10-30
- It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God! Heb10:31; Matt7:23; Rom2:4-11; Matt25 Ps145:8, 20;

Know How Much Jesus Loves Us & Did For Us:

- Fear of hell is a way of using God as a means to an end. Vv30-31; Rom8:15-17; 2Tim1:7
- It's God's love that transforms the fundamental structure of our heart. 2Cor5:14-15

- His love demonstrated on the Cross where the Judge was judged for us. Ps22:1; 2Cor5:21; Luke 22:44; 1Jn2:2, 4:10

Consider the wonder of it: God determined that He would rather go to Hell on our behalf than live in heaven without us. – Randy Alcorn



Growing

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1) What do you imagine heaven & hell will be like?

A loving God sending people to hell for all eternity seems to be a contradiction for many people who argue against Christianity. Explain. Why is the Doctrine of Hell a topic we can't afford to be wrong on?

2) Read Luke 16:19-31. Hell is a necessary doctrine to understand our desperate need for God. How is sin building my identity on anything other than Christ? How like "darkness & fire" (Matt25:30, 41, 46) does this misplaced identity isolate us from God & others & disintegrate our lives (Isa59:2; Ps16:4, 8, 11)?

3) The Rich man is deeply in denial, angry at God, unable to admit that it was a just decision, wishing he could be less miserable but in no way willing to repent or seek the presence of God (vv24, 27-28, 30). How is Hell a freely chosen identity apart from God going on forever & ever (Matt6:24, 7:13-14; Rom1:18-32)?

4) How does the doctrine of Hell help us overcome resentment & revenge and live at peace with others (Rom12:14-21)? How is God's wrath not a cranky explosion but from His love & delight in the preservation of His creation (Ps145:8, 20; Rom2:4-11)?

5) Why is Hell an important doctrine to know how much Jesus loves us & did for us (Ps22:1; 2Cor5:21; Luke 22:44; 1Jn2:2, 4:10)? Why is love for God rather than fear of hell the only motivation that transforms the fundamental structure of our heart's self-centeredness (2Cor5:14-15)? God determined that He would rather go to Hell on our behalf than live in heaven without us! What does that statement mean to you? Pray