

Modern Concepts Regarding Hell

Introduction:

- A. A preacher was asked one time by a young boy, "Sir, you sure do talk about hell a lot. Have you been there?"
- The preacher replied, "Son I do not believe I talk about hell enough, otherwise people would be doing right! And no son I have not been there nor do I plan to ever go there!"
- B. In this short conversation there is a lot that we can learn from, regarding our concepts of HELL. IF we believe there is a Hell, have you ever stopped to consider why we take so many chances in doing wrong when we know full well that it could mean eternal damnation for ONE'S SOUL. "Just this one time won't hurt." is so often heard when someone wants to do something against God's will. But sin is sin and brings forth the same judgment...DEATH (Rom. 6:23). We disregard our soul's destiny when we are reckless with the time that we have to serve God. Also when we refuse to study His word (2 Tim. 2:15), meet with His children (Heb. 10:25; Jas 4:17), do all that He commands us (2 Jn 6, 9) or obey the Gospel of Christ (2 Thess. 1:6-9).
- C. There are many false concepts regarding Hell. And with all the misconceptions of what hell really is, we need to spend some time studying some of the modern concepts regarding hell.

I. Hell Is Only For The Really Bad

- A. This is one of the biggest and worst misconceptions regarding hell.
1. There is no indication that God sees sin in various levels, but rather scripture plainly teaches that sin, no matter what it is, brings forth death - 1 Jn 3:4-8; Rom. 6:23
 2. The majority will be lost - Matt. 7:13-14
 3. Even many who are very sincere - Matt. 7:21-23
- B. Liars, the unbelieving and the murderers all be together in hell - Rev. 21:8
- C. Thus the concept of only the really bad are going to hell, is not a scriptural principle but rather one that is of Satan.

II. God Is Too Loving To Punish Sin

- A. How would one know that this is true?
1. God is a father who loves His children - cf Prov. 13:24
 2. This is man's tendency to try to reshape God in his own image.
- B. Consider these scriptures - Rom. 11:22; Heb. 10:26-31; 12:28-29; Rev. 6:12-17; 14:9-11, 19-20
- C. By God having to punish those who do not His will does not display a lack of love on God's part but a lack of love on man's part - Jn 14:15

III. I'm Experiencing Hell On Earth

- A. If one thinks this is hell now, then he is sadly mistaken as hell will be eternal while life is only like a vapor - Jas 4:14

IV. *Hell Is An Annihilation*

- A. Jehovah Witness and Seventh Day Adventists hold to this position.
- B. The question that one needs to ask according to the scripture is, "How long is hell going to be?"
 - 1. Everlasting - Matt. 25:46
 - 2. They agree to this point but say the punishment is annihilation
- C. Again, scripture says concerning this matter - Matt 13:42, 50; Rom. 2:8-9
 - 1. The term "destroy" does not mean "annihilate" - Matt.10:6; Lk.5:37
 - a. Loss of well being
 - b. Notice, it is not the being that will be lost
 - 2. Death means separation - cf Psa. 116:15
 - 3.

V. *Ignore It; Live For The Present*

- A. I won't be any worse off than the rest.
- B. I believe God will change his mind about hell.
- C. What if God does not, what then?