

HELL

HARD TOPICS AND HOW TO READ YOUR BIBLE

SERMON ONE

1. How did I end up in Hell?
2. John 3:16
3. Why so offensive?
4. Introduction to views on hell
5. Why we need to think about hell



SERMON TWO

1. The big picture
2. Two key reminders
3. Tour of eschatological themes
4. Four views on Hell
5. Conclusions



HELL

Job 17:11

“My days have slipped by, my plans have been ruined, even the things dear to my heart.

...verse 13, if I await sheol as my home, spread my bed in darkness...

...verse 15, where then is my house? Who can see any hope for me?

...verse 16, will it go down to the gates of sheol, or will we descend together to the dust?”



Hell



Job 14:14-15

“if a man dies will he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. You will call and I will answer you. You will long for the creature your hands have made.”

Renewal = halipa – a change of garments

HELL



Suffering; why bother?

HOPE – DESPAIR =	X	WHO AM I?
PLEASURE – PAIN =	Y	HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE ME?
ACHIEVEMENT – FAILURE =	<u>Z</u>	WHAT IS MY CONTRIBUTION?
“total” =	X + Y + Z	

At what “total” should I just be dead?? Or give up my faith in God?

HELL

WRONG EQUATION

This life “suffering” total + the rewards of the next life (joy everlasting)
or 2nd death (weeping and gnashing of teeth)

“I will wait for my renewal to come?”



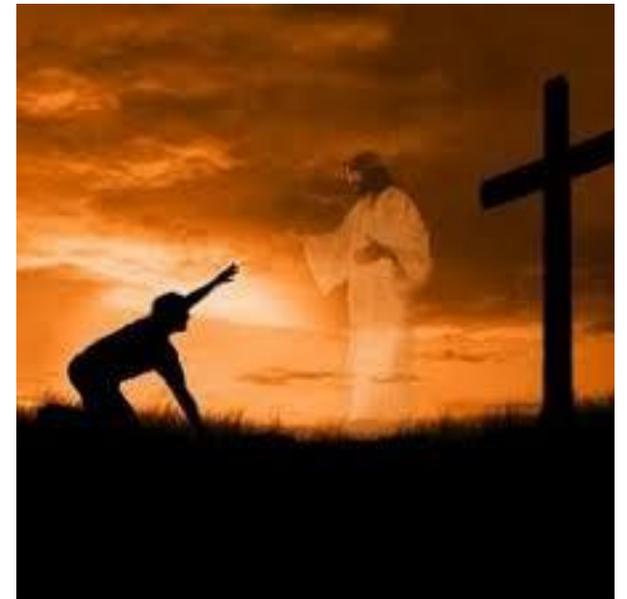
John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should have eternal life.”

Eternal life = aionios

Two interpretations:

1. “eternal life” – life that goes on forever
2. Of the next age, participatory in the next age, i.e. an age without time





John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Perish = apollymi

- To destroy fully
- To kill



John 3:16

Perish vs. everlasting life

For God so loved that he gave his son (suffered and died) on a cross so that we (you and I, all of us) would not:

- Be destroyed
- Live in the next age

Hell is offensive

Mankind is disgusted with this aspect of our faith



Hell: why so offensive?

1. Psychics vs. metaphysics



Hell: why so offensive?

2. Modern values.

Freedom: the greatest of “personal” values.



Hell: why so offensive?

2. Modern values

Tolerance: the greatest of “social” values.

= tolerance equals love in modern speak





Hell: why so offensive?

Judgment

Rev. 11:18

“The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small, and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

Heaven and hell in their contrast clearly point to:

- Accountability
- consequence

Hell: why so offensive?

God made us free BUT

We demand a freedom devoid of accountability (responsibility) and consequence.



FOUR VIEWS OF HELL: universalism (Christian)

1. All path lead to God
2. Christian universalism

LOVE WINS: Rob Bell 2011, American pastor Mars Hill Bible Church

The evangelical universalist: Robin Parry, PhD from UK



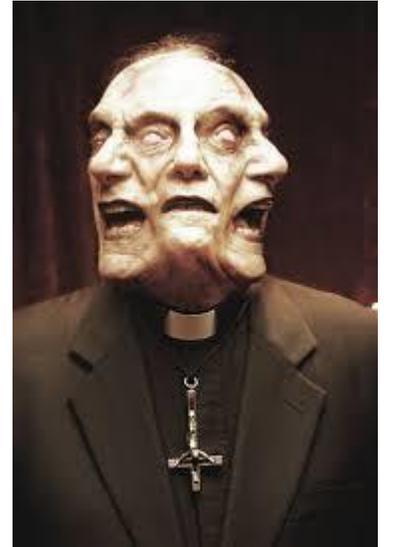
FOUR VIEWS OF HELL: purgatory

Heaven, hell and purgatory

- Jerry L Walls, 2015

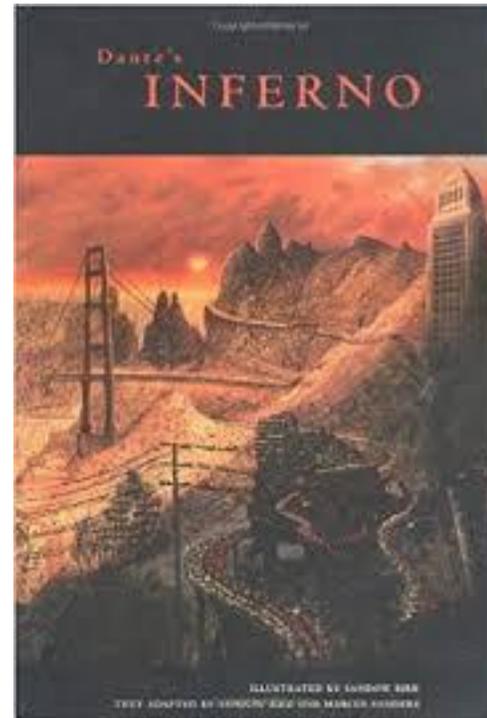
- Professor of philosophy at Houston Baptist Seminary

Where does the sinning or unsanctified Christian go?



FOUR VIEWS OF HELL: Eternal conscious punishment

- Traditional view
- “Dante”
- Modern depictions in media



FOUR VIEWS OF HELL: terminal punishment or annihilationism

DEAD MEANS DEAD

John Stackhouse: Canadian scholar, Crandall University, Moncton, NB

The Fire that Consumes by Edward Fudge, third ed., 2011



CONCLUSIONS

HELL: Why it is important to understand

1. It is a critical part of our faith.
2. Endurance: we hold to God's path more tightly knowing both the reward for success and the price of failure.
3. Comfort: John 14:1, "Your heart must not be troubled, believe in God; believe also in me. In my father's house there are many dwelling places."
All humans live under the weight of a final reckoning.
4. Evangelism...what motivates us?