

Overview:

In order for the Christian to fully grasp the blessing of his Salvation, he must not only comprehend the glories of heaven, but also realize what he has been saved from. Understanding the eternal state of a lost person will give us a greater appreciation for our salvation. It will also motivate us to share the gospel and have compassion for those who don't know Christ. Our society has lost their fear of going to Hell, which has resulted in every form of wickedness possible. Just as much as our minds can't comprehend the glories of heaven, we can't begin to conceive of the torment of an eternal hell.

Outline

I. Definition of terms

- A. Abyss ("bottomless pit")
 1. NT – abode of the imprisoned demons (Rev. 9:1-21, Luke 8:31).
- B. Sheol (Hebrew for "the unseen state")
 1. Translated "grave" in OT (NIV)
 2. Not "hell" of final punishment
- C. Hades (Greek equivalent of Sheol)
 1. Translated as "hell" in the NT
- D. Tartarus – prison of fallen angels? (2 Pet 2:4, Jude 6)
- E. Lake of Fire (Gehenna – Greek, Tophet – Hebrew)
 1. Translated "hell" in the NT
 2. Ge-hinnom, or "valley of Hinnom"
 - a) A place where the Jews sacrificed their children in the fire to Molech (heathen god) (2 Kings 23:10, Jer. 7:31, 19:2-6)
 - b) Josiah converted it to a place of abomination, where dead bodies were thrown & burned
 - c) Valley just south of Jerusalem
 3. Jesus used this term to describe hell.
 - a) where "their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."
- F. Overview – Larkin diagram

II. Wrong Views on Everlasting Punishment

- A. Annihilationism
 1. Belief that those not saved will be eliminated or annihilated.
 2. Not biblical.
- B. Purgatory
 1. "Place of purification" (earn God's favor)
 2. Introduced in the 6th century.
 3. Practice secured revenue for the church, as relatives of the deceased paid for "masses" to be done to help their loved ones out of purgatory.

III. Description of Hell (A to Z)

- A. Consuming fire (Isaiah 33:14)
- B. Everlasting burning (Isaiah 33:14)
- C. Better to not have been born than to go there (Matt. 26:24)
- D. Unquenchable fire (Matt 3:12)
- E. Better to lose parts of your body than go there (Matt. 5:29-30)
- F. Destruction (Matt. 7:13-14)
- G. Outer darkness (Matt. 8:11-12)
- H. Fiery furnace (Matt. 13:49-50)

- I. Place where there will be weeping (*pain*) and gnashing of teeth (*anger & agony*) (Matt. 8:11-12)
- J. Eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41)
- K. Eternal Separation of loved ones (Luke 13:28)
- L. Place where the worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched
- M. Agony in the fire (Luke 16:23-28)
- N. Once you enter, you can never leave. (Luke 16:26)
- O. Torment of memory (Luke 16:23-28)
- P. Tormented day & night forever (Luke 16:23-28) (Rev. 20:10)
- Q. Where the wicked belong (Acts 1:25)
- R. Place where God's wrath is displayed (Romans 2:5)
- S. Everlasting destruction (2 Thes. 1:9)
- T. Shut out from God's presence (2 Thes. 1:9)
- U. Gloomy dungeons (2 Pet. 2:4)
- V. Bound with everlasting chains (Jude 1:6-7)
- W. Punishment of eternal fire (Jude 1:6-7)
- X. Blackest darkness (Jude 1:13)
- Y. Second death (Rev. 2:11)
- Z. Fiery lake of burning sulfur (Rev. 21:8)

IV. Difficult Questions:

- A. How could I enjoy heaven when I know that loved ones are in hell?
 1. God will wipe every tear from our eye and give us joy. (Ps. 16:11) (Rev. 21:4)
 2. We will understand the perfect justice of God and glorify him in every detail of his plan – even the judgement of the wicked (Is. 66:22-24)
- B. How could a loving God send someone to hell?
 1. God's judgment is righteous (Rom. 2:5)
 2. God wishes that none perish. It is man's choice to experience the agony of hell. (2 Peter 3:9)
 3. Christ death on the cross was a demonstration of how much God wanted us to be saved from hell.

Conclusion:

A true understanding of the future state of what faces the person without Christ should motivate us to reach out and have compassion on the lost. Earthly suffering and afflictions are nothing compared to the eternal consequences of hell. It is only because of the doctrine of judgment and hell that Jesus' proclamation of grace and love are so brilliant and astounding.

Supporting Material:

Verses:

Isaiah 33:14 The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless: "Who of us can dwell with the **consuming fire**? Who of us can dwell with **everlasting burning**?"

Matt 3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with **unquenchable fire**.

Matt 5:29-30 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. **It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.**

Matt 7:13-14 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to **destruction**, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matt 8:11-12 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be **thrown outside**, into the **darkness**, where there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**.

Matt 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can **destroy both soul and body in hell**.

Matt 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and **tie them in bundles to be burned**; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.

Matt 13:41-42 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the **fiery furnace**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matt 13:49-50 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**.

Matt 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the **gates of Hades will not overcome it**.

Matt 18:9 And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the **fire of hell**.

Matt 25:30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**.

Matt 25:41 Then he will say to those on his

left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the **eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matt 25:46 Then they will go away to **eternal punishment**, but the righteous to eternal life.

Mark 9:47-48 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where "**their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched**."

Luke 16:23-28 In hell, where he is in torment, he 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. 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**.'

Acts 1:25 to take over this apostolic ministry, **which Judas left to go where he belongs**.

Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are **storing up wrath** against yourself for the **day of God's wrath**, when his **righteous judgment** will be revealed.

II Th 1:9 They will be punished with **everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power**.

2 Pet 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into **gloomy dungeons** to be held for judgment;

Jude 1:6-7 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home-- these he has **kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment** on the great Day. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the **punishment of eternal fire**.

Jude 1:23 **snatch others from the fire** and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-- hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the **second death**.

Rev 9:2 When he opened the Abyss, **smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace**. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

Rev 14:10-11 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be **tormented with burning sulfur** in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the **smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever**. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.

Rev 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the **fiery lake of burning sulfur**.

Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the **lake of burning sulfur**, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be **tormented day and night for ever and ever**.

Rev 20:14,15 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. **The lake of fire is the second death**. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the **lake of fire**.

Rev 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-- their place will be in the **fiery lake of burning sulfur**. This is the second death.

Quotes:

The safest road to hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.
C.S. Lewis

Where is hell? Asked a scoffer. "Anywhere outside of heaven," was the answer.

Anonymous

If there were more preaching of hell in the pulpit there would be less of hell in the world.

Clarence Larkin

One of the horrors of hell is the undying memory of a misspent life.

Anonymous

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Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986

International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Electronic Database by BibleSoft, 1996

Charles Larkin, *Rightly Dividing the Word*, Published by Rev. Clarence Larkin Est., 1920.

Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, Baker Book House Company, 1985.

C.S. Lewis has stated that sin is man saying to God throughout life, "Go away and leave me alone." Hell is God finally saying to man, "You may have your wish." It is God leaving man to himself, as man has chosen.