

HELL IS REAL

Matthew 25:41

Evangelical preachers are commonly caricatured as frequently preaching on “hellfire and damnation.” But can you remember the last time you heard a sermon about Hell? One reason we don’t hear more about Hell is that it has become an embarrassment to many preachers who simply don’t believe in Hell anymore. Hell is also one of the least-acceptable Bible doctrines to the general public. Surveys reveal that about only 58-60% of Americans believe in Hell, and just 4-6% think they have a good or excellent chance of going there. We must keep in mind, however, that the idea of Hell wasn’t developed by the church as an attempt to influence people. It is often noted that there is more in the Bible about Hell from the lips of Jesus Christ than from the rest of the Scriptures put together. Jesus warned people about Hell sternly and often. One of the places where He warns about Hell is in Mt. 25:31-46. The central verse of Jesus’ warning about Hell is v. 41. “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

I. HELL IS REAL

It is an actual place where Jesus says He will send those He calls the “*accursed ones*,” and He describes it as “the eternal fire which as been prepared for the devil and his angels.”

II. HELL IS SEPARATION FROM GOD

Jesus condemns to Hell with, “*Depart from Me*.” See 2 Thess. 1:9. But the Omnipresent God will be there in great wrath (but not mercy). His consuming presence will be their torment.

III. HELL IS FOR ALL THE “ACCURSED ONES”

Jesus says, “*Depart from Me, accursed ones*.” Each of us is already accursed (Gal. 3:10). Avoiding Hell means believing that Christ was cursed for us (Gal. 3:13) to save us from sin’s curse.

IV. HELL IS “ETERNAL”

Hell is referred to as “the *eternal* fire.” Notice that both Hell and Heaven are said to be “*eternal*” in v. 46. People are not annihilated in Hell. There’s infinite punishment for infinite sin.

V. HELL IS A “FIRE”

Jesus describes Hell as “the *eternal fire*.” Just as there will be physical as well as spiritual comforts in Heaven, so there will be physical torments in Hell. The fire’s nature is uncertain.

VI. HELL IS A “PREPARED” FIRE

This “eternal fire,” says Jesus, is one which has been *prepared*...” As Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for His people (Jn. 14:2), so also He has prepared Hell (see Isa. 30:33).

VII.HELL IS ETERNITY WITH “THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS”

Hell “has been prepared for *the devil and his angels*,” and those who go there will be with them. Satan is real. Demons are real. No one is with their friends in Hell, but with these.

MORE APPLICATION

1. *Hell is inevitable if you have never come to Jesus Christ.*
2. *Hell is inescapable once you are there.*
3. *Hell is avoidable if you will repent and believe in Jesus Christ.*