

# Message Notes

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## **What does the Bible teach about Hell?**

Heaven Series, part 6

May 1, 2005

### **How can a person be saved and come into a life-changing relationship with God through Jesus Christ?**

Turn away from your sins and your self-reliance (repentance) and turn toward and trust Jesus Christ for salvation (faith)! (Acts 16:31) Repentance and faith must happen inwardly, but they can be expressed outwardly through a prayer something like this:

*Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.*

If you made a commitment to Jesus Christ this morning, we'd like to hear about it so we can rejoice with you and help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know on your worship folder tab or by contacting one of our ministry staff whose contact info is listed on the back of the Life @ Grace insert in the worship folder.

**grace**  
San Luis Obispo

# Message Outline

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## **What does the Bible teach about Hell?**

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*Because the doctrine of eternal conscious punishment (hell) is so foreign to the thought patterns of our culture, and, on a deeper level, to our instinctive and God-given sense of love and desire for redemption for every human being created in God's image, this doctrine is emotionally one of the most difficult doctrines for Christians to affirm today. It also tends to be one of the first doctrines given up by people who are moving away from a commitment to the Bible as absolutely truthful in all that it affirms. –Wayne Grudem*

### **I. Why does Hell exist?**

- A. Hell exists to show the holiness and justice of God.
- B. Hell exists to show the grace of God in the Gospel of Christ.
- C. Hell exists to show the glory of God. (Rev. 19:1-5)

### **II. What will Hell be like?**

- A. Hell will be a place **apart from God and good** (2 Thes. 1:9).
- B. Hell will be a place of **punishment**.
  - 1. Darkness (Mt. 8:12, Ju 7)
  - 2. Fire (Mk. 9:43, Rev. 20:15)
  - 3. Weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mt. 8:12, 13:42)
  - 4. Torment (Rev. 20:10, Luke 16:23)
  - 5. Destruction (2 Thes. 1:7-9, 2 Pt. 3:7)
- C. Hell will be an **eternal** place (Matt. 25:46)

### **III. How can we escape Hell?**

- A. God has shown His love by making a way (I Jn. 4:9).
- B. Jesus Christ is the "propitiation" (I Jn. 4:10).
- C. Believing and receiving Jesus is the way to have confidence on the day of judgment (I Jn. 4:15-17).

## ***Growth Group Understanding Questions***

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### ***What does the Bible teach about Hell?***

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1. Read our Scripture reading passages again: John 5:24-29 and Revelation 20:10-15. How do these passages relate to one another? What do they teach us? How does one escape “judgment” in the sense of condemnation according to John 5:24? Who is the judge? Who is the source of life?
2. Read Revelation 19:1-5. What is the great multitude praising God for in this passage? How does the doctrine of hell show the justice and the holiness of God? How does the doctrine of God show the grace of God in the Gospel?
3. Read and review some of the passages under the “What will hell be like?” section. Why is annihilation of the wicked ruled out by these passages? How can “destruction” happen forever? When we don’t understand hell, what don’t we really understand?
4. Read I John 4:9-18. What has God demonstrated in the gospel? What has God provided in the gospel? What does the gospel instill in us on the “day of judgment?” How did Jesus experience “hell” for us at the cross? In the physical pain or somewhere else?

## ***Growth Group Application Questions***

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### ***What does the Bible teach about Hell?***

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our study/sermon this week?
2. Why is the doctrine of hell so difficult for us to talk about and think about? What did you feel in the sermon? What are you feeling tonight? When we refuse to talk about it and think about it, how are we remaking God and the Gospel?
3. Have you ever heard a sermon on hell? Why are sermons on hell so rare? Should they be? Which person in the Bible talked about hell more than any other? Is this the way we usually think about this person?
4. Is heaven or hell our default destination according to Ephesians 2:3 and Col. 1:13? If this is the case, then instead of “why does God send people to hell?,” what is the real question we should ask?
5. Explain how the good news of the Gospel shines against the bad news of hell?
6. Why don’t people receive God’s gracious provision of grace and salvation in the gospel? What keeps people from Christ?