

THE PLACE THAT MUST NOT BE NAMED (Revelation 20:12-15)

1.Hell is real.

- a. When you read through scripture you see that Jesus spoke about hell more than any other writer.
 - i. John, in the book of Revelation, probably is second on that list.
 - ii. Peter and James each mention it once.
 - iii. Paul and Jude give us some description of it or who is going to be there but the word hell is not found in their inspired writings.
- b. Jesus gives us the most thorough description of it.
 - i. Jesus described it as a place where the worm does not die nor the fire get quenched (Mark 9:44, 46, 48).
 - (1) This is a quotation from Isaiah 66:24 where a contrast had been made to those who followed the Servant of God and those who sinned.
 - (2) This give an indication of the torment that will be there.
 - ii. Jesus tells us it is a place of suffering.
 - (1) He described it in the account of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 17:19-31).
 - (2) When the rich man died, he was in hell, or hades (Luke 17:23).
 - (3) It is described as torment.
 - (a) This Greek word is literally translated torture.
 - (b) It was the word used to describe the rack or instrument of torture by which one is forced to divulge the truth.
 - (4) The word in Luke 19:24, tormented, is a different Greek word than found in verse 23, and means intense pain.
 - iii. Jesus described it as a place of “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 25:30).
 - iv. Jesus described it as “everlasting fire” (Matthew 25:41).
 - v. He also described it as “everlasting punishment” (Matthew 25:46).
- c. Paul gives us some insight about the terrible nature of hell in 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.
 - i. He tells us who will be there: those that don't know God and those who do not obey the gospel.
 - ii. He then tells us that those there will be totally separated from God and all things that are light, or pure and holy, for all eternity.
 - iii. Jude says that false teachers will go into a place that has the blackness of darkness (Jude 13).
 - iv. This is another indication of the separation from God and holy things.
- d. It seems its original purpose was for the housing of those angels who, along with Satan, fell (Matthew 25:41).
 - i. Peter described it this way...(2 Peter 2:4).
 - ii. Jude, by inspiration, described it as a place of everlasting chains (Jude 6).
 - iii. Satan knows what his end shall be (Revelation 20:10).
- e. It is interesting to note that Jesus said more about hell in His preaching than He did heaven.
- f. I believe the purpose of this is that He wanted to make sure we understood the

fact that hell is a real place.

2.Hell is final.

- a.The Catholic doctrine of purgatory gives the one who is lost some hope of relief.
 - i.It teaches, in short, that at some point, your punishment will reach an end.
 - ii.At that time, you will be released from hell and allowed to go to heaven.
 - iii.Notice I said a Catholic doctrine, not a Bible doctrine.
- b.There are others that teach hell will only last for a certain time.
- c.The Bible simply does not teach this.
 - i.Doctrines that do hold out hope for those in sin.
 - ii.It gives people the idea that they can remain in sin because hell will only last so long and then they can have the reward they have done nothing to deserve.
- d.The Bible teaches that hell is eternal.
- e.Remember Mark 9:44, 46, & 48?
 - i.We noticed that it is a place where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.
 - ii.We know that worms feed on the remains of bodies and fire can consume them.
 - iii.For the worm to not die and the fire to never be quenched indicates a body that will never be fully consumed by either, thus indicating the eternal nature of the punishment.
- f.For hell to simply be the annihilation of the soul, as some contend, or for it to only last a certain period of time, goes against the teaching of Jesus (Matthew 25:46).
 - i.Biblically, it goes against the meaning of the words Jesus used.
 - (1)It negates the strength of the warning of Christ.
 - (2)Everlasting punishment cannot be inflicted on an annihilated soul.
 - ii.Theoretically, it goes against our understanding of justice.
 - (1)Nearly every punishment meted out in the judicial system lasts longer than the crime being punished.
 - (2)In a fit of rage a murder is committed and it lasts a brief amount of time but a crime is committed.
 - (3)If that person serves years or life behind bars, isn't the punishment longer than the crime?
 - (4)We would be using a self-defeating argument to say that hell is too long but mete out punishment longer than the crime in this life.
- g.The strongest argument for the eternity of hell is the fact that the same Greek words are used to describe the length of heaven and hell.
 - i.Matthew 25:46.
 - ii.Both everlasting and eternal are the exact same Greek word.
 - iii.No one argues that heaven is not eternal but it is described with the same word as heaven.
- h.Hell is the final abode for those who are separated from God through sin when this life is over.

3.Hell is fair.

- a.You may be crying out, “Whoa, what do you mean by that?”.
- b.One of the cries made against God by atheists is, If your God is so loving, there is no way He would create a place called hell.
 - i.Bertrand Russell was a famous British agnostic.
 - ii.His biggest reason for not believing in God was the Bible doctrine of hell and that fact that Jesus taught its existence.
- c.The cry is that eternal punishment is unjust.
 - i.It is interesting that those who say this never say that eternal reward is unjust.
 - ii.Those that talk this way are viewing things from a human perspective, not from God’s.
- d.The truth is, no one will be in hell who does not deserve to be there.
 - i.Our God is love (1 John 4:8), good (Psalm 145:9), and merciful (Ephesians 2:4).
 - ii.He only does that which is right.
 - iii.While God wants all men to be saved, there are those who refuse to adhere to His will and have alienated themselves from Him.
 - iv.By their actions, they have chosen hell and God will honor their decision.
 - v.Notice Romans 9:22.
 - (1)The phrase “vessels of wrath fitted for destruction”.
 - (2)This carries the idea that the “vessels themselves prepared themselves for destruction”.
 - (3)They did this by a rejection of God’s will for their lives.
 - vi.Notice how Paul stated it on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:46).
 - vii.Wayne Jackson wrote, “Atheists somehow feel that the Lord is obligated to force rebels into his eternal, holy presence, even when they have despised him their entire lives”.
- e.Not only that, but God is holy and cannot overlook sin like it doesn’t exist (Habakkuk 1:13).
 - i.Because God is just, evil is going to be punished.
 - ii.This is the exact reason the Father sent the Son, to be the propitiation for the sins of the world.
 - iii.This allows God to remain just as well as the justifier of mankind (Romans 3:24-26).
 - iv.Any man who would complain about the injustice of hell has failed to study the cross.
- f.We must never forget the justice and mercy of God (Romans 11:22).

4.Hell is avoidable.

- a.No one has to go to hell.
- b.God has done all that He can do to get mankind off of the highway headed to hell.
- c.When one looks at the cross, the goodness, grace, mercy, and love of God should scream out to us.
 - i.God sent His Son so you and I and all mankind can go to heaven.
 - ii.God understands the horrors of hell because He created for the devil and his angels.

- iii. God wants no one to be lost, but all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).
- d. There is a plain path that leads to heaven (Matthew 7:14).
 - i. It isn't easy, being called strait, or restrictive.
 - ii. It isn't crowded since few there be that find it.
- e. We don't have to be lost.