

Heaven, Hell & the Gospel

A biblical understanding of hell is crucial

- **To understand your own heart**
- **To understand the love of God**

Hell...Understanding Your Heart

“Remember in your lifetime you received YOUR good things” 16:25

You received what you valued as ultimately good

Understand the motivational structure of the human heart

Your heart was made to worship... “worth-ship”
...to place great value on something, believing that to have it is to
have life, worth, significance

You received YOUR good things...the things your heart worshipped,
trusting your wealth & status to give you life

“YOUR good things”...pictured in a series of contrasts



Hell...Understanding Your Heart

“Remember in your lifetime you received YOUR good things” 16:25

The rich man.... religious man

Yet God was not his greatest good...his wealth & status were

If you build your identity, worth, significance, satisfaction on anything besides God, you will begin experiencing the fires of hell in your soul on earth

What if the soul goes on forever???

Hell is a freely chosen identity of living for something else besides God that goes on forever

Experienced as disintegration and darkness



Hell...Understanding Your Heart

Hell is a freely chosen identity of living for something else besides God that goes on forever

“There are only two types of people in the end. Those who say to God, “Thy will be done”. And those to whom God says in the end, “Thy will be done.” All that are in hell choose it. C.S. Lewis

Are you willing to look as deep into yourself as the doctrine of hell is calling you??

- Do you see the seriousness of making anything YOUR ultimate good besides God?
- Will you face the reality of the hell fires already burning in your soul?

Apart from the intervening grace of God, this is where we all are



Hell...Understanding the Love of God

Luke 16:27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house,

Luke 16:29-30 29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 30 "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

Even a miracle like a resurrection with not change the fundamental structure of the human heart...
...the brothers will still believe that the ultimate good is wealth/status

Eg. The resurrection of Lazarus, Jesus' friend (John 11, 12)

The resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:11-15)



Hell...Understanding the Love of God

The only thing that can change the human heart is when God's grace intervenes and you are captured by the beauty and wonder of the radical, unconditional love of God displayed in His Son

Why did Jesus speak more on hell than any other person in the Bible?

Because on the cross He suffered hell in your place

The judge of the earth came to be judged...

...and to experience hell for his enemies

When the Son cried out,

"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

He experienced an agony, disintegration, isolation infinitely greater than you or I would experience in an eternity in hell



Hell...Understanding the Love of God

In the long run the answer to those who object to the doctrine of hell is itself a question: “What are you asking God to do?” To wipe out past sins, at all costs, to give them a fresh start, smoothing every difficulty and offering every miraculous help? But He has done so, on Calvary. To forgive them? They will not be forgiven. To leave them alone? Alas, I am afraid that is what He does.

C.S. Lewis

- We don't teach hell to fearfully drive people to morality or religion
- We don't teach hell to disdain people out of self-righteousness