

## HELL? YES!

There are key parts of our faith, that when removed cause it to weaken OR ... even fall apart

Some of the irreplaceable elements would be things like: Jesus, God, The Cross, The Resurrection, Pentecost, The Virgin Birth and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. These parts of our faith MUST remain or – the foundation of our faith begins to crack ...

But ... there ARE 2 other things to add to this list for discussion this morning:

The first is - “SIN” because without its reality, we don’t really need “saving” from a perfect God.

The second is – “HELL” which as we will discover this morning is WAY more important to our faith than many give credit

Of ALL people ... it’s CHRISTIANS that are downplaying, remaking or ignoring BOTH Sin and Hell and the confusion caused in the wake of their apostasy is being used by Satan to weaken the faith.

This morning I want to defend the importance of Hell to our faith and how Sin is intimately connected to the Hell described in the bible. I’m certainly not here to glorify Hell, but to demonstrate why it, of all things ... is under misguided attack by folks professing faith in Christ. Along the way, we will uncover that our understanding of GOD drives our understanding of SIN and that both of these determine our understanding of HELL

To summarize my opening remarks ...

If you are a Christian ... Hell is a required component of your theology  
Hell MUST exist

Or to put it another way ... AND the title of my message this morning  
Hell?? Yes!

## SLIDE: HELL?? – YES!

Hell is ... Real  
Hell is ... A Place  
Hell is ... Forever

... and although a place all of us wish to avoid

It’s important to our faith  
It’s important to how we live our lives

That’s why the recent news about Kirk Cameron (and others) promoting a new doctrine about Hell is so concerning. The doctrine is called Annihilationism and ... I’ll read some commentary by Traci Coston to describe it:

QUOTE:

The devil has a doctrine of demons he has been really trying to popularize since the 20th century. It's called "annihilationism". It's this idea that the wicked aren't ACTUALLY tortured forever...they just cease to exist after the final judgment.

ENDQUOTE:

What if Pastor Ken stepped up to this very podium on Sunday and said this to the congregation???

"There is NO Hell"

SLIDE: HELL?? NO!

What if he boldly told all of us that Hell in the Christian faith simply does not exist and began to preach from that doctrine Sunday after Sunday?

It's jarring to hear it put that way but THAT is exactly what the Annihilist believes! They think that God simply "erases" the souls of those who do not believe in Christ ... and when the wicked are made to "disappear" then we don't need that nasty old place called Hell anymore.

The annihilationist use selected and out of context verses of the bible to bolster their argument. Here's a few commonly quoted: Romans 6:23 "for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The Annihilationist will say that this verse does NOT say that "the wages of sin is eternal conscious torment".

Here's another ... from Matthew 10:28 that is used by the Annihilationist as a foundation to their doctrine

28Do 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.

Annihilationists, interpret the phrase "destroy both soul and body in hell" as indicating the complete and irreversible obliteration of the wicked rather than eternal conscious torment.

But ... words matter and HOW those words are used matter and the context of the surrounding text matters too. The Greek word used, for "destroy" in this verse, is "apollymi." This word has various meanings and in this case it could mean either a momentary destruction or an eternal process ... and more importantly ... when we read just a few more verses further in Matthew 25:46, we see where Jesus uses these specific words to describe Hell -when he says: "**eternal punishment**" and "**eternal life**,"

We will see, as we dive deeper into this subject that the concept of Annihilationism is a demon born idea meant to confuse and lead people away from salvation, away from holiness, away from justice and away from God.

RC Sproul says this about Hell

QUOTE "There is no biblical concept more grim or terror-invoking than the idea of hell. It is so unpopular with us that few would give credence to it at all except that it comes to us from the teaching of Christ Himself. ENDQUOTE

RC says that Jesus teaching us about hell and it is "terror invoking." Let's confirm what he says by examining the verses that back it up:

## SLIDE: BIBLICAL HELL 3 verses S1

I'm just going to read the BOLD words that support a "forever Hell"

- Matthew 25:46 — "And these shall go away into **everlasting** punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."
- Mark 9:43–48 — "Where their worm **dieth not**, and the **fire is not quenched.**"
- Revelation 14:10–11 — "The smoke of their torment ascendeth up **for ever and ever**: and they have **no rest day nor night.**"

## SLIDE: BIBLICAL HELL 3 verses S2

Again, pay attention to the BOLD words

- Revelation 20:10, 15 The wicked are "**tormented day and night for ever and ever.**"
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8–9 — "**Everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord."
- Daniel 12:2 — "Some to everlasting life, and some to shame and **everlasting contempt.**"

In Matthew as Jesus unloads verbally in righteous anger at the Pharisees he tells us much about hell in just a few words:

Matthew 23:33: "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"

Jesus says the wicked will be **condemned** [judged], and sentenced to an actual PLACE called "Hell"

- It doesn't say condemned to annihilation
- It doesn't say condemned to the basement
- It doesn't say condemned to the corner for a "time out"

AND ... It certainly doesn't say condemned to not being around ever again

It says condemned to HELL

A PLACE of constant and ETERNAL torment

As Steven Cox put it

QUOTE:

Hell is not a metaphor, a moment, or a mere cessation of being; it is the eternal and conscious judgment of a holy God upon all who reject His Son. Scripture leaves no soft edges..Hell is real, Hell is final, and Hell is forever.

ENDQUOTE

The concept of Hell as being eternal was known throughout church history. From the earliest days of the church this belief was held as true.

Why? Because the very plain language of the bible and from the words of Jesus himself says so!

## SLIDE: EARLY CHURCH

Here are some early examples of the doctrine of an eternal hell. I won't read them all but each taught that hell was real, it was punishment and it was forever.

- The Didache (Late 1st / Early 2nd Century), one of the earliest Christian manuals of teaching, affirmed eternal punishment.
- Early Christian apologist Justin Martyr taught this. (c. 100–165 AD)
- Early church father Irenaeus (c. 130–202 AD) taught eternal suffering.
- Early theologian Tertullian (c. 155-240 AD) taught hell was forever.
- Augustine of Hippo (354–430 AD) taught that people in hell suffered forever.

So ... if early church teachers and leaders taught of the biblical version of Hell, then where on earth did the idea of Annihilationism come from ... when did it start?

Traci Coston a Christian media leader answered it this way:

QUOTE:

It wasn't until the 19th century that this idea was even introduced and began to grow in popularity in the next century. IT IS A FALSE DOCTRINE OF DEVILS. Human beings are image bearers of God—Imago Dei—meaning we are more than physical beings. We are spiritual beings, temporarily inhabiting physical bodies, but who share in God's eternal spiritual nature. We do not cease to exist at death or beyond.

ENDQUOTE

Why would the annihilists believe in this “false doctrine of devils?” Well, in part, because they think that a loving God does not have the character to treat souls this way. How could a loving God allow people to die and then be tortured and suffer FOREVER?? In fact, Kirk Cameron alluded to this when he shared that his newfound belief in Annihilationism is partly based on the fact that an eternal Hell is out of “character” for God.

Look ... I love Kirk as a brother in Christ, but ... oh my ... he's just wrong here, because the character of God ultimately DEMANDS an eternal Hell. We may despise Hell, we may fear it, worry about it, and hate it - but without it we have a very dubious and weakened faith.

To truly understand Hell, we must begin with Jesus. Christians believe that Jesus is real, that he is alive, that he is eternal, that he is perfect, that he is the way, the truth and the life ... and that he IS GOD. By default that means we also believe what Jesus spoke about in the bible.

One of the key things that Jesus shared with us is “how Hell works”, or to put it another way, what it's like there. Remember the stupid TV ads about a year ago “Jesus GETS us?” I can assure you Jesus did NOT “get” the sin these ads promoted BUT ... I can also assure you that Jesus WAS an expert on Hell

**SLIDE: JESUS**

Here's an interesting fact. Jesus had more to say about Hell than ANYONE ELSE IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE ... he used the word “Hell” 15 times alone in the new testament!

Jesus also gives us one of the most detailed stories of what being IN HELL is like with the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Tim Delina in his book “The 260 Degree Journey” says this about the story of Lazarus:

QUOTE: When the rich man and the poor man were born, they were both born without Christ; but when the rich man and the poor man died, Lazarus had Christ and the rich man had nothing. In fact ... when the rich man died he had everything **but** God, and when the beggar died, he had nothing **but** God. ENDQUOTE

Jesus uses this story to tell us that the place of Hell is real, you get there by rejecting God's offer of salvation through His son Jesus and that YOUR decision is irrevocable

Why do you think Jesus is our NUMBER ONE source of knowledge on the subject of Hell?

I share one reason why ... because He knew more about it than ANYONE ELSE.

As God He had an inside track into the nature and function of Hell and he told us... it's a place of constant torment AND it is forever.

Let's examine the words of Jesus surrounding the topic of "Hell" and as we do we will find that:

- The bible provides overwhelming evidence that Hell is "forever"
- The character of God IS LOVE but he's also a JUST God
- The eternal concept of the soul, raised to perfection in an eternal coexistence with Jesus is a BIBLICAL FACT ... that quickly falls apart if the soul is NOT eternal for the damned – in other words, if THEY can cease to exist, how is it WE can depend on, hope for and believe in ETERNAL LIFE

Let's start with the most trusted of names in the bible ... Jesus. In Matthew 25:46 Jesus is telling the parable of the sheep and the goats. He uses this parable to describe a moment in the future when he will return to earth and rule and reign as King for a 1,000 years. He explains that people will be separated into 2 groups ... one with the saving faith in Christ and the other group that does not and did not believe in who he was. In this verse we hear from JESUS HIMSELF – not someone else. We hear from the actual JESUS who will be the ACTUAL JUDGE during this time, that there are ETERNAL consequences for not calling on Him for our salvation:

Matthew 25:46

"And these will go away into **eternal** punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Jesus says that you get one or the other AND they both last forever ...

Mark 9:43

And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to **hell**, to the **unquenchable fire**.

For context, the word "hell" in Mark 9:43 is the Greek word Gehenna, which comes from the Hebrew name for a place called the "Valley of Hinnom." Jesus is using an example that almost everyone in his day would understand. This valley was used in ancient times as a place to sacrifice children and during the time of Jesus as a garbage dump. It was a nasty place where garbage, dead animals and executed criminals were tossed and maggots NEVER ceased to exist and where the fires NEVER went out.

Just a few more verses along in Mark we read Jesus's words as he begins to describe what hell is like

Mark 9:48

"Where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched"

This verse speaks to the consistency with which Jesus spoke about the PLACE called “hell”. Why do I say that? Because in this very verse, Jesus ties the old testament concept of hell directly to the new testament concept of hell and GUESS WHAT?? They are exactly the same – hell is FOREVER.

In the Mark 9:48 verse we just read, Jesus is quoting almost verbatim, from Isaiah 66:24. Let’s read that to see how consistent Jesus was in His description of Hell

Isaiah 66:24

"And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm **shall not die**, their fire shall **not be quenched**, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Isaiah says:

- Their worms that eat them shall NOT die
- The fire that burns them shall NOT be quenched

The doctrine of Annihilationism says unbelievers will bypass the eternal torment of hell, BUT Isaiah and Jesus both disagree: In the single verse of Mark 9:48, Jesus destroys the entire concept of Annihilationism

And ... he covers both the old and new testament while doing it AND - are you kidding me!!

He does it in just 12 words: “**For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched**”

- 12 words that should cause us to back away from a false God that is ONLY love, and NO justice
- 12 words that should drive us to FEAR God and honor him with a life spent pursuing holiness
- 12 words that if NOT believed can quickly become a “so what” to unbelievers worldwide who live lives without God, without fear, without consequences, because hey .... let’s eat, drink and be merry ... for tomorrow – we JUST die.

In both texts the word translated as “worm” literally means “grub” or “maggot.” and maybe the most interesting part of both verses is what appears to be a typo ... it looks out of place even ...

In fact when researching this topic the very first commentator I landed upon had made a significant mistake when typing his commentary on Isaiah 66:24. I found he had typed the word incorrectly

- What word is it that looks “weird”?
- What word is it that appears to be a typo?
- What word is in the text that appears so out of place?

The word “THEIR”

When we read each verse our minds want to quickly “correct” the word and change it to:

“the”

Our minds want this to read “the worm”

Because how can people have a personal worm

How can it be MY WORM

But changing that word from “their” to “the” would be a mistake

The word is THEIR and Isaiah, speaking as a prophet of God and Jesus speaking AS God meant exactly what they said and what they said has eternal consequences for us

You see Jesus was telling us something when he personalized the “worm”

Jesus uses the metaphor of the worm, to demonstrate the unending suffering in hell—the “worm” never stops causing a very personal torment.

The commentator on GOTQUESTIONS.ORG says this:

QUOTE: Notice that the worm is personal. Both Isaiah 66:24 and Mark 9:48 use the word their to identify the worm’s owner. The sources of torment are attached each to its own host. Some Bible scholars believe the “worm” refers to a man’s conscience. Those in hell, being completely cut off from God, exist with a nagging, guilty conscience that, like a persistent worm, gnaws away at its victim with a remorse that can **never be mitigated**. END QUOTE

Whatever the word “worm” refers to we at least know this about it:

- It’s personal – it’s mans
- It torments men and gnaws away at them continually
- It NEVER goes away
- it has NO end
- It does NOT stop
- It IS ETERNAL and IT IS HELL to endure
- It IS the result of the UTTER REJECTION of a Holy, Loving AND JUST GOD

But why? Might be your question. Why do we need to have Hell at all. Why did God create such a place? To begin to answer that question, we must first consider the concept of ... SUFFERING

### SLIDE: SUFFERING

Before I began leading the Men of Covenant, I had no idea that men suffered the way they do. I’m staggered, humbled and burdened by what I know about “US” ...

We have brothers in our group that struggle to pay for gas, for rent and even food

Brothers in so much extreme pain that they have wished to die

We have brothers in our group with drug addicted family members and godless sons/daughters

Brothers in our group who have kids and grandkids living lives for the devil

We have brothers in our group who suffer with brain cancer, bladder cancer, throat cancer and blood cancer – some with miraculous healing and some without

We have brothers in our group that have needed a heart transplant, and ... you’re looking at a guy that had quadruple bypass at 57 years old

Guys ... this is from a group of less than 100 men

Yes, we suffer and ... this same list of pain, sickness, trials, loss and suffering happens to Christians and non-Christians alike. The consequences of a broken and sin-filled world touch everybody.

But there IS ONE key difference between “us” and “the world” - and that ONE DIFFERENCE, makes ALL THE DIFFERENCE. The ONE thing about “US” that is different about how we we experience those EXACT SAME trials and suffering is this:

JESUS.

While here on earth, Christ is here with us to help us through it all. The Christian body of Christ is the method God uses to minister and love on His people BEFORE they get to heaven. What's that look like? Well let me give you a very personal and very Patriot Church based answer.

Recreational Vehicles  
RV's

Or as Cousin' Eddie put it in National Lampoons Christmas Vacation – “that there is an RV Clark ... and don't you go fallin' in love with it because we're takin' it with us when we leave here next MONTH!

Seriously though ... back to the topic of the body of Christ living and working through the power of the Holy Spirit to help people “get through” this very tough life we live here on earth.

RV's ARE my example and Ben Yoder and many other men, along with the financial support of Patriot Church ... placed homeless families from Hurricane Helene into 47 RV's over the course of a year-long effort. These families had no where to sleep, had been kicked out of hotel rooms or were freezing to death in sheds and tents, as winter set in.

This past week I read an article in the Washington Post stating that hundreds of SC residents had applied for FEMA buyouts after their homes were wiped out by Hurricane Helene ... and as of today, not a single buyout has been approved or given. You see - the “world” was not there for these suffering people, because the world does not know “sacrificial love” and although the world was NOT there when they needed help, CHRIST WAS! ... in the form of Christian men called to help the least, the lost and the suffering. Gentlemen – we “get through” life because Christ carries us. The world, on the other hand, simply SUFFERS and STAGGERS through life because they don't have what WE HAVE.

**We have HOPE.**

Though we SUFFER like all men, we have HOPE!

And our HOPE is why we KNOW there is a Hell  
Hope and Hell are connected and cannot exist without each other ... let's find out how.

**SLIDE: HOPE**

We can read in Peter 1:13 that have our hope in Jesus and Heaven

**Peter 1:13**

**3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

- We have Hope that we will be resurrected JUST as Jesus was
- We have Hope that we will then live FOREVER with Him

What is this thing called HOPE?

Websters says Hope is “The longing or desire for something accompanied by the belief that it could happen

- If we have hope

- If we long for resurrection with Jesus
- If we believe that we will live forever with God

Then that same HOPE must have a baseline

- Hope must have something it pushes against
- Hope must have an opposite or why have it at all?
- Hope must represent something that we also Hope AGAINST

after all ...

Why hope if everything is perfect?

Why hope if we don't seek something better?

Why hope for heaven if there is nothing in opposition to it??

We hope for heaven where all who are there are perfect and holy

We hope for heaven where all of the suffering I just read about in MOC, simply vanishes

All the cancers, the pain, the anguish, the want, the need, the loneliness – all gone and GONE FOREVER

We hope for Heaven because we KNOW about Hell

We hope for Heaven because a forever Heaven has an opposing place called Hell that is also never-ending

We hope for Heaven because the bible tells us very plainly about the “OTHER PLACE”

We hope for Heaven because that other place is also eternal, just as our faith tells us WE ARE ETERNAL

And ... that brings us to the sharpest point of the argument of where eternal Hell collides with Annihilationism.

We ARE SPIRITUALLY ETERNAL BEINGS!

Our souls will NEVER vanish, or disappear or just “stop existing”

We will either LIVE forever

or

DIE forever

Living forever, or “life eternal” is in Heaven with God

Dying forever, is the eternal torment experienced in an eternal Hell

We get to choose NOW

When you die your natural death without accepting Christ, you've already set in motion your eternity

You will go to Hell, it will be a terrible place and it will NEVER end.

Wait a minute ... the Annihilist say that a loving God would never subject people to THAT kind of punishment!

Really ... you don't say

**SLIDE: THE SEEDS OF ANNIHILATIONISM**

People who say that are missing exactly 50% of Gods nature

The annihilist is only seeing half the picture and possibly missing the entire movie!

Oh they get the “God is love” part alright, but they are missing the “God is just” part entirely

A holy God MUST exhibit justice

- His justice MUST be perfect
- His justice to the saved is satisfied by Jesus
- His justice to the unsaved is satisfied by Hell

You see - There is a symmetry between eternal hell and eternal heaven in the Bible. Eternal is both a quantity and quality for those that live in heaven and those that live in hell.

Why would some people “want” it to be different?

Why would even some Christians wish that there was NO Hell, and that those without Jesus as their saviour would simply be made to “go away?”

John Piper provides some keen insight into why we treat the subject of Hell so frivolously at times. He starts out his comments by highlighting that an eternal Hell MUST mean that sin is unfathomably serious. As in eternally serious

Here’s what he says ...

QUOTE:

Jesus’s command that we fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell teaches us to see sin as more serious than we ever dreamed. The reason so many people feel that eternal hell is an unjust punishment for our sin is that they do not see sin as it really is. This is because they do not see God as he really is. When Jesus tells us what he will say to those who are going to hell he says, “Then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness’” (Matt. 7:23)

ENDQUOTE

The idea of pursuing holiness, the process called “sanctification” was new to me at 60 years of age. I’ve been in church most of my life. I started as a Catholic, moved to Methodist and even non-denominational churches BUT only heard about “holiness” after 6 decades of life here on earth. Why is that? I’m not stupid ... and it’s not like I wasn’t paying attention for 3,000 Sundays. I’m going tell you why I missed it and it’s related to what I shared at the very beginning of this message.

Remember the 2 areas of our faith under attack? Hell and Sin?

**SLIDE: SIN IS BAD**

I MISSED the journey of the pursuit of Holiness, I got a late start carrying MY cross ... Because the church of Jesus Christ does NOT take SIN seriously. Without an understanding of sin, we misunderstand how HOLY God is and by misunderstanding the HOLINESS of God is, we miss our calling to follow His son Jesus. When we miss our calling to holiness, we get half-baked, human being invented views of Hell

You see the church won’t even talk about MOST sins, let alone condemn them. We have an epidemic of sin going on right now and 80% of the churches in America will never bring it up in the pulpit.

Challenge me if you will .... but before you do let me say this:

- 70MM innocent children have been aborted and we see little action from the church

- Over half of Christian men are involved in sexual sin and nothing from the church
- Churches are being established just to accommodate the homosexual lifestyle of sin

When we can't call out the murder of innocent babies as murder it's no surprise that homosexuality is now a celebrated vs a condemned lifestyle.

Who do we think we ARE?????

I'll tell you who we think we are ...

We "think" and we "act" as if we ARE GOD!

But ... we are fools in His eyes, and God will execute His JUSTICE upon SIN, despite how important we think we are, despite how heretical the church becomes and despite how much we downplay the life and death seriousness of sin

### SLIDE: JUSTICE DEMANDS A HELL

From the beginning of time, we human beings have wanted to tell God how to run things  
We started way back in the Garden of Eden with our desire to be "like God" ... and the annihilists doctrine that removes Hell from our faith is nothing more than a continuation of that desire. We think we know Him, we think we know BETTER than Him and we "desire", "want" or "wish" there was no eternal place of torture and misery called Hell – so we manufacture a doctrine to eliminate it.

Well "we" can do whatever we want to do

But that has consequences doesn't it?

Just because the annihilists say there is "no Hell" does not change the facts from God's perspective

He will judge all and that judgment has only 2 outcomes:

Hell eternal OR

Heaven eternal

Is justice served when a true Christian believer is accepted into Heaven and gets to live there forever?

Christians would say - YES

- Because Jesus is the propitiation for our sins
- Because Jesus paid our sin debt for us
- Because Jesus lived a perfect sinless life in our stead
- Because Jesus was crucified on a cross and died to pay our debt
- Because Jesus rose and defeated death

Because all of these things mean that the righteousness of Jesus covers our sins and God's perfectly holy demand of justice is met and ... we get accepted into Heaven when our bodies die

If THAT is why we say "JUSTICE is served"

If when we enter heaven we will hear "YOUR sin debt has been paid in full"

Then what does "justice" look like to the other guys?

In other words ... we have "good consequences" from the path we've chosen

We have Jesus ... so we get Heaven – forever and we call that “justice served”  
We get to experience the merciful and loving side of God BECAUSE we accepted His son Jesus.

What does “justice served” look like for non-believers?

Let’s use the same words ...

Jesus is NOT covering their sin – it’s fully exposed for God to see

Jesus did not pay THEIR sin debt, so relationship with God is NOT possible

God’s demand for justice is NOT met thru Jesus and suddenly and irrevocably they are exposed and unprotected from the justice of the creator of the universe who’s justice MUST and WILL BE satisfied

What do we think justice of a perfectly Holy God looks like for the unbelievers?

We get the “good consequences” of Heaven forever

What do you think the “bad consequences” of REJECTING His Son are?

It’s pretty easy to understand what happens to everyone else

2 words ...Hell – forever

If we celebrate, desire, long for and can’t wait for OUR JUSTICE (Heaven forever)

And if we believe all the reasons why we get such a gift – beginning with god’s grace and delivered through the sacrifice of His son Jesus Christ ...

Then we MUST acknowledge that the OTHER JUSTICE exists as well (Hell forever)

- If we DON’T acknowledge the justice of a forever Hell, we diminish what Jesus has done for us
- If we DON’T acknowledge the justice of a forever Hell, we dilute God’s Grace and Mercy.
- If we DON’T acknowledge the justice of a forever Hell, we lose our passion for Holiness
- If we DON’T acknowledge the justice of a forever Hell, we make Heaven less than it really is

You see without Hell there can be no Judgment and without Judgment there can be no Justice  
Justice is often thought of as “fair treatment”, “right action” or things being “as they should be”

Most people want justice AND Christians in particular want justice. When we see INJUSTICE we wince, we weep, we anguish and we wish for it NOT to be so. Injustice has it’s father in SIN. We cry out to God for Him to stop it because we inherently know it’s SINFUL fingerprints. The SIN behind the injustice we witness fills us with RIGHTEOUS ANGER. When we see the outright murder of innocent Christians in Nigeria and we WANT JUSTICE for them. We BEG for the perpetrators to be PUNISHED for their SIN.

If we ONLY knew how our own sin appears to God!

If we ONLY had some concept of how INJUST our sin is to God!

We might have a better understanding of why Hell MUST BE and why it MUST BE ETERNAL

And when we grasp just how INJUST our sin is to God we can begin to understand the sacrifice Jesus made to allow our relationship with God to be restored.

BibleRef.com

QUOTE: We cannot begin to understand God’s justice unless we first understand sin. Sin is lawlessness and iniquity. It embodies everything contrary to God’s **HOLY** nature and is offensive to Him. Thus, sin is a **CRIME** against God, and justice demands a penalty of death and separation from Him for it.

ENDQUOTE

God's Holy nature helps us to understand the relationship between Holiness and Hell

1. God is holy and eternal
2. He has an eternal place called Heaven
3. Christians believing in Christ spend eternity with Him

For almost all Christians these statements are indisputable  
Even for the "there is no Hell" crowd, they would align on these words

So ... what does this tell us????

We get the opportunity to "go see Him" because WE ARE ETERNAL  
Finite beings would not "fit" in Heaven by it's own definition of being "eternal"  
We get to go to Heaven because we are spiritual in nature and have eternal souls  
Eternal spiritual beings can't just "go away" – they must GO SOMEWHERE

Stay with me here ... so ...

- God is eternal
- Heaven is eternal
- WE are eternal

Where do all the unrighteous, non-believers, rejectors of Jesus Christ go?

If we are eternal beings ... then they are as well

It's so simple to understand because it is so very clear in the bible

They go to Hell – forever and they MUST

OR

We will not go to Heaven forever

One of my favorite old school preacher guys, JC Ryle had this to say 150 years ago. You see the doctrine of Annihilationism is not new. It's an idea that's been around too long now:

QUOTE: Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it, hell is eternal. It must be eternal or words have no meaning at all. Forever and ever—everlasting—unquenchable—eternal—all these are expressions used about hell and expressions that cannot be explained away. It must be eternal or the very foundations of heaven are destroyed. If hell has an end, heaven has an end too. They both stand or fall together. It must be eternal or else every doctrine of the Gospel is undermined.

ENDQUOTE

### SLIDE: ETERNITY

Without Hell, there is no real Justice, there is no need to follow Christ and pursue Holiness, because ... there's no real consequence or penalty for sin AND ... what would society look like if it reflected a people who had no concern for the consequences of sin? I'll bet it would be a world filled with sin.

I REALLY hate to say this out loud, but the America of today is a VERY sinful America that then by definition lives mostly unaware of the consequences of an eternal Hell.

And ... the responsibility to change this lies squarely with the "SHEPHERDS" of today – that is the Pastors who are leading ... or in MANY cases MISLEADING their congregations

Because ...

- When we stop preaching about sin
- We stop preaching about Holiness
- When we stop preaching about Holiness
- We stop preaching about the Justice of a Holy God
- When we stop preaching about Justice
- There's no need to talk about Hell

I'll close with this:

- Hell is a real place (because HEAVEN is a place)
- Hell is eternal (because WE are eternal)
- Hell is torment (because we are SEPARATED from God)
- Hell is punishment (Justice served by a perfectly HOLY God)

All men are headed to just 2 places and NEITHER OF THEM are annihilation

They will go to:

- Heaven OR Hell

We MUST choose wisely because ...

It WILL be one or the other and that simple, binary choice is critical to ALL Christians who need a forever Hell to exist because a forever Heaven exists

- This forces all men to choose ONE path
- Because there is NO middle ground
- We are DESTINED to die a physical death, but we are DESIGNED to live forever
- We get to choose WHERE we want that forever is located

Men of Covenant will choose Heaven, because ... “Forever is a long time to be wrong” ...

And HELL IS FOREVER

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/jesus-said-more-about-hell-than-anyone-in-the-bible/>

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/adrianwarnock/r-c-sproul-on-the-reality-of-hell/>

<https://260journey.com/hell-is-a-real-place/>

<https://answersingenesis.org/eternal-torment/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2025/12/26/fema-buyouts-north-carolina-hurricane-helene/>