

Death, Dying, Heaven & Hell pt 8
Hell and Sin

2/25/18
Mike Wacera
Theology Class

1. I believe that the images of hell are metaphorical.

Metaphorically worse than the literal.

John Calvin

We have stated formerly, that the term fire represents metaphorically that dreadful punishment which our senses are unable to comprehend. It is therefore unnecessary to enter into subtle inquiries, as the sophists do into the matters of form of this fire; for there would be equally good reason to inquire about the worm.

2. Sin separates you from God (cast out), grows in you (fire), enslaves you (thirst) destroys you (agony), haunts you (torment), and oppresses you (shame and everlasting contempt).
3. Hell is your freely chosen identity (sin) based upon something other than God, going on forever.

Luke 16:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.

4. Your freely chosen identity (sin) will create a fire of evil while you live in it.

Luke 16:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,
²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.

1 Kings 14:11 (NASB)

¹¹ "Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs will eat.

1 Kings 21:19 (NASB)

..."In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs will lick up your blood,

1 Kings 21:23 (NASB)

'The dogs will eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.'

James 1:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Romans 1:21-32 (NASB)

²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

²⁷ and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips,

³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

³² and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

5. Your obsession with your chosen identity (sin) will create a cosmic fire of evil when you are punished for it.

Luke 16:19-31 (NASB)

²³ "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and *saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'

CS Lewis

I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the inside.

Revelation 16:8-11 (NASB)

⁸ The fourth *angel* poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire.

⁹ Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

¹⁰ Then the fifth *angel* poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain,

¹¹ and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

Revelation 9:6 (NIV)

⁶ During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Revelation 9:20-21 (NIV)

²⁰ The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk.

²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Martin Luther

Nature is far more adept at fleeing from God when He is angry and when He punishes, to say nothing of turning to Him and calling upon Him. It always seeks help from other sources; it will have nothing of this God and cannot abide him. Therefore human nature forever flees, and yet it does not escape but must thus remain condemned in wrath, sin, death, and hell. Here you can glimpse a portion of hell. They flee from it but never escape it, and yet they do not cry to God and implore him. For Isaiah says, He who believes (in the precious cornerstone) will not be in haste.

6. In Hell the rich man is being judged **by** his sin, **for** his sin, and **because** of his sin since he refused to accept **salvation from** his sin.

Charles Spurgeon

The drunkard here will have all a drunkard's thirst there without the means to gratifying it. The swearer here will become a yet more ripe and proficient blasphemer. Death does not change but fixes character; it petrifies it.

Charles Spurgeon

Hell is sin fully developed **a man's own** soul permitted to go to extreme limits with that which it now carries out in a mitigated form, and so, becoming like a furnace heated seven times hotter than usual, tormenting itself beyond all power of imagination.

Luke 16:24 (ESV)

²⁴ And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'

7. Understanding that Christ did not come to earth to **bring** judgement for sin (hell) but to **bear** judgement for sin (hell) is the only way a person will have the **desire** to get **rid** of their sin (hell).

Luke 16:27-31 (NASB)

²⁷ "And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house—
²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹ "But Abraham *said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'

³⁰ "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' ³¹ "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Luke 16:19-31 (NASB)

¹⁹ "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day.

²⁰ "And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores,
²¹ and longing to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

²² "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.

²³ "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and *saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'

²⁵ "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

²⁶ ~'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that

those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and *that* none may cross over from there to us.'

²⁷ "And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house—

²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹ "But Abraham *said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'

³⁰ "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!'

³¹ "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"