



▶ WHAT DOES PRAYER DO?



▶ IS MONEY THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL?



▶ WHAT ARE ANGELS?

February 5, 2012
Study 2

Sunday Morning

Discovery study

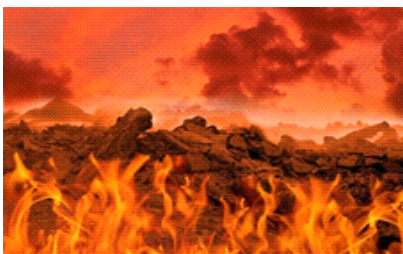
SEARCHING, SHARING, AND STUDYING REAL ISSUES OF FAITH TOGETHER WITH THE BIBLE AND DISCUSSION

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out...." Mark 9:43-44

What is Hell like?

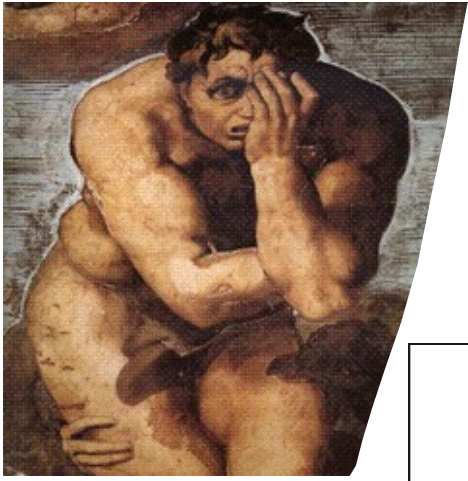
Is hell real or is it merely a fictional place created in an attempt to keep humans from sinning? Too many people take hell far too lightly, relegating people to it and employing it as a casual curse word. But what does the Bible say about hell? Hell and its derivatives, Sheol, Ghehennah, Hades and Lake of Fire are used throughout the entire Bible. However the Old and New Testaments present two different views of hell. In the Old Testament, Sheol is a place of the dead and it's inhabitants. The Jews never really had a notion of an accountable afterlife. That concept was developed later. In the New Testament, the Greek Hades is just a place for the dead and Ghehennah is the place of everlasting punishment. Jesus had only a few things to say about hell, but when he did make reference to it, he re-

ferred to it as a place of punishment and torment. Railing against the Pharisees one day, Jesus asks them how they will "escape being condemned to hell". The notion of hell poses a theological conundrum because it really leads to the question of who God is. Are the unrepentant truly thrown into a fiery lake to burn for eternity? What about grace, forgiveness and mercy? The Apostle Paul isn't much help here either. He preferred to write about the joys of salvation rather than the fate of the unrepentant. Whatever hell is, Presbyterians believe it is separation from God. Another thing we believe is that God's judgment is as real as God's grace. Whether we believe in a real hell or not, the greater question is and should always be: What are the consequences of sin? H. Vais



Fiery Lake of Burning Sulphur?

"He said to me: 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.'" Revelation 20:6-8



Asking Questions that Matter

Long is the way
And hard, that out of hell leads up to light.
John Milton - Paradise Lost

Personal Notes

We shall all stand under the final judgment of God, as we receive the divine verdict on our lives.

Worthy of hell, eternal separation from God, our hope is for heaven, eternal life with God through the grace bestowed on us in Christ. To say "no" to Christ is to refuse life and to embrace death. The destiny of all people is in the hands of God whose mercy and justice we trust.

10.3 Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief
(Presbyterian Church in Canada)

What is hell? Hell is oneself.
Hell is alone, the other figures in it
Merely projections.

T.S. Elliot

REFORMED VIEW: John Calvin



"Many persons ... have entered into ingenious debates about the eternal fire by which the wicked will be tormented after judgment. But we may conclude from many passages of Scripture that it is a metaphorical expression ... Let us lay aside the speculations, by which foolish men weary themselves to no purpose, and satisfy ourselves with believing that these forms of speech denote, in a manner suited to our feeble capacity, a dreadful torment, which no man can now comprehend and no language can express."

John Calvin

At the end of the world ... the angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matt. 13:49-50