

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Pathway to Hell

Selected Passages

Keywords: Hell, Judgment, Eternity, Wrath, Condemnation

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: If you pull the idea of hell out of its context in the bible then you can do all sorts of reworking on the doctrine. But if you have a correct, biblically sound perspective on what hell represents and why it is present, then you will find a sobering, but beautiful doctrine.

I. Introduction.

- A. We continue in this short series on the nature and reality of hell.
 - 1. Every so often alternative ideas about hell rise up. They are always the same each time, but those who are younger in age, or newer as Christians, are surprised or intrigued by them.
 - 2. As stated in previous messages, today there is no lack of opinions on the nature, reality and purpose of hell. Closely connected to it is the nature of the human soul.
- B. I am systematically laying out a biblical picture of hell.
- C. To set the table today I want to give you a sense of the flow why hell exists. Some of this will repeat what I have already said, but it is necessary to see the big picture and the seriousness of God's attitude toward rebellion and sin.
- D. If you want, consider this the pathway to hell.

II. Condemnation and Wrath.

- A. The basis of hell is God's character.
 - 1. Romans 11:33-36:
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 8:6:
 - 3. To seek to resist this is common but futile.
 - 4. This is at the core of Romans 1:20-26, *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they"*

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became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the likeness of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.”

5. Hell exists, like all things, because God created it.
6. Now, tightly connected to what I've just said, we can also see how other attributes of God come into play.
 - a. God's holiness—He is not like us.
 - b. God's righteousness—God is morally the standard for all things.
 - c. God's goodness— The goodness of God is bound up in His holiness and righteousness.
 - d. God's love—the fact that God is love is similar in effect as to His goodness.

B. Judgment by Jesus Christ is the agent of hell.

1. We saw this last week so we will not belabor it today.
2. God the Father has given the judgment of all things to the Son, Jesus Christ.

C. The focus of the judgment is what one did or did not do.

1. Here again we find ourselves in Romans 1:18ff.
 - a. The fact of God's wrath (18).
 - b. The reason for the wrath (19-20).
 - c. The expression of rebellion (21).
 - d. The result of rebellion (22-23).
 - e. The diverse consequences (24-32).
2. Romans 3:9-23 gives us the summation of chapters 1-2 of Romans.
3. And here is where guilt comes into play. Notice 3:24.

D. The result of that guilt is condemnation.

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1. The term in the New Testament is an intensified form of *krima*, which means to decide, basically to judge. But in an intensified form it speaks of the result of that judicial decision—to condemn.
2. Romans 5:16-18.
3. Luke 11:31-32.
4. Again, at the heart of the Christian message is how Jesus saves us from that condemnation (Romans 8:1-3).
5. This is a judicial act where the rebel will be judged by the One who made them, sustained them, revealed Himself to them.
6. But how is that condemnation ultimately expressed in reality? And it is here that we then come to the idea of wrath.

E. Wrath is the expression of condemnation.

1. I want to show you a few passages to develop this in all of our minds.
2. John 3:36:
3. Romans 2:5-8:
4. Romans 3:5-6:
5. Romans 5:9:
6. Romans 12:19:
7. Ephesians 5:5-7:
8. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 with 5:9:
9. Revelation 6:15-17:

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F. The vehicle for that wrath is hell.

1. Luke 12:5:

2. Revelation 20:10-15:

III. Conclusion.

- A. When a person talks about hell he reveals much about himself and how he understands God.
- B. When hell is diminished in any way it always is because there is a failure to understand the pathway just described.
- C. We have one more message on this and then we will turn our focus on the promise of eternity with God for those who love and follow Jesus Christ.
- D. But already you have heard yet again the great promise of the gospel, both good and bad.
 - 1. Reject Jesus Christ and you are under the abiding, ever growing wrath to come. In a moment you shall be swept away into eternity, permanently under the power and presence of hell.
 - 2. Believe in Jesus Christ and you are saved from the wrath to come. You enter into life eternal. You are forgiven of all sin through Jesus. And in the end, you will forever participate in the new heavens and earth.

Benediction

May our God cause you to rejoice in the Lord, to be made complete in all aspects, and to be comforted by the Spirit. May He move in and among us to be like-minded in the Word and to live in peace with one another. Amen