

Hell Under Fire: The Doctrine of Eternal Punishment 4/19/26

Originally preached by Phil Johnson at the 2026 Shepherds' Conference

Hell is not a _____ stopover for sinners on the way to being snuffed out of _____.

Annihilationism

The view that the fires of _____ will simply annihilate sinners and their souls will cease to _____ is known as annihilationism.

Annihilationism is attractive as a _____ view for people who do not truly trust the _____ of God.

They want to set _____ that God Himself has not set on the scale of His righteous retribution against _____ sinners.

Annihilationism is a quasi-Protestant view of _____.

In the words of Christ Himself, hell is a place of _____ fire and everlasting _____.

What We Allow to Shape Our Theology

The _____ is a spiritually dangerous place.

It is foolish to think that _____ is the perfect tool for untangling difficult theological _____.

It's simply _____ for anyone to think that he can be taught well in a forum of free-for-all _____.

Historical notes:

Recent Annihilationist Influences

The name "annihilationism," or "_____ mortality" comes from the belief that the human soul is not inherently _____.

Why this has come back up in the last four months:

Those who _____ the doctrine of everlasting punishment, almost always put themselves and their followers on a path that eventually ends in _____.

God's _____ is defined by what the Bible says, not by what our _____ say, or how we feel about it.

There is simply no hope and no possibility of _____ for the person who has spent his entire lifetime loving _____.

Notes on annihilationism being a secondary issue:

Reasons to Reject Efforts to Reinterpret Jesus' Words About Hell

1. *Annihilationism minimizes the seriousness and _____ of sin.*

If we really understood that all sin is _____ sinful, and if we hated evil the way God hates it, we would see the necessity of an _____ punishment for everyone who has sinned against an infinitely _____ God.

Old Testament examples of God's justice that seem harsh to carnal minds:

When you _____ what Scripture says about God's judgments, you close people's eyes to the exceeding _____ of sin.

2. *Annihilationism subverts the _____ of Scripture.*

Notes on clear examples from Scripture that hell is eternal punishment:

3. *Annihilationism undermines substitutionary _____.*

The only _____ punishment for sin and rebellion against an infinitely holy God must be an _____ punishment.