

Sunday, July 29, 2007

You Asked: Questions for God Week 8 – God, Is There a Literal Hell?

The holiness of God is the attribute that holds all other attributes together.

Luke 16:19-28

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' ²⁵But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' ²⁷He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

Part 1: Misconceptions about Hell

1. God _____ everyone and wouldn't _____ anyone to hell

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- The cross reveals God's nature as perfectly _____ and perfectly _____.

2. Hell is not a _____

- Heaven is a literal place where God will grant us an _____ for our deepest longings on this earth.

No one in hell will be able to say to God, "You put me here."

No one in heaven will be able to say, "I put myself here."

John 14:2

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

- If heaven is a literal place it is logically _____ to not view hell as a literal place.

Matthew 25:41

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

2 Peter 2:4

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

3. Hell is not _____.

- Humanity has always had an _____ that there is more beyond this life.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

- Every person will dwell some place _____.

Mark 9:43

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.

4. Hell is not all that _____.

- There is no comparison for the _____ of heaven or the _____ of hell.

1 Corinthians 2:9

However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"

Matthew 8:12

But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- Hell is an eternal place that exists outside the _____ of God.

An Eternal Place

In the absence of _____ there is only

In the absence of _____ there is only

In the absence of _____ there is only

In the absence of _____ there is only

Part 2: Why think about a subject as horrible as hell?

1. To remind us of the depths of God's _____.

Romans 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

2. To give us a renewed passion for the _____.

3. To make sure of our own _____.

Matthew 7:22-23

Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' ²³Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

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