



2020 VISION:

SEEING AS JESUS SEES

THE REALITY OF HELL



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **As Something Not Real**

- **The Unbelieving and the Doubting**

- ‘sins’ are just natural human traits • punishing unbelievers is ‘unbelievable cruelty’ • eternal punishment ‘cannot be considered loving or just’ • ‘Rehabilitation and restoration are more desirable’ • a minority of mankind are in heaven ‘cannot be considered a victory’ • eternal punishment for earthly acts is ‘not appropriate’ • it minimizes the central point of the gospel — love



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **As Something Not Real**
 - **The Unbelieving and the Doubting**
 - **Believers?**

“...my main problem is accepting the doctrine of Hell, for years I’ve tried to come to terms with that, but I can’t, I wish that Hell was not part of Christianity, I try to justify it to others and to myself, but I can’t anymore! I don’t want eternal torture for anyone.”



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **Not A Place, But An ‘Experience’**
- **“Hell on Earth”**

“Hell is not a place, but a state of mind born from stress.”

“Heaven and Hell is only a representation of Happiness and Sorrow. Those who are satisfied with their situation they are in Heaven, and those who not, they are inclined towards their desires. From desires arise dissatisfaction. A dissatisfied person always experiences Hell no matter how much pleasurable facts are around them.”



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **Not A Place, But An ‘Experience’**
- **“Hell on Earth”**

“...hell is not a place, but a state of the soul. Hell is not a ‘room’ where you enter after death and you can’t get out...the more we set barriers between God and our soul, the more we get frustrated and suffer...That frustration is just a shadow of hell, and it is then that hell starts to exist.”



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **Not A Place, But An ‘Experience’**
 - **“Hell on Earth”**
 - **Emotional Pain of Separation From God**

“The extreme pain and environmental conditions described in the Bible are not to be interpreted literally. The biblical descriptions of heat, bondage, darkness, thirst, worms, pain, flogging, fire, etc. are symbolic -- perhaps symbolizing the emotional pain of being separated from God.”



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **As Temporary**
 - "God Is Too Loving"
 - **Universalism**

The doctrine of universal reconciliation – the view that all human beings will ultimately be saved and restored to a right relationship with God



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **As Annihilation**

- **Denominations**

“...because eternal torment serves no remedial purpose, the traditional concept of hell paints a portrait of God as a vindictive despot incompatible with the loving Father in Jesus.”

“Scripturally, death is a state of nonexistence.”



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **As Annihilation**
- **Denominations**
- **Among Brethren?**

“...the wicked, following whatever degree and duration of pain that God may justly inflict, will finally and truly die, perish and **become extinct** for ever and ever.”

(Ed Fudge, *The Fire That Consumes*, p. 425.)



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **As Annihilation**

- **Denominations**

- **Among Brethren?**

“...**total destruction** rather than conscious, ongoing punishment is the dreaded fate which awaits the wicked”

(Homer Hailey, *God's Judgments & Punishments*, p. 10.)



How We Sometimes See Hell

- **As Annihilation**

- **Denominations**

- **Among Brethren?**

“In hell...those who have rejected God and have refused to believe in his Son will be **totally wiped out!** Completely eradicated. **Their existence will come to an abrupt end.**”

(F. LaGard Smith)



The Consequences Of These Views

- **No Motivation/Reason to Serve God**
 - **No Reward, No Punishment**
 - **Conduct Is Neither 'Good' Nor 'Bad'**



The Consequences Of These Views

- **Consistent Application Eliminates Heaven**

- **But If We Exist, We Exist *Somewhere***

1st John 3:2

- **Heaven Is A Place. Hell Is A Place.**

John 14:2, 3; Matthew 10:28; Revelation 20:15



The Consequences Of These Views

- **Consistent Application: Heaven Temporary**
 - **Everlasting/Eternal**
cf. Matthew 25:46
 - **And What After That?**



The Consequences Of These Views

- **A Big “So What?”**
 - **There Are No Consequences!**
 - **Annihilation = Christ’s Blood?**



How Jesus Wants Us To See Hell

- **Definitely REAL**
 - **He Spoke of Heaven AND Hell As REAL**
John 14:2, ; Matt. 25:41; Luke 16:22, 23
 - **He Spoke of Punishment As REAL**
Matt. 13:42, 43, 50; Luke 16:23-25



How Jesus Wants Us To See Hell

- **As Eternal**

- **Everlasting Fire**

2nd Cor. 4:18; Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:43, 44

- **Everlasting Destruction**

Matt. 25:46; 2nd Thess. 1:6-9



How Jesus Wants Us To See Hell

- **As A Place God Wants No One To Be**

John 3:16; 2nd Peter 3:9, 15; Romans 2:3-5, 8-9

In the long run the answer to all those who object to the doctrine of hell, is itself a question: What are you asking God to do? To wipe out their past sins and, at all costs, to give them a fresh start, smoothing every difficulty and offering every miraculous help? But He has done so, on Calvary. To forgive them? They will not be forgiven. To leave them alone? Alas, I am afraid that is what He does.

C. S. Lewis

