

Escaping Hell

Key Scriptures

Luke 12:4-5 ⁴ "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom you should fear: Fear the one who, after the killing, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Mark 9:42-48 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁴ "where `Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁵ "And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-- ⁴⁶ "where `Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁷ "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire--⁴⁸ "where `Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Key Point: Preparing for your eternal and ultimate future is more important than what you prepare for in your immediate future.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Are you a planner, or do you fly by the seat of your pants? How do you make plans for the future?

Start thinking: Questions to get your group thinking.

Ashish described hell as a place of eternal, conscious punishment for the unrighteous. He also reminded us: "the reality is always greater than the images are trying to convey."

- What images does God give us about hell in the passages on the left and the ones listed below?
Matt 25:30, 41, 46 (Jesus' 2nd coming)
Luke 16:19-31 (the rich man and Lazarus)
Matt 13:50
Mark 9:42-48
Revelation 14:9-11 (those who take the mark of the beast)

- In John 3:18-19, What did Jesus teach about people who are condemned to hell?
- What is the purpose of hell? (2 Thes 1:5-10)

Start sharing: Questions to create openness.

- How are people deceived about the nature of eternity, and the judgment of hell?
- The most important thing is eternity, but we are so preoccupied with the temporal. Why is this?
- Why are emotions not a reliable guide when it comes to the doctrine of hell?
- Ashish mentioned two objections people have about hell: 1. "How can a loving God send people to hell?" 2. "It's unfair." How will you answer those objections when you encounter them?

Start doing. Reminder about escaping hell:

Other religions put the burden on you—your righteousness must get you in to heaven and make you right with God. But only in Christianity is the burden offered to be removed from you and put on Christ!

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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