

Think lightly of hell, and you will think lightly of the cross. Think little of the sufferings of lost souls, and you will soon think little of the Savior who delivers them.

*-- Spurgeon*

# How to properly contemplate Hell?

- Man's sin is infinitely evil because done against perfect holiness.
- “Absolute holiness cannot tolerate the least sin.”

(Chapel Library, The Terrors of Hell by William Nichols, 1998)

“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity” (Hab. 1:13).

- This absolute holiness requires God's infinite wrath against evil = eternal Hell

# HELL

## Introductory Observations

- The doctrine of hell is a common theme in Jesus' preaching.
- This doctrine is a great motivator for holy living for it stresses the accountability for EVERY sin. People are not getting away with ANY sin but are "storing up wrath."
- Rom. 2:5, "But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and of the revelation of the righteous judgment of God."

# HELL

## Introductory Observations

- The doctrine of hell is a great motivator for evangelism IF we ...
  - believe it firmly
  - have compassion for sinners, who being “children of wrath” cannot escape hell unless made children of GOD.
- Some “evangelicals” have rejected eternal hell and teach rather the **annihilation** of sinners.
- A variation is “**conditional immortality.**” (saved live forever; unsaved cease to exist)

# Annihilation Promoters

- John R. Stott (1988)

“Emotionally, I find the concept [of eternal conscious torment] intolerable and do not understand how people can live with it without either cauterizing their feelings or cracking under the strain . . . Scripture points in the direction of annihilation.”

(The Echo and Insufficiency of Hell, Part 1 | Desiring God)

# Annihilation Promoters

- Clark Pinnock (1990)

“I was led to question the traditional belief in everlasting conscious torment because of moral revulsion and broader theological considerations, not first of all on scriptural grounds. It just does not make any sense to say that a God of love will torture people forever for sins done in the context of a finite life . . . It's time for evangelicals to come out and say that the biblical and morally appropriate doctrine of hell is annihilation, not everlasting torment.”

(The Echo and Insufficiency of Hell, Part 1 | Desiring God)

# Hell Denier

- Rob Bell (1990)

“In Love Wins, bestselling author, international teacher, and speaker Rob Bell (Velvet Elvis, Drops Like Stars) addresses one of the most controversial issues of faith--hell and the afterlife--arguing, would a loving God send people to eternal torment forever? Rob Bell is an electrifying, unconventional pastor whom Time magazine calls ‘a singular rock star in the church world,’ with millions viewing his NOOMA videos. With searing insight, Bell puts hell on trial with a hopeful message--eternal life doesn't start when we die; it starts right now. And ultimately, Love Wins.”

[Love Wins book by Rob Bell \(thriftbooks.com\)](http://thriftbooks.com).”

# Aspects of Hell

- **FORETOLD** – no surprise (OT -- people turned into hell and all the nations that forget God)
- **FURIOUS** – God’s unmitigated wrath
- **FORENSIC** – perfectly just, based on facts of the person’s desires and deeds
- **FIERY** – Gehenna (valley of Hinnom); Lake of Fire
- **FULL** – having many aspects of torment
- **FELT** – the senses will remain active
- **FINAL BUT FOREVER** – “eternal fire”; “eternal judgment”
- **FRIGHTENING** – a purifying and an evangelistic impetus

# FORETOLD

Note the truth Asaph finally grasped

Ps. 73:12, “Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. 13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.

16-19, But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!”

# FORETOLD

## By OT writers

- **Daniel** 12:2, “many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”
- **Isaiah**
  - 33:14, “The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: ‘Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?’”
  - 66:24, “And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

# FORETOLD

- By Jesus (e.g., Mt. 24:48-51 and many other texts; used “Gehenna” 11 of the 12x)
- By Paul
  - “And to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might...” (2 Thess. 1:7-9)
- By John (e.g., John 3:36 – God’s wrath “abides” on him; Rev. 20)
- By Jude (vv. 10-15)

# FURIOUS

- **God's wrath**
  - “Because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed... for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be **wrath** and **fury**. There will be **tribulation** and **distress** for every human being who does evil...” (Rom. 2:5-9)

# FURIOUS

John 3:36, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

God’s wrath is already active against the unbeliever, who does not submit to the Son and the truth about Him.

# FURIOUS:

## God's wrath and natural man

- [Mt. 3:7](#), “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”
- [Rom. 1:18](#), “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”
- [Rom 9:22](#), “What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction...”

# FURIOUS:

## God's wrath and natural man

- Mt. 3:7, “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”
- Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”
- Rom 9:22, “What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience **vessels of wrath prepared for destruction...**”

# FORENSIC guilty of specific sins

Mat. 5:21, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”

The sin? **Insulting anger using abusive language**

# FORENSIC guilty of specific sins

*Mat. 5:28, "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into **hell**. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into **hell**."*

The sin?

**Lust**

# FORENSIC guilty of specific sins

*Mat. 10:26, “It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in **hell**.”*

**The sin? Maligning Jesus or His follower (“Beelzebub”)**

# FORENSIC guilty of specific sins

Mat. 23:13, “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. 15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.”

The sin? Religious hypocrisy, made worse by teaching and proselytizing others.



# FORENSIC

## guilty of specific sins

Mat. 23:31, “Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. 33 You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?”

The sin? **Hatred and abuse of God’s messengers**

# FIERY and causing ...

- Weeping/wailing
  - Mt. 13:49-50, “So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
  - Sorrow
  - Despair – inconsolable heart
  - Regret
  - Remorse – will realize what they have lost; no second chance

# FIERY and causing ...

- Gnashing of teeth
  - Stress
  - Frustration
  - Anger and hostility
  - Pain

# FIERY -- but also dark

- **Darkness (outer, blackness of)**
  - Mt. 8:11-12, “I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be **thrown into the outer darkness**. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
  - Jude 1:12-13, “These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, **for whom the gloom of utter [black – NASB] darkness has been reserved forever.**”
  - Inability to see; inability to think and comprehend?
  - Paul’s commission and ours is to “turn them from darkness to light”!

# FULL

Rev. 14:9-11, “And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will **drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, **day or night**, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.’”**

# FULL

- Summary of the torment of Christ rejecters from Rev. 14:9-11
  - Full of **DIVINE** torment as they drink God's wrath – receive the full effect of God's anger in their full being
  - Full of **PHYSICAL** torment – fire, smoke, and with sulphur's effect added
  - Full of **VISIBLE** torment – in the presence of angels and the Lamb; maybe also to the entire universe
  - Full of **CONTINUAL** torment; with no rest or letup, forever (and then forever again)

# FELT

note the senses still active for the rich man in hell (Luke 16:19-31)

1. He had **SIGHT** in Hell. A person will be able to see that he is in Hell and not in Heaven.
2. He had **SPEECH** in Hell (v. 24). A person will be able to speak but it will give no relief.
3. He had **PAIN** in Hell. He was “in torment.” His senses were alert.
4. He had **THIRST** in Hell. He asks for water to cool his tongue and he cannot get it. This teaches us that mercy ends with the grave. He had sinned away his day of mercy and now it is too late.
5. He had **MEMORY** in Hell (v. 25). This may be what Mark refers to with the phrase “the worm that does not die” (9:48). He was told to remember the opportunities he had in his lifetime. One cannot take his Mercedes-Benz but one will take his memory beyond the grave.



# “Son, remember”

- Do this before the grave.
- After the grave this is further torture.



How accurate does this slide depict what is foretold?



---

## Accurate aspects

- Fire
- Anguish
- Wailing
- All senses engaged in suffering
- Hopelessness



## Incomplete aspects

- Missing the “blackness of darkness” (outer darkness)
- Note: no manmade image can capture the awfulness of Hell

# FINAL but FOREVER

*Rev. 20:10, “And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the, beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

*Rev. 20:13-15, “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

**Those in hell are not absolved because the devil deceived them. Rather they are responsible for being deceived and for their “deeds.”**

# FINAL but FOREVER

Mt. 25:41, 42, 46, “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the **eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink...

46 And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life**.”

The *punishment* is clearly parallel and thus **equal in duration** to the *life*.

# FINAL but FOREVER

*Rev. 20:7, "And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the, beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."*

**After 1000 years of experiencing Christ, the unbelieving nations follow Satan at the first chance. The message is that no matter the time frame they would do the same!**

# FINAL but FOREVER

Rev. 20:10, “And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the, beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

**Note the double emphasis on the unending nature of hell’s miseries and judgment (*day and night, forever and ever*).**

# FINALbut FOREVER

This is the worst possible punishment to which anyone could be subject: to be totally and irrevocably cut off from God and to be at enmity with all those who are around oneself. Another painful consequence of such a condition is to be at odds with oneself—torn apart from within by an accusing sense of guilt and shame. **This condition is one of total conflict: with God, one's neighbors, and oneself.** This is hell! If the descriptions of hell are figurative or symbolic, the conditions they represent are more intense and real than the figures of speech in which they are expressed.

# FRIGHTENING

- We should begin with a personal fear of God's judgments.

*Ps. 119:120, "My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments."*

- After his scathing critique of false teachers and their effect, Jude concludes with a call to have compassion on "some" but always careful and fearful of being tainted by their garment stained by the flesh, that is by their loathsome and potentially contagious conduct.

*Jude 22-23, "... have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh."*

# How to apply Frightening

- Personally fear

- Luke 12:4, "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: **fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!** "

- Persuade others to follow Christ

- 2 Cor. 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. **11** Therefore, **knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.**"

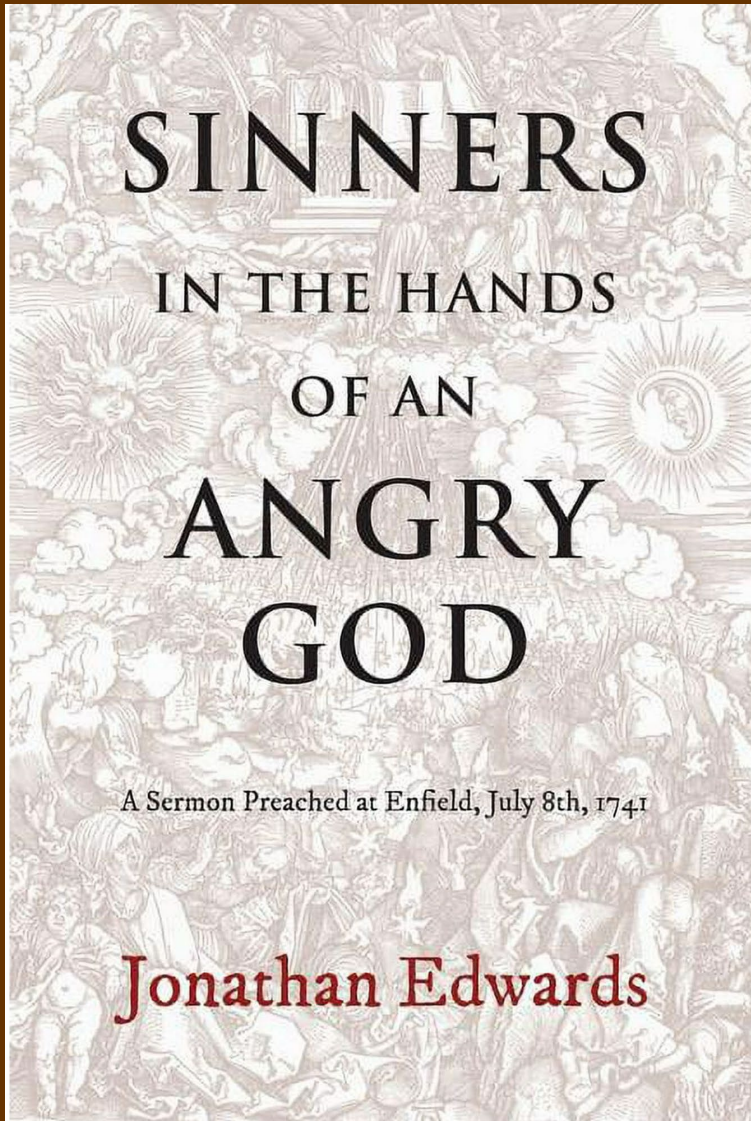
# How to apply Frightening

- Follow Paul's example. He preached on God's judgment and this made an impact on Felix.

“After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, ‘Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.’”

-- Acts 24:24-25

# How to apply Frightening



## Conclusion

“Let everyone that is out of Christ, now awake and flee from the wrath to come. The wrath of Almighty God is now undoubtedly hanging over every unregenerate sinner. Let everyone flee out of Sodom: ‘Escape for your lives, Look not behind you, escape to the mountain, lest you be consumed.’”

# The Heart of a True Missionary

“Some wish to live within the sound  
of Church or Chapel bell,

I want to run a Rescue Shop within a  
yard of hell.”



C. T. Studd

# Jesus' Responses to These Truths Our Model

## INDIGNATION AND STRONG REBUKE

“Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?” -- (Mt. 23:31-33)

## GRIEF OF HEART AND WEEPING

“And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.”  
— (Luke 19:41-42)

# How to evangelize?

With compassion the  
strength of birthing pains

“It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.”

-- Gal. 4:18

With Scripture!

“He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

-- Luke 16:31

# The Serampore Form of Agreement (to be read every year)

In order to be prepared for our great and solemn work, it is absolutely necessary that we set an infinite value upon immortal souls; that we often endeavor to affect our minds with the dreadful loss sustained by an unconverted soul launched into eternity. It becomes us to fix in our minds the awful doctrine of eternal punishment, and to realize frequently the inconceivably awful condition of this vast country, lying in the arms of the wicked one.

# The Serampore Form of Agreement (to be read every year)

(Cont.) If we have not this awful sense of the value of souls, it is impossible that we can feel aright in any other part of our work, and in this case it had been better for us to have been in any other situation rather than in that of a missionary. Oh! May our hearts bleed over these poor idolaters, and may their case lie with continued weight on our minds, that we may resemble that eminent missionary, who compared the travail of his soul, on account of the spiritual state of those committed to his charge, to the pains of childbirth.”

(107-108, The Missionary Fellowship of William Carey, by Michael A. G. Haykin)

If we have not this awful sense of the value of souls, it is impossible that we can feel a right in any other part of our work, and in this case it had been better for us to have been in any other situation rather than in that of a missionary.