

Hell — A Guided Tour Of Hell

August 4, 2019

Welcome to CrossWinds. If you are visitor, it is great to have you. For the month of July, we have been studying what the Bible says about hell.

This morning, we will finish our study on hell. I promised you at the beginning of this series that we would do something fun for the last week. Today, I am keeping that promise. I am taking you on a field trip, a guided tour of hell. I hope our tour of hell will help us separate truth from error and fantasy from fiction when it comes to understanding eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Before the tour bus leaves and we begin our tour, let me tell you what is happening for the rest of the summer at CrossWinds. Next week, we begin a four-week series on prayer. For that series, Pastor Jordan, who is the primary teaching pastor on the Spencer campus, and I, I am the primary teaching pastor on this campus, will take a little summer break. We are rotating other pastors into that teaching series across our campuses. Pastor Andy will preach the first message of that series next week on the Spirit Lake campus. He will then preach that same message via video on the Spencer campus the following week. Pastor Chris Rasmussen will preach the first week of that series on the Spencer campus. He will preach the same message the following week here on the Spirit Lake campus. Pastor Jordan will preach the third week of that series on this campus. He will preach the same message the fourth week of the series on the Spencer campus. I will preach the next message in that series on week three at the Spencer campus. I will preach that message on the fourth week here on the Spirit Lake campus. After that, in September, we will return to the Gospel of Mark

that we paused in the spring and pick up where we left off in that series. That is our game plan for the rest of the summer.

This morning, we are still on the topic of hell. Let's finish up our final week in that series as we leave for our guided tour of the Lake of Fire. I request you keep your hands and feet inside the vehicle at all times to avoid being burned by the fire. I also request you stay in your seat and stay buckled for the duration of the ride. Let's begin.

If you go to a library, and look up descriptions of hell, you will find there is a lot written on the subject, most of it from the Middle Ages. Let me begin by giving you a sample of the way hell was described 200 years ago.

“The little child is in a red-hot oven. Hear how he screams to come out. See he turns and twists himself about in the fire. He beats his head against the roof of the oven and stamps his little feet upon the floor. God was very good to this little child...” — cited in Everyman, ‘A Brief History of Hell’, BBC TV, 6 January 1991.

That is a blood-curdling description of hell. Who wrote this? It comes from 19th century Sunday school material for children written by a Roman Catholic priest to teach them about hell. All I have to say is thankfully that guy is not teaching our children. If you could read the rest of what he wrote, you would not want him working with children. That is a horrific way to describe the Lake of Fire, especially to kids.

Another popular book from the time of the early church is the Apocalypse of Peter. This was a counterfeit Bible book and was recognized as fake by the early church. Nevertheless, people read the book. The book describes the horrors of hell. It describes it as a place where people are hung by their tongues and flames burn the bottoms of their feet. The book also claims that if you are a

murderer, in hell, you are thrown into a pit of evil reptiles where you are continually eaten alive.

Probably the most famous description of hell came from the Italian poet Dante and was written around the 1300s. In his work called The Divine Comedy, Dante described himself on a trip to Paradise going through hell and purgatory. He described hell like an inverted cone. He claimed the cone was broken into nine circles with the lowest point being at the center of the Earth. On each of the nine levels of Dante's hell were thousands of people being tortured by devils and monsters. At the lowest point of the cone of hell was a frozen lake where the punishment was administered by the devil himself. The most famous words of his poem were the words he claimed were written over the gates of hell, which read, "Abandon all hope you who enter here."

What should we think of these vivid and horrifying descriptions of hell written throughout history? Is it true that in hell, people will be tortured by devils and monsters, eaten alive by reptiles, thrown into red-hot ovens, and dangled by their tongues over open flames? Are these descriptions factual or just really bad fiction? What do you think?

The honest truth is we can set aside all of these gruesome descriptions. While these writers began with a hint of biblical truth, they left biblical truth far behind and let their imaginations run wild, describing things the Bible never claims. The only reliable way to learn about hell is to restrict ourselves to what the Bible says about hell, which is what we will do for our tour of the Lake of Fire this morning.

I will break our tour of hell into two parts. First, we will look at the environment of hell. Next, we will look at the experience of those in hell.

What is the environment of hell?

Hell is a literal place, not a state of mind.

The Bible says nothing about the dimensions of hell or the temperature of hell but it is clear that hell is not just a philosophical concept or a state of mind. Hell is a real place. Jesus taught that the whole person, both body and soul, will be resurrected. On the Day of Judgment, people will be judged in their resurrected indestructible bodies then cast into the Lake of Fire in literal resurrected bodies. If people are cast into the Lake of Fire in a literal body, that means the Lake of Fire must be a literal place, not a philosophical concept or a state of mind. So even though you won't find hell on google maps, that doesn't mean it is not a literal place.

Hell is a garbage dump.

Earlier in our series, we saw that Jesus frequently used the term Gehenna to describe hell. Gehenna was the name of the garbage dump located just outside of Jerusalem. It was a disgusting place. It was a place where the bodies of dead animals and even people were thrown and left to rot in the open sun. When you dropped off your garbage at Gehenna, you tried not to breathe because the smell was disgusting. Jesus said the garbage dump called Gehenna is a good description of hell. Hell is God's garbage dump. Let me show you a few passages where Jesus used the term Gehenna to describe hell as a garbage dump.

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 (Gehenna). Matthew 5:29 (ESV)

You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell (Gehenna)? Matthew 23:33 (ESV)

In the 11 passages where Jesus used the word Gehenna to describe hell, Jesus was obviously not referring to the local garbage dump only a few miles down the road. He was referring to God's garbage dump — the place called hell.

If we take a few minutes to think about this, the implications are startling. A garbage dump is filled with things that are useless because they have failed in their purpose. A garbage dump has chairs, but they are all broken and beyond repair. A garbage dump has expensive flower vases, but they are all shattered and beyond repair. By definition a garbage dump is a wasteland of things that have failed in their purpose and are beyond repair.

This means hell is filled with people that have failed to live up to the reason they were created, to give glory to God. Because they have rejected Christ, they are now beyond any hope of repair. They are wasted, worthless, and ruined. As we look out the windows of our virtual bus during this tour, the first thing we see is that everyone and everything in hell has failed in its purpose and is beyond repair, because everyone in hell has rejected Christ, the only repair for sin.

Thinking of hell as a cosmic garbage dump is a sobering thought.

Hell is a pit.

But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction... Psalm 55:23 (ESV)

The Psalmist described hell as a pit of destruction. What does that mean? A pit is a place you fall into, are trapped and cannot leave. You will die in the pit because there is no escape. Isaiah also described hell as a pit.

Terror and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth! Isaiah 24:17 (ESV)

David also described hell as a pit, but he gave us a little more information about the pit of hell and the depth of it.

Behold, the wicked man conceives evil and is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies. He makes a pit, digging it out, and falls into the hole that he has made. Psalm 7:14–15 (ESV)

According to David, an ungodly person's life is the continual process of digging a pit into which they will eventually fall. The greater a person's sin in this life, the greater the depth of the pit digs for himself that he will fall into for the next life. This is one of many verses that imply the experience of hell is different for different people based on the gravity of their sin and the amount of their sin.

As I was thinking about what it means to describe hell as a pit of destruction, what came to mind are the window wells we have at the back of our house. There is a pond on the back of our property that is in our neighbor's yard. At night, when the frogs and muskrats see the lights on in our children's bedrooms, they come up from the pond and fall into the window well pit as they are trying to get closer to the light. If we don't see them in time to rescue them, they die of the heat because there is no chance of escape from the pit of destruction known as our window well. This spring, I needed a shovel to take

multiple dead animal bodies out of the window wells because they fell into the pit of destruction from which there was no escape. That is hell.

Hell is utter darkness.

The Bible frequently describes hell as darkness, utter darkness.

These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. 2 Peter 2:17 (ESV)

...wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever. Jude 13 (ESV)

Most of us have not thought of hell as utter darkness. Hell is pitch black. There is no light in hell. There is no color in hell. There is no sunrise in hell. You can't see anything in hell. Jesus' description of hell as darkness is especially helpful.

...while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 8:12 (ESV)

Notice Jesus didn't describe hell as utter darkness, but as THE outer darkness. Hell is not just described as having darkness but as being the place of darkness.

What does this mean? It means more than hell is a place absent all physical light. It is a place of complete moral darkness. It is a place of complete spiritual darkness. It is a place where the destructiveness of sin is able to unleash its most corrosive effects.

In Romans 1, Paul described people pursuing sin. Multiple times he said that as God's judgment for their sin, he removed his protective and restraining influence to hold people back from sin. One way God judges sin is to let people have their sin and experience the consequences of their sin. That is what it

means to describe hell as not having darkness but being darkness. It is a place where sin is allowed to bloom and to destroy those who pursue it.

Hell is Fire.

Without doubt the most frequent description of hell in the Bible is fire.

Twenty-one times hell is described as burning fire.

For a burning place (Topheth) has long been prepared; indeed, for the king it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it. Isaiah 30:33 (ESV)

Topheth is the Arabic word for fireplace. Isaiah describes hell as God's fireplace.

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. Matthew 13:49–50 (ESV)

...just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Jude 7 (ESV)

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:15 (ESV)

We will study the fires of hell in greater detail in our next point but for now I simply want us to realize that the most common description of hell in the Bible is fire. It is burning. The idea of fire is horrific. The idea of anyone being burned is beyond my comprehension, yet that is how the Bible describes the environment of hell for all who will be there.

Hell is a bad neighborhood.

Sometimes people say hell won't be too bad because they have friends that will be with them. They will enjoy the company. The problem is God doesn't

describe hell as a great neighborhood. God describes hell as the ultimate bad neighborhood. Look who will be in the Lake of Fire.

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." Matthew 25:41 (ESV)

Hell will be populated by the devil and all demons. I would not want to live in their neighborhood. Revelation 20:10 also tells us the beast and the false prophet will also be there. If you thought your earthly neighbor was demonically possessed, your neighbor in hell will be a literal demon. Even the humans in hell are not the kind of people you will want to spend time around.

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." Revelation 21:8 (ESV)

Those are not the kind of people I want as my neighbors, but they will be the kind of people in the Lake of Fire.

Let me summarize how the Bible describes the environment of hell. It is a garbage dump, a pit of destruction from which there is no escape. It is a place of complete darkness, not just physical darkness but complete moral, spiritual, and emotional darkness. It is a place of unquenchable fire that never ceases to burn. It is a bad neighborhood because Satan, all demons, and the most evil people will be there. That is the way the environment of hell is described.

That is the reason I told you to keep your hands and feet inside our virtual bus for this tour. I don't want you burned.

Now let's look at what the Bible says about the experience of all in hell.

What is the experience of hell?

Hell is the experience of the undying worm.

...than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, “where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.” Mark 9:47–48 (ESV)

What was Jesus talking about when he said their worm will not die? The important clue to understanding in this peculiar description of hell is to notice it is not THE worm will not die, but THEIR worm will not die. This means there is something personal about these worms. In addition, suffering from worms is something that eats people alive from the inside out. It is not pain and suffering from outside of them but pain and suffering from inside of them. It is also pain and suffering that is personal to them because it is their worm, not the worm.

What was Jesus talking about?

Some Bible scholars believe this is referring to people’s conscience and the way the guilt and shame that accompanies sin eats people alive from the inside out as it gnaws away at us. There is a big difference between physical suffering that is coupled with guilt and shame for sin and physical suffering that happens when there is no guilt and shame for sin.

For example, in Acts 5:41 the apostles were beaten for sharing about Jesus. The Bible tells us they left rejoicing that they were worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Christ. Even though they went through great physical suffering, they were OK because their consciences was clear. They hadn’t done anything wrong. In fact, they were suffering for doing right, for telling people about Jesus. While they had suffering of the body, they had no suffering of the mind because they were innocent of wrong.

A conscience filled with the guilt of sin has the opposite effect. A guilty conscience eats people alive from the inside out. When we are living with a guilty conscience, we jump when the phone rings. When we are living with a guilty conscience, we live in fear when we are in public. A guilty conscience destroys our self-esteem. It cripples our judgment. It robs us of joy as it destroys our minds. What does this look like?

Probably the best example of a guilty conscience eating someone alive from the inside out like a worm comes from the life of David. In the Old Testament, he committed adultery with Bathsheba then murdered her husband to cover up his sin. For over a year, he kept his adultery and murder a secret. While he had no physical suffering, his conscience was destroying him from the inside out because of his sin. Look how he described the undying worm of his conscience eating him alive from the inside out in Psalm 51.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice... Psalm 51:1–8 (ESV)

David could not get his sin off his mind. His sin was always before him. Whenever he went to bed, his sin kept replaying in his mind. He asked God to blot out his transgression. He felt filthy and disgusting because of what he had done. He asked God to wash him and make him clean. He also had no joy and gladness in his life because of his sin. No matter what he did, he couldn't find pleasure and joy because his sin took it all away. His body literally felt sick from

his sin, so sick that it felt like his bones were broken. That is a description of the worm of David's conscience eating him alive from the inside out.

If that is what it felt like for David's conscience to eat him alive from the inside out because of one great act of sin in this life, imagine what the experience of hell is like for everyone else in the next life when they can finally understand the full darkness of all their deceit, lies, lusts, infidelities, and pride.

The first thing people in hell experience is their own consciences eating them alive from the inside out with guilt that never goes away, because there is no longer a chance for forgiveness and to make things right.

Hell is to experience never-ending shame and contempt.

Closely tied to the experience of hell being the gnawing of a guilty conscience is the reality of the shame and contempt experienced by those in hell.

About 600 years before Jesus, Daniel described the day of final judgment this way.

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

Many of us have read this verse, but we haven't taken time to ponder what the words shame and contempt actually mean in this verse. What does it mean to experience shame and contempt? Let me give you some definitions.

Shame means hating not something you have done; it is hating who you are. Shame is not having an act of sin. It is hating who you have become because of your sin. Those in hell are filled with self-hatred because of what they have done with their lives and what they have become because of the sin in their

lives. Those in hell are not proud of what they have become. They are filled with self-hatred because of what they have become.

The word contempt is even more graphic word.

Contempt means finding something or someone completely disgusting and repulsive. If you have been around people that are badly injured or disfigured, and you can't stand the sight of blood and guts, you know the feeling of contempt because your stomach turns with disgust in the presence of blood and guts. That is what those in hell will experience for all of eternity when they see themselves. They will find that sin has transformed them into something utterly disgusting and completely repulsive. In this life they may have been beautiful, but in hell, sin has transformed them into something completely disgusting and totally repulsive. They can't even stand to look at themselves.

I know this sounds far-fetched to some of you, but Isaiah wrote the same thing to describe the appearance of those in hell.

For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh. Isaiah 66:24 (ESV)

The experience of hell will be an eternity of shame for what sin has transformed people into and an eternity of disgusted in seeing how sin has transformed and disfigured people to the point they are repulsive in their appearance.

Hell is to experience solitary confinement.

I don't have direct verses that tell us hell is a place of isolation but there are many verses that imply hell is a place of solitary confinement. Why do I say this? The Bible tells us God blesses all people in this life by his common grace.

Common grace means God gives everyone life and breath. He provides the evil and the wicked with food. He sends rain and sun on the crops of the just and the unjust, all as part of God's common grace upon mankind.

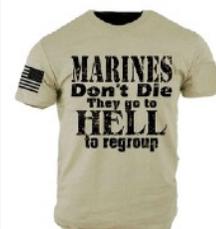
Earlier we learned the environment of hell is utter darkness. It is not just the absence of physical light but total moral and spiritual darkness. Hell is the absence of every common grace that God gives to all people in this life.

One of the best areas of common grace that we all value and need is relationships. We need family and friends. When God created Adam, he later created Eve because it was not good for man to be alone. Adam needed a best friend.

In Psalm 68:6, it says God gives grace to the lonely by settling them in families. One of the best blessings God gives us is family and friend relationships.

Many scholars point out that since hell is utter darkness and the absence of all of God's common graces that we enjoy, it makes sense that hell will be a place without the presence of family and friend relationships. Hell appears to be eternal solitary confinement in darkness.

Some of you have seen this T-shirt for the Marines. When they die, they regroup in hell. All Marines who die without Christ will die. They will eventually go to hell, but they won't regroup. They will be alone for eternity.



Hell is to experience total hopelessness.

Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out. Proverbs 24:19–20 (ESV)

All of us live with hope of a better future. When things go bad on the farm, we live in hope of a better crop next year. When we are sick in bed, we go forward with hope that we will recover. Even people who face death without Jesus face death hoping the suffering in their bodies will finally be over.

The Bible describes the experience of hell as having absolutely no hope for the future for the first time. There is no hope of conditions in hell ever improving. There is no countdown clock on the wall marking time until a better tomorrow. Revelation 20:10 says the torments of hell go on day and night forever and ever. Hell is the experience of complete hopelessness.

Hell is the experience of never-ending tears.

...while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 8:12 (ESV)

Jesus frequently described hell as a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. What does weeping mean?

Weeping is not sobbing because you are sad your favorite sports team didn't score a touchdown or the lottery ticket you bought wasn't a winner. The Greek word used here is a very strong word. It is wailing in complete and utter brokenness. It is inconsolable sadness. Imagine the worst day of your life then multiply it by a million. That is the experience of the sadness and crying beyond any brokenness we have ever known.

Hell is the experience of unrestrained anger.

Jesus also described hell as a place where people gnash their teeth. What does it mean to gnash the teeth and why would they do it? The book of Acts throws a little light on what this means.

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. Acts 7:54 (ESV)

Gnashing teeth or grinding teeth is a way people express unrestrained anger. Those in hell will be filled with anger. They will be filled with anger at themselves for their sin. They will be filled with anger at their decision to reject Jesus. They will be angry at Satan for introducing sin into the world. They will be angry at God. If you have ever seen someone running around with murderous hatred and out of control anger, that is the experience of those in hell forever.

Hell is the experience the fire of God.

Earlier we saw that fire is the most frequent description of hell, but what does the Bible mean when it describes hell as fire? Is this a literal fire or a symbolic fire? Where does the fire come from? Who keeps the fire burning?

To answer these questions, some of us may need to rethink the way we understand hell. We usually think of hell as the one place where God is absent, as if it is a demon colony that gained independence from God. That is not true. The Bible says hell is a place where God will be very much present. He will not be absent. In fact, the single greatest factor that makes hell into hell is the presence of God in hell.

How do we know God will be present in hell? The Bible tells us God is present everywhere. There is no place anyone can go in all of God's creation where he is not present.

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! Psalm 139:7–8 (ESV)

As we learned a few weeks ago, Sheol in the Old Testament is a general description of where people went after they died. The Psalmist is making the point that even in death, people cannot separate themselves from the presence of God, no matter where they go, even in hell.

Look what Isaiah says about the fires of hell, where they come from, and who lights them.

For a burning place has long been prepared; indeed, for the king it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it. Isaiah 30:33 (ESV)

When the fires of hell are lit, God does not stand back and light them by remote control. The fires of hell are lit by the breath of God. The fires of hell are lit by the presence of God as he carries out his just wrath against sin.

Some of you, who know your Bible well, may struggle a bit on this point. You remember verses in the Bible such as Matthew 25:41 where Jesus said to those condemned to the Lake of Fire, "Depart from me, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." You wonder, how could Jesus tell these people to depart from his presence be sent to the Lake of Fire if God is still present in the Lake of Fire? How could God send the wicked to hell and tell them to depart from his presence if God is the one who kindles the fires of hell?

I think the best way to answer those questions is to realize we think of separation in terms of physical distance, as if God cannot be in two places at once. The Bible doesn't think of separation in terms of physical distance but in terms of relational distance. *In hell, people are not separated from the presence of God. People are separated from a relationship with God. There are no more opportunities to experience God's love, grace and patience. There is only the opportunity to experience his justice and wrath.*

The fires of hell is the unrestrained wrath of God being revealed against sinners. The Bible repeatedly tells us that God and fire go together, especially when God deals with sin.

...for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:29 (ESV)

Deuteronomy 4:24 also describes God as a consuming fire.

Jeremiah also described God's fire as his just response to sin.

Circumcise yourselves to the Lord; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds." Jeremiah 4:4 (ESV)

The fires of hell are the unrestrained wrath of God unleashed against sinners in exactly the way their sin deserves and God's holiness demands. The fires of hell do not come from wood. They do not come from volcanic lava. They come from God finally fairly and justly responding to sin.

We began with Dante and others from the ancient world that let their imagination run wild trying to imagine what might be the experience of hell. Unfortunately they described hell in many untruthful ways. It turns out, if we just put out fingers in the Bible, we don't need much imagination to get a vivid description of hell that none of us enjoy.

The environment of hell is a garbage dump, a pit, utter darkness, fire, and a terrible neighborhood. The experience of hell is the undying worm of guilt, shame at who you are and repulsive disgust at what you have become. It is the experience of solitary confinement, complete hopelessness for the future, never-ending grief and tears, out-of-control anger, and the fire of the fury of God's wrath forever.

Now, I have something very important to tell you.

The good news is nobody in this room needs to go to hell. Everyone here has the opportunity to escape hell and go to the new creation.

What about the new creation?

God is incredibly gracious. He loves us. God loves you so much he sent his own son to take on a body and die one of the most horrific deaths known to man. Jesus died in your place for your sin because God loves you.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (ESV)

Today, if you confess your sin to God, repent of your sin, and ask Jesus to forgive your sin, Jesus' death on the cross will pay for your sin. The eternal ramifications of that are astounding. Instead of an eternity in the Lake of Fire that we justly deserve, each of us who trusts in Jesus is forgiven by Jesus. We will spend all of eternity with Jesus being blessed beyond our wildest dreams.

The Bible says that just as one day God will populate the Lake of Fire, he will one day also create a new heavens and new earth for those who have trusted in Jesus. He will combine heaven and earth as one and we will be with Jesus forever in that new creation.

What is the environment of the new creation?

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:3–4 (ESV)

While hell will be a place of constant tears, crying and pain, the new creation we will be given through Jesus will be a place of no more tears, no more death, no more crying, and no more pain. All of that will be gone.

...And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:4–5 (ESV)

While the Lake of Fire will be utter physical, moral, and spiritual darkness, the new creation will be complete light where there will be no darkness. There will be no night. The light in the new creation will come from Jesus. It will be knowing God fully and freely. It will be rightness, truth, and beauty beyond what we have ever known. It will be beauty, brilliance and color without darkness or night.

What is the experience of the new creation?

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

All of eternity will be complete and total joy and pleasure. God is the fountainhead of all joy, pleasure, and happiness. Nothing can make us happier than being with Jesus. That is what awaits us for all eternity. I pray that today if you haven't already turned to Jesus, that you would trust in Jesus and make him your savior and king.

Application

How are we to respond to what we learned in this series? There are two big action steps I have for us as a church.

1. **Now that we know what Jesus has saved us from, love him even more.**

When we see the darkness of the hell that we fully deserve, and how God has saved us from all of it through Jesus, I hope your heart can't help but fall in love with Jesus all over again. We have a great savior that has saved us from a terrible hell and has given us a wonderful new creation we don't deserve.

This week, remember the hell we deserve and constantly be filled with gratitude in your heart to Jesus for saving us from it.

2. **Now that we know where everyone without Jesus is headed, tell others about Jesus with greater boldness.** In our culture, there is a lot of pressure to keep our faith private and not tell people about Jesus. There is a lot of pressure to not invite people to church. Often times, we hope people will find the truth of Jesus on their own. It doesn't work that way. Everyone apart from Jesus justly deserves an eternity in the Lake of Fire. Through repenting of their sin and trusting Jesus to forgive their sin, their eternity is transformed and they will be brought to heaven. There is no way people can know this truth of Jesus unless we tell them. My hope and prayer is that this series will help us have much greater concern for those around us who are headed to an eternity in hell and that we would have greater courage to tell others about Jesus, the only way to avoid an eternity in hell.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, and time with his family. Feel free to contact him at www.Christ2RCulture.com (www.c2rc.com)

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