

What the Hell

Series:

Rediscovering Jesus

Today's Message:

What the Hell?

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world (aion), but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (nous). Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(world) aion:

a period of time or age

(mind) nous:

The intellectual faculty or understanding. In a narrower sense, as the capacity for spiritual truth—the Greeks called this the “higher powers of the soul.”

Matthew 5:21–22

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of

Hell
(Hebrew Old Testament)
Sheol:

the abode of the dead, the grave

This word is in the Old Testament 31 times and everytime it is the word "sheol."

Jonah 2:2

"In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From the deep in the realm of the dead (Sheol, "hell") I called for help, and you listened to my cry."

Hell
(Greek New Testament)
Hades:

A synonym to the Hebrew word, "sheol." It also mean the abode of the dead, or the grave.

It is used 11 times in the NT (4 times in the Gospels, 2 times in Acts, 1 time in Paul's writings, and 4 in Revelation)

Hell
(New Testament)
Tartarus:

This word for hell is used only 1 time in the entire Bible. (2 Peter 2:4)

This term was borrowed by the writer from Greek mythology to drive home a point.

In Roman mythology Tartarus was described by the poet Virgil as a gigantic place, surrounded by the flaming river Phlegethon and triple walls to prevent sinners from escaping from it. It is guarded by a hydra with fifty black gaping jaws, which sits at a screeching gate protected by columns of solid adamantine, a substance akin to diamond – so hard that nothing will cut through it. Inside, there is a castle with wide walls, and a tall iron turret. Tisiphone, one of the Erinyes who represents revenge, stands guard sleepless at the top of this turret lashing a whip. There is a pit inside which is said to extend down into the earth twice as far as the distance from the lands of the living to Olympus. At the bottom of this pit lie the Titans, the twin sons of Aloeus and many other sinners.

Hell

(New Testament)

Gehenna:

"The valley of Hinnom"

2 Kings 23:10

He desecrated Topheth, which was in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, so no one could use it to sacrifice their son or daughter in the fire to Molek.

Matthew 5:22

Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

"raca"

Worthless

It is derived from the word "to spit." It is the sound they would make when they cleared their throat in order to spit on them.

Matthew 5:27-30

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matthew 10:26-31

26 "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Matthew 18:1–9

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

2 He called a little child, whom he placed among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes a humble place—becoming like this child—is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

6 "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were drowned in the depths of the sea. 7 Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

Matthew 23:13–15

13–14 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

15 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and then you make that convert twice as much a child of hell as

Hypocrite
"Hupokrites"

"an actor on a stage, someone who plays the part, a pretender."

Matthew 23:33

"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"

- 1.) Gehenna = hatred/contempt...dehumanization
- 2.) Gehenna = lust...exploiting others for your own gain rather than having a true relationship with them. It is when people no longer are people but objects.
- 3.) Gehenna = fear...fear of the wrong things and wrong people.
- 4.) Gehenna = Getting in the way of what God is trying to do in someone's life--worthless religion.
- 5.) Gehenna = the conversion of people to something that God didn't have in mind--hypocrisy.

Is the hell Jesus talking about a final destination or a present destiny?