

“How Can Ye Escape the Damnation of Hell?”

Matt. 23:33

Introduction:

- A. Fear of severe punishment to deter wrong doing considered obsolete.
 - 1. The “carrot” is in the “stick” is out.
 - 2. Such fear has been all but removed from governments, schools, parents, churches, preaching.
 - 3. The language of our text would be banned from many pulpits today.
- B. Fear of hell is not only a legitimate motive for serving God – it is an essential one.
 - 1. One reason for wanting to go to heaven is to avoid hell.
 - 2. Fear is one of man’s strongest motivators (Ill. Bull running young man).
- C. Jesus and his apostles taught three important facts about hell.

Discussion:

I. Hell Is Real.

- A. “Hell” appears 23 times in the King James New Testament.
 - 1. 12 times from *Gehenna* – the everlasting fire (Matt. 5:22, 29, 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mk 9:43, 45, 47; Lk. 12:5; Jas 3:6)
 - 2. 10 times from *Hades* – place of departed souls (Strong’s) (Matt. 11:23; 16:18; Lk. 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27, 31; Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14).
 - 3. 1 times from *Tartarus* – “deepest abyss of Hades” (Strong’s) (2 Pet. 2:4)
- B. “Hell” used by Jesus and Apostles both as deterrent to sin and motivation for repentance.

II. Hell Is Severe.

- A. It is worse than bodily dismemberment (Mk. 9:43-48).
- B. It is worse than death (Matt. 10:28; Heb. 10:26-29).
- C. It is called “hell fire” (Matt. 5:22; cf. Rev. 20:14)
- D. It is “unquenchable fire” (Matt. 3:12; Mk. 9:43-49)
- E. It is “everlasting fire” (Matt. 25:41)
- F. It is called “outer darkness...” (Matt. 25:30).

III. Hell Is Escapable.

- A. If one will come to repentance (Luke 13:3; 2 Pet. 3:9)
 - 1. Involves obeying all the “gospel plan of salvation” (Note: 3 accounts of great commission)
 - 2. Involves turning from sin toward God. (Cf. Acts 20:21)
- B. If one will genuinely try to avoid sin (Heb. 10:26-29).
- C. If one will genuinely repent and confess when he fails (1 John 1:7-2:1).

Conclusion:

- D. Now, you know why faithful preachers and teachers are so interested in souls.
- A. The very possibility of going to hell should be enough to get results.