

1. The basic teaching is to do all you can to avoid hell
2. Hell, as Jesus points out, is Gehenna
3. Gehenna, in this case, is the place of the grave, a valley outside Jerusalem where bodies were thrown. Fires burned constantly
4. Does this contrast with the true eternal fire spoken of in Malachi?
5. A famous writer, Alan Richardson, says of this passage, "There is no need whatever to regard Jesus' use of the word (Hell) as endorsing rabbinic (or medieval) notions of future punishment as physical torment; but on the other hand it is impossible to soften the severity of Jesus' warning against unrepented sin.."
6. What part of your body do you need to cut off in order to make sure that you get into the kingdom of God?
7. Does this style of explanation help you see that God is serious about sin—and also just in His judgement?

The New International Version of the Bible is used throughout

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 33

HELL AND JUDGEMENT

"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:30,31

1. All people are to repent
2. God will judge the world with justice
3. God has given us proof that there will be a judgement by raising Jesus from the dead
4. Can you trust God's judgement?

"But he answered one of them, `Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous? "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Matthew 20:13-16

1. God works to his own standards of justice
2. These standards are different to our own

3. Should we be happy with God's standard even when it may seem that sinners are allowed to get off lightly?

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

2 Corinthians 5:10

1. Everyone is to appear in the judgement
2. It is a time to receive what we deserve
3. The judgement is based on our life on earth
4. What is the purpose of the judgement?

"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power."

2 Thessalonians 1:9

1. The second death is eternal separation from God—this is worse than physical torture
2. This effect means that the effects of sin are shut out of heaven—pain, suffering and agony
3. In human terms how long should 'everlasting' last?

"I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life."

John 6:47

1. Everlasting life is available to all
2. If I believe I may have this life

3. Does this mean that I can never lose everlasting life?
4. So does everlasting mean what it apparently means?

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

Matthew 25:41

1. This is the place called hell
2. It appears at the end of time
3. Need hell last for all time?

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them."

Malachi 4:1

1. How much is left of the wicked after the fire has done its work?
2. Is this just enough of God?

"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 than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where, 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

Mark 9:47,48