

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Justice of Hell

Romans 2:1-16

Keywords: Hell, Judgment, Eternity, Wrath, Condemnation

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: It is often said that if God is loving that He cannot eternally condemn mankind to hell. There are many things wrong with that thought, but one key point is that it fails to understand the justice of hell.

Dismiss

I. Introduction.

- A. A short series on hell and heaven. First hell.
 - 1. A current point of controversy over this doctrine, but it has always been a controversy.
 - 2. To my knowledge I have never done a sermon specifically on this subject, or on heaven. Though both have been taught in parts throughout my time here.
 - 3. In many churches the doctrine of hell is simply ignored.
 - 4. Right now it is also be redefined by many pastors and theologians.
- B. The challenge to this is how intensely personal it gets. I have seen people get furious over it, while others treat it with contempt.
- C. At the core of any discussion or teaching on hell requires us to understand and think deeply on the infinite evil of sin. Something I hope to bring out a bit today.
- D. The one who is waffling about repenting and coming to God through Jesus Christ does not yet see how sinful he is.
- E. Read Romans 2:1-16.

II. The Justice in Hell.

- A. A glimpse of God's character.
 - 1. This passage teaches us the key truth that God shall always act with justice and mercy.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

2. This is seen in saving sinners. God has righteously saved them through Jesus.
 - a. He is both just and the justifier of the ungodly.....
 - b. God's justice is also seen but in a different way in the condemnation of sinners.
 3. Like David faced in Psalm 11.
 - a. The wicked ask, "What righteous do?"
 - b. David replies in 4-7.
 4. Or Asaph in Psalm 73.
 5. Those who use their freedoms and God-created, God-wrought souls to reject their Creator and to love evil; God proves his righteousness in the condemnation of them.
- B. The biblical basis for eternal punishment.
1. The natural thought of hell is to say, what is it that we have done that would merit this? The bible says, "you are looking at the situation from the wrong perspective."
 2. We need instead to ask, if this is the punishment, then how great must be the crime that merits it.
 3. We cannot judge God through our own, limited perspective. Which only reveals our self-centered hearts filled with arrogance to speak against God. (ala Rom 9)
 4. Every person has certain duties simply because they exist.
 - a. God has brought humanity into existence but in a Creator-creature relationship. We are His. He has built us to delight and worship Him. (Romans 1:18ff)
 - b. Also to obey Him, which He has set in our hearts to do. (Rom 2)
 - c. We must see that this is our calling and yet we despise it, we reject it. We see it as fetters that restrain us as we seek to shake them off.
 5. This begins to reveal the basis of the reality of hell and all who will exist in it. It is a wholehearted rejection of our Creator's purpose in creating us that lays the proper foundation to understand hell and God's righteousness revealed in it.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- a. The wonder of it all is not that there is hell at the end of time. Rather, it is that we are not in hell even now.
 - b. Our rebellion is more than that between Creator and Creature, but as a child to his Father. In Gen we know that we were made in God's image. He is our Father, we are His sons and daughters. He made a world that was glorious and was designed completely for our good, to bless us.
 - c. We have rejected the love of our Father.
 - d. Even now, God creates in our hearts and in creation the knowledge of Him. It is an invitation to delight in it and delight in the One who gave it. And we simply take and give no thanks. And in doing so we fall short of His glory.
6. One of the glories of God awakening a sinner to his situation is that awareness that you are guilty. You are looking at what you are and what you do and you fear.
- C. Is this judgment right and true? Can a loving God truly and righteously send people into eternal punishment?
1. 2:8-9 shows the integrity of God to judgment. It is a simple statement that explains why and what we must expect. There will be distress, anguish, pain, and retribution.
 2. Vs 5 we are stubborn, only accomplishing the making of more wrath waiting to be righteously revealed.
 3. God's righteousness in judgment is that He has absolute integrity with His character. Romans 2:1-16 gives at least seven specific ways that shows this.
 - a. A judgment that is utterly impartial (11).
 - (1) You will not be able to say that you are getting a raw deal because God doesn't like you.
 - (2) God will judge each person only based upon truth and facts.
 - (3) No one gets away with anything. On that great day of judgment you will stand before your Maker and all that you hold dear shall be stripped from you.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- (4) Your mommy won't be there, your riches, your strength nor your personal estimation. It will just be you and your unimpressed Lord.
- (5) This leads to the second point...
- b. A judgment made according to light (12).
 - (1) He is saying that no matter how much or little revelation a person has, that knowledge will be judged. He will be utterly fair, but that fairness will not save you.
 - (2) You will not be able to say you did not know. For only that which you did know is your judgment.
 - (3) Remember again now the weight of Romans 1:18-20. Your knowledge is greater than you think.
- c. God will give each person according to what he has done. (6)
 - (1) It will be according to truth.
 - (2) What we have actually done and not done—omission and commission.
 - (3) This is what is meant about the "books" being opened, where smoke and mirrors are banished and only the pure light of reality.
 - (4) This brings out the idea of John 2:36.
 - (5) And it reminds us that true, saving faith is a faith that works.
 - (6) There shall be many on that day who shall discover to their eternal horror what it mean to be a hearer of the Word and not a doer.
- d. God's judgment will be appropriate to each person (6).
 - (1) It is an individual judgment.
 - (2) We must give account before the Lord (find verse that gives this sense).

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- (3) We cannot hide behind another's greater sin. Each will stand before God alone, with absolute clarity to our guilt.
- e. God's judgment will reach even to the secrets of man (16).
- (1) This is part of the glory of the true believer.
 - (2) But this is part of the horror of the hypocrite, the false Christian, where his secrets are unveiled.
 - (3) This is what God accomplishes in the Christian's heart as he hears and read the Word. It penetrates and separates and parses to the very core of us, opening our eyes ever more of things that must change and greater glories of our God.
 - (4) The same happens with the non-Christian. The hearing of the Word reveals what is true about him. And he hates it, mocks it or ignores it.
 - (5) In the end though, instead of the bible being the revealer of the heart. God will personally do it to each human and call each into account.
 - (6) This will include even what we call little things. Every careless word (Matthew 12:36) will be called into account and judgment.
 - (7) In Matthew 25, the time of judgment is likened to the separating of the sheep and goats. But what often is missed is that the separating is not on 'big' things but little. Not giving food to those hungry, or water to those thirsty who were believers.
 - (a) But what they really are, are statements of the secret things of the heart.
 - (b) What you think when you watch your neighbors getting into the car to go worship at church.
 - (c) What you feel when you see them speak and act toward one another as God commands them.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- (d) When you see them bow their heads in prayer over a meal at a restaurant or refuse to say a lie to protect you.
 - (e) These shall be judged, all safely hidden in the recesses of your heart right now, most of them not even remembered by you.
 - (f) The snickers and the eye rolls; the shaking of your head and the complaints to others when the Christian is not present are all waiting, and piling up until that day when God brings you into His infinite presence and opens up the fullness of your heart to you to give an account. What then shall any of you say?
 - (g) It is what is there in secret that defines the true person that each of us are.
- f. God's judgment will be consistent with our conscience.
- (1) Vss 14-15.
 - (2) This flows again from Rom 1:18-19.
 - (3) This makes hell exceedingly painful for those who reject the salvation offered in Jesus Christ. They will have to agree that they are guilty.
 - (4) As Romans 3:19 says, so that every mouth will be closed and the whole world is held accountable to their Maker and Sustainer.
 - (5) What can you say? What plea can any give? Your own thoughts, words and deed become witnesses against you. Your conscience will say, "It is true."
- g. God's judgment is through Christ Jesus (16).
- (1) The Father has given to Jesus the responsibility to judge mankind. The One who has come to save will then come to judge.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- (2) Part of this is to remove the possible excuse that we are but a human and God is....God. For the Man, Jesus shall be who condemns.
 - (a) He who is God, became man. He took on our humanness. He was tempted in all ways like us.
 - (b) He who as a righteous Man, bore our sin upon His body, who drank the fullness of His Father's wrath.
 - (c) This man, shall judge you and I. Who then will stand?
 - (d) All that every person will do is confess Jesus as Lord.
- D. Consider carefully the mercy and patience of God prior to that judgment.
 - 1. Vs 4.
 - 2. Acts 14:15-17....even to the Gentile, Paul points them to God's rich goodness toward them all.
 - 3. Acts 17:22ff, the same is said again.
 - 4. Jesus reminded us in Matthew that God causes the rain to fall on the just and unjust.
 - 5. Every rainbow seen is a reminder that God has made a covenant with creation to never again judge it through a worldwide flood. Rather we are given the seasons to live and move through and in.
 - 6. Even the smallest of pleasures are simply the goodness of God to enemies. We take from His hand without a thought of the Hand that gave it. Those glorious scents of flowers in the spring, the rustling of leaves in the fall, ice cream, the Rockies and the Smoky mountains.
 - 7. He has given us the revelation of creation and the revelation of Himself in our very hearts.
 - 8. He has given us His revelation in the Word of God.
 - 9. He has given us His own Son.
 - 10. Mercy upon mercy, kindness upon kindness, patience upon patience.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

11. “This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles. Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:1-9)
 12. You shall be condemned not only because you hated God's holiness and His expectation that you be holy too.
 13. Even more so, you shall be condemned because you hated His kindness and patience. You thought it was owed to you. You thought it would last forever. But it doesn't.
- E. This makes the reality of hell completely appropriate.
1. A part of hell is the absence of God's mercy and patience. It shall be gone forever, so much so that people who have spurned and ignored that very mercy will long for even one drop of water and will not get it.
 2. Those who hated goodness, will find no goodness.
 3. Those turning their back upon the love of God shall experience no more love.
 4. Those rejecting their infinite and eternal God receive eternal judgment.
 5. No more communion with God through his blessings.
 6. To the ones wanting no eternal Savior shall never again know salvation of any time.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

III. Conclusion.

- A. "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36)
- B. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (Romans 1:18)
- C. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. (Romans 5:9)