Eternity
Hell Under Fire
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Hell Under Fire

The rejection of the Word of God and its clear teachings (such as hell) is a sign of the End Times.

2 Timothy 3:12–4:4 NKJV
Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–4 NKJV
Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

The Bible clearly teaches that Hell is a real and eternal place. The clearest teachings about Hell come from Jesus.

Psalm 9:17 NKJV
The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God.

Daniel 12:2–3 NKJV
And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

Isaiah 66:22–24 NKJV
“For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain.
And it shall come to pass
That from one New Moon to another,
And from one Sabbath to another,
All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD.
And they shall go forth and look
Upon the corpses of the men
Who have transgressed against Me.
For their worm does not die,
And their fire is not quenched.
They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Revelation 14:9–12 NKJV
Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." 12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 20:11–15 NKJV
Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

2 Peter 2:4–17 NKJV
For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)--then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.
They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, beguiling unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice

restrained the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

Matthew 25:41–46 NKJV
Then He will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.”
Then they also will answer Him, saying, “Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?” Then He will answer them, saying, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.” And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Mark 9:42–47 NKJV
But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-- where “Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched”
And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-- where “Their worm does not die,
And the fire is not quenched.”
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, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire…

Matthew 10:27–28 NKJV
Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Categories of Those Who Don't Believe in Hell

1. Atheists
2. Annihilationists
3. Ultimate Reconciliationists
4. Universalists

If There is no Hell…

1. There is no Heaven.
2. The Bible is a worthless and untrustworthy source of information.
3. Why did Jesus die such a gruesome death on the cross?
4. Why should we repent and live for God?
5. Why should anyone risk their life preaching the gospel?
6. What are we being saved from? Heaven?
7. Why should we go to any effort or expense trying to preach the gospel and get people saved?

But if There is a Hell…

1. We must take life seriously and *know* we're going to Heaven.

John 3:16–19 NKJV

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Romans 10:9–13 NKJV

… that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

2. **We must tell others about Jesus and warn them about Hell just as Jesus did.**

Mark 8:38 NKJV
For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Small Group Guide: Hell Under Fire

Opening Question
What is one thing you believed as a child that you later found out wasn't true? How did that discovery change how you thought about things?

Hell is one of the most contested doctrines in Christianity today. Many Christians avoid the topic altogether, not because Scripture is unclear, but because it's uncomfortable. And yet Jesus talked about hell more than almost any other subject in the New Testament. Avoiding the conversation only leaves us unprepared to think seriously about eternity.

From beginning to end, Scripture points to a place of final judgment for those who reject God. The Old Testament lays the foundation, and the New Testament builds on it. Jesus described hell as a place of unquenchable fire, outer darkness, and eternal separation.

As Pastor Jimmy described in the message, the denial of hell takes several forms. Some people believe there is no afterlife at all. Others think that souls are simply extinguished after death rather than judged. Still others believe God will eventually bring everyone to Himself, regardless of how they lived or what they believed. Each of these views makes eternity more comfortable, but none of them hold up against what Scripture actually teaches.

What's at stake is bigger than a theological debate. If hell isn't real, then justice is an illusion. The worst evils in history go forever unanswered. Moral choices lose their weight, and the cross loses its meaning. The gospel becomes a solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

But if hell is real, the most important question any person can answer is whether they know they are going to heaven. Scripture doesn't leave us to guess about that. And for those who have that settled, the natural response is a genuine urgency for the people around us. Believing in hell, rightly understood, is what moves us toward others with honesty and love.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the doctrine of hell has become controversial, even among Christians? What pressures — cultural or personal — make it tempting to soften or set aside?

3. Which of the four positions Pastor Jimmy described (atheism, annihilationism, ultimate reconciliation, or universalism) do you think is most prevalent in the culture around you? Why is it appealing?

4. If there is no hell, what happens to justice — for the Holocaust, for abuse, for every unanswered evil in history? How does a real hell actually speak to our deepest longings for things to be made right?

5. If hell is real, who in your life most needs to hear the gospel? What is one practical step you can take this week to move toward that conversation?

Closing Prayer

Close your time together by asking God to give your group clarity and courage — clarity to hold firmly to what Scripture teaches about eternity, and courage to live and speak in light of it. Pray for the people in your lives who don't yet know Christ, and ask God to open doors for honest, kind, and loving conversations about what eternity holds.