

# The Place Called Hell (4)



Shalom Ministries International

May 17, 2026





# SEVEN

CHURCHES IN REVELATION

- New Sermon Series
- May 24-July 5 (7 Weeks)
- Shalom Ministries International

# The Doctrine of Hell

- God's sovereignty over hell
  - Hell exists to glorify God's perfect justice, righteousness, and hatred of evil.
  - God created hell as the final place of punishment for the devil, his angels, and unrepentant humanity.
  - God is omnipresent. He is present in hell through His inescapable wrath and holy justice.
- Misconceptions of hell
  1. Hell is not real -> A place of darkness (Matthew 8:12) a bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1), a place of anguish (Luke 16:28).
  2. Satan rules hell -> Satan himself is cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:10) where he will be an inmate of hell, not its warden.
  3. The images of hell are figurative, not literal -> The undying worm connotes everlasting torment, and the Second Death connotes final separation from God.
  4. People in hell are penitent -> (They) cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done (Revelation 16:11).

# Hell: Motivation for Urgency

- The reality of hell serves a driving motivation for the urgent mandate to evangelize.
  - For Christians who believe in eternal judgment, the danger of lost souls facing everlasting separation from God makes sharing the Gospel the most pressing and critical mission of the church.
  - Motivated by God's goodness and his justice, we want to tell others how Jesus saves us and offers a path away from judgment.
- Biblical mandate
  - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20).
  - For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16).
  - The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise... Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

# Pastors Should Preach on Hell

- It's in the Bible.
  - The Bible refers to hell over 162 times in the New Testament.
- Jesus preached on hell more than 70 times.
- It's an urgent issue
  - There is no more urgent task than proclaiming to the world the good news that forgiveness of sins is offered through Jesus Christ!
- It reminds Christians what's truly at stake
  - There are eternal consequences that attach to sin and unbelief.
- It reminds us of how much Christ did at the cross
  - On the cross, Jesus suffered the equivalent of hell in order to pay the price for our sins and reconcile us to God.
- It points to the glory of God in His love, forgiveness and vindication of his saints
  - The existence of hell heightens our amazement at God's love and forgiveness.

# Dealing with Death

- Death is unnatural
  - Death didn't exist in God's original creation. It entered through Adam's disobedience.
  - Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a **living being** (Genesis 2:7).
  - For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- Death is a judgement
  - (God to Adam) You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will **certainly die** (Genesis 2:16-17).
  - Just as people are destined to **die** once, and after that to face **judgment** (Hebrews 9:27).
- Death is inescapable
  - The day of our death is determined by God.
  - I know you will bring me down to death, to the place appointed for **all the living** (Job 30:23).
  - A person's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed (Job 14:5).

# Death in the Bible

- Physical death (Separation of the soul from the body)
  - The natural conclusion of earthly existence, where the physical body dies and decays.
  - By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return (Genesis 3:19).
- Spiritual death (separation of the soul from God)
  - A person's current spiritual state of being alienated or separated from God due to sin: A person can be fully alive physically, but completely "dead" spiritually.
  - Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins (Ephesians 2:1).
  - If you have born once, you will have to die twice. However, if you have born twice, you will have to die once.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> death
  - The final, irrevocable, and eternal judgment where those whose names are not found in the Book of Life are cast into the lake of fire.
  - Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14-15).

# Pastoral Care in Times of Death

- When a saved loved one has died
  - Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13).
  - The Bible offers immense comfort regarding the death of a believer, making a clear distinction that while grief is normal, followers of Christ do not mourn like those who have no hope.
- What the Bible says
  - Present with the Lord: I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far (Philippians 1:23).
  - No more pain: He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away (Revelation 21:4).
  - God understands and validates the deep pain and sadness of losing a loved one: Jesus wept (John 11:35).

# Dealing with Death with Unbelievers (1)

- The unbelievers avoid the subject of death
- Four facts that the unbelievers need to be told
  - They are going to die.
  - They don't know when they will die. The time and circumstances of death are in mystery.
  - There is no hope if they die without faith.
  - Now is the time to prepare for death.
- Dealing with death with dying unbelievers

We should make known to them the truth so that God will give us opportunity to declare;

  - 1) Any hope of heaven or eternal bliss that the unbeliever entertains are groundless.
  - 2) The unbeliever's pressing need is to forsake wickedness.
  - 3) The unbeliever should call upon God for mercy in the name of Christ before it is too late.

# Dealing with Death with Unbelievers (2)

- How pastors approach the issue
  - Remember that a person's eternal destination is outside human authority.
  - Encourage the church member to surrender the burden of saving their family. Salvation is God's work.
- Trusting the character of the Judge
  - Will not the Judge of all the earth do right? (Genesis 18:25).
  - For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband... How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? (1 Corinthians 7:14-16).
- Guiding them with gentle spirit and love
  - Remind them that God loves them even more than they do.
  - Your primary job is not to argue theology, but to love unconditionally.
  - Offer gentle, accessible introductions to faith. Sharing books or devotionals that address skepticism or explore the basics of Christianity can prompt meaningful conversations.