

Everyone Goes to Hell

*I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful rebels to the end;
that the doors of hell are locked on the inside.*

(C. S. Lewis)

Isaiah the prophet was given a divine revelation of the New Heavens and New Earth. What he saw was both mind-boggling and astonishing. Isaiah 66:22-24 says, "As surely as My new heavens and earth will remain.... All humanity will come to worship Me from week to week and from month to month ... they will see the dead bodies of those who have rebelled For the worms that devour them will never die, and the fire that burns them will never go out. All who pass by will view them with utter horror." Hell is an eternal reality and not a topic that many discuss today. But if I never spoke of hell, I should think I had kept back something that was profitable, and should look on myself as an accomplice of the devil (J. C. Ryle).

Jesus declared (Mark 9:43-44), "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands." Satan who is the Prince of Darkness, his followers and all offenders who reject God's forgiveness will spend eternal life in this prison without the possibility of parole. The story does not end there. All redeemed persons, in the new heavens and earth ... will gather at the edge of the lake of fire at appointed times and look upon the corpses of those who transgressed God's law (Isaiah the Prophet). Everyone will go to hell, but not everyone will be in hell. The opening to the lake of fire will stand as an eternal memorial of the dire consequences of sin. This experience is a prophesied reality. You will either be on the outside looking in, or be on the inside looking out, but you will be there.

Chuck Colson writes, "The doctrine of hell is not just some dusty, theological holdover from the unenlightened Middle Ages. It has significant social consequences. Without ultimate justice, people's sense of moral obligation dissolves; social bonds are broken. People who have no fear of God soon have no fear of man, and no respect for human laws and authority." The whole purpose of life on earth is to prepare for eternity. Our choices today determine our destiny tomorrow and forever and ever.

December 5