

CrossRoads Baptist Church  
August 20, 2006 10:00 AM  
Matthew 11: 20-24  
Eternity: Heaven or Hell #5

## “Is Hell Worse for Some Than Others?”

We examined closely last Sunday what Hell was like. It is a terrible place of punishment because God is a “a consuming fire,” Hebrews 12:29 and it is a “dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10: 31

We saw that hell was a place like a garbage dump, a pit, a prison, a place of darkness and eternal separation. Hell is described by the people who are there: cowards, unbelievers, sexually immoral, liars, the antichrist, the false prophets, and Satan and his angels. But hell is also a place of immeasurable pain. The least of this is the physical pain caused by an unquenchable fire. But the internal pain is far worse than the physical pain. You can get out of the flames, but what happens when the flames can not get out of your head? There will be great grief and anger coupled with shame and guilt and the worse of it – you will be alone for all of eternity.

But there is worse news. The worse news is that hell will be worse for some than others. It will be terrible beyond belief for all, but worse for some than others.

- A. Hell will be worse for those who have received more light of the gospel

Matthew 11: 20-24 Jesus teaches that it would be easier for Tyre and Sidon than Chorazin and Bethsaida because they had not witnessed Christ’s miracles. Those who have received more light have a greater degree of responsibility and face a more severe punishment.

Many times we are concerned about the ones who have never heard (and indeed we should be), but while they will be punished in hell, those who have heard and rejected will receive a greater condemnation.

- B. Hell will be worse according to the judgment of works

Revelation 20: 12-13 says that all are judged according to what they have done as recorded in the books. Why? To determine their degree of punishment.

Psalms 7:15 teaches that the wicked are digging them a pit and has fallen into the ditch which he made. Hell will fit what you have made. You could say, that your pit is custom made by you.

Mark 12: 40 “Those who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.” These people were guilty of hypocrisy, pride, greed, dishonesty, and exhortation. All carry a more severe judgment from God.

Some crimes are not as bad as others. Thinking a bad thought is not as bad as carrying out that bad deed. Killing your neighbor’s dog is not as bad as killing his wife or child.

All of this shows the righteousness and just God we have. If He permitted everyone to suffer alike, He would not be fair. But He is a God of justice and His justice is perfect. He punishes according to the crime and fairly. He is a Righteous Judge.

Revelation 15: 3 in the midst of great judgment, they cry out to God by saying, “Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, O king of the saints.

Revelation 16: 5 “You are righteous, O Lord,...because You have judged these things....For it is their just due.”

There are no unbelievers in hell – all believe that God is a righteous and just God.

But you don’t have to go to hell.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.