

A Sure Justice

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Truth: Forgiveness does not dismiss justice; forgiveness simply places justice in God's hands rather than our own.

Main Idea: God will bring righteous judgment upon all who reject His Son. We do not have to take justice into our own hands. We do not have to despair over the wickedness that is part of our world. God will make all things right.

Five Truths about Hell that God wants us to know:

Truth #1: Hell is real.

"And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire." (Matthew 18:8-9 ESV)

"Call it bad taste, if you like, to speak of hell. Call it charity to make things pleasant, and speak of smoothly, and soothe men with constant lullaby of peace. . . . My notion of charity is to warn men plainly of danger." J. C. Ryle

"And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die." (Genesis 3:2-4 ESV)

Truth #2: Hell is just.

Truth: Hell is God's ultimate expression of His resistance to evil.

Two deceptions of the evil one regarding hell:

Deception #1: The doctrine of hell is unworthy of a God of love.

Deception #2: If hell is real, we certainly have not done anything deserving of it.

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23 ESV)

Truth #3: Hell is eternal.

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. . . . 'Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. . . . And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'" (Matthew 25:34; 41,46 ESV)

“A flood of false doctrine has lately broken in upon us. Men are beginning to tell us “that God is too merciful to punish souls for ever...that all mankind, however wicked and ungodly...will sooner or later be saved.” We are to embrace what is called “kinder theology,” and treat hell as a pagan fable...This question lies at the very foundation of the whole Gospel.” J. C. Ryle

Truth #4: Hell is hot.

“The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:41-42 ESV)

“Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:14-15 ESV)

And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ Luke 16:24

Truth #5: Hell is avoidable.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”(Isaiah 53:4-6 ESV)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”(John 5:24 ESV)

Application #1: Be bold in your proclamation of the Gospel.

Application #2: Entrust yourself and others to Him who does right.

Application #3: Flee from the wrath of God that is to come. Flee to the One Refuge whom God has provided.

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”” (Acts 4:12 ESV)