

Growth Track Two

201: Biblical Foundations for Living

Session 7: What Happens After I Die?

Avoiding Hell

Overview: Students will know what the Bible says about the reality of hell, who it was designed for, and how to avoid going there.

Ecclesiastes 7:4 TLB Yes, a wise man thinks much of death, while the fool thinks only of having a good time now.

Four Frequently Asked Questions About Hell

1. Is hell a real place?

- a. Jesus taught us that hell was a real place of judgement.

Matthew 25:46 NIV Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

John 5:24, 28-29 NIV [John] I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

b. Jesus taught three metaphors for the judgment:

Bible Passage	Metaphor
Matthew 13:47-51	Fisherman using a net to fish
Matthew 25:31:46	Shepherd sorting goats and sheep
Matthew 13:24-30	Harvester separating weeds & wheat

2. Why was hell created?

a. Hell was created for satan and his angels.

Matthew 25:41 NIV *Then He will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."*

b. Satan now resides on Earth.

- Jesus called Satan the prince of this world four times.

John 12:31 NIV *Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.*

- Paul called him the prince of the power of the air.

Ephesians 2:1-2 NIV *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

- c. One day Satan will be cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:10 NIV *And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

3. Who will be in hell?

- a. We were all headed for hell.

Romans 3:23 NCV *All have sinned and are not good enough for God's glory.*

- b. Jesus came to rescue us from our fate.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 NLT *He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.*

- c. Everyone who puts their trust in Jesus is rescued.

Hebrews 7:25 NLT *Therefore, he is able, once and forever, to save everyone who comes to God through Him. He lives forever to plead with God on their behalf.*

3. What happens to people who go there?

- a. Hell is a place of emotional torment.

Matthew 8:12 NIV *But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

- b. Hell is a place of physical torment.

Mark 9:43, 47-48 NCV *If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to lose part of your body and live forever than to have two hands and go to hell, where the fire never goes out. If your eye causes you to sin, take it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell. In hell the worm does not die; the fire is never put out.*

- c. Hell is a place of spiritual torment.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 NIV *They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power.*

Discussion:

1. How has your view of hell been affected by what you've heard today?
2. How will these realities affect the way you share your faith, use your gifts, manage your finances and/or endure suffering?