

Today's Message: "Skeletons in God's Closet: Hell"

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

Jesus' teachings on hell...

- A place which is characterized by separation from God.
- A place associated with weeping, and gnashing teeth.
- A place of unquenchable thirst.
- A place of destruction.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,... (Ephesians 2:1-8)

Part 3

Pastor Scott Stevens

February 6 & 7, 2016

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Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Revelation 3:20-22)

“Hell is not a place God creates to torture sinners; instead it is a place in which God uses His power to protect the integrity of His Kingdom.”

– Josh Butler

Marry me and bring in all your old lovers.
Marry me or I'll kill you.
Marry me or I'll lock you in the basement.
Marry me or I'll let you go your own way.

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Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Read these two “perspective” questions concerning hell.
 - a. “Do you believe hell is most likely a figment of religious imagination designed to scare people into behaving properly or believing in God?”
 - b. “Do you believe that hell is a place of torture and pain that is set aside for everyone that does not believe in Jesus?”

Which perspective do you most align with?

2. Read Deuteronomy 29:29. What is your reaction to this verse? Do you find it comforting? Why or why not?
3. In the sermon Scott reflected on an illustration from the book; “The Skeletons in God’s Closet” in which author Joshua Butler provided 4 alternative perspectives on hell. (They are listed above.) Take some time in your group to reflect on each.
4. If someone were to ask you; “If God is good, why does hell exist?” how would you respond?
5. If someone were to ask you; “Does God send people to hell?” how would you respond?
6. If we were to do a “sequel” to this sermon series what would you consider to be additional “Skeletons in God’s Closets?”

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