

What Does the Cross of Christ Teach us about Hell?

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Introduction: We must clearly understand the lessons found in the cross of Christ.

- A. When understood and its blessings realized the cross will cause us to die and live anew as well! **(2 Cor 5:14-17)**
 - 1. Why is this so? Can you give an answer?
 - 2. Why was it absolutely necessary for Jesus Christ to die on a Roman Cross?
- B. Paul could sum up his motivation and his life by the cross. **(Gal 2:20)**
 - 1. This is a focus that we must have to be a worker for God.
 - 2. When we have our hearts filled with this message then we will have a life full of meaning. **(Gal 6:14-15)**

I. Salvation is from the wrath of God

- A. What is salvation? σωτηρία *soteria* \approx 1) deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation 1a) deliverance from the molestation of enemies 1b) in an ethical sense, that which concludes to the souls safety or salvation.
 - 1. Salvation must have an object! We are saved from an eternal Hell.
 - 2. Moses spoke of salvation at the Red Sea. **(Ex 14:13)**
 - 3. Both heaven and Hell are based on the character of God and thus they both are a certainty. **(Mt 25:46; Tit 1:1-2)**
- B. We must find an escape from God's wrath. **(Rom 11:22)**
 - 1. Why is the gospel "good news?" **(Rom 1:16-18)**
 - 2. If we fail to see God's wrath then we cannot see His grace! Can you see?
- C. Satan has caused man to curse himself through his knowledge of the nature of God.
 - 1. As a righteous God He must punish every sin that has ever been committed. **(Rom 3:23; 6:23)**
 - a. God's wrath is constant, certain. It does not change like man's wrath.
 - b. If you are not a child of God then you are a child of wrath. **(Eph 2:3)**
 - 2. Satan uses this knowledge to have men sin curse themselves.
 - 3. He then gleefully acts as our accuser before God so that we can go to hell with him and his angels. **(Zech 3:1-3)**
 - 4. What hope do you have if you "die in your sins?" **(Jn 8:24)**

II. Jesus taught often about hell and its terrible consequences

- A. Jesus taught there will be a place for all the wicked to abide in conscious existence for eternity. **(Mark 9:43-47)**
 - 1. The word for "hell" is from the Greek word Geheena
 - 2. Hell could not mean simply dying! There is something worse.
- B. Jesus warned men not to go to hell. **(Matt 5:22, 29-30, 10:28)**
 - 1. Jesus knew that most men will walk this path to destruction! **(Matt 7:13-14)**
 - 2. Still Jesus was grieved over those who rejected Him. **(Matt 23:37-39)**
 - 3. Why would Jesus show such grief?
- C. Jesus used the strongest of language to describe the conditions in hell.
 - 1. It is torment. **(Luke 16:28; Rev 14:11)**
 - 2. We know that weeping and wailing will be within the souls of those in

hell. (**Matt 13:40-42, 49-50**) (Ex. Hospital waiting room.)

3. It involves an eternal fire. (**Matt 5:32, 18:9, Mark 9:43, 45, 47**)
 - a. Even in the place before hell there is a “flame”. (**Luke 16:24**)
 - b. Have you ever been burned? (Ex. Truck driver trapped in wreck)
4. It involves an eternal darkness. (**2 Pet 2:4, 17; Mt 8:11-12; 22:13-14; 25:30**)
 - a. How dark is hell? Peter says it is “blackness of darkness forever.”
 2. Ex. One man who visited a cave in the state of Kentucky.
5. There will be no escape from hell.
 - a. No one could escape the torment before hell. (**Luke 16:26**)
 - b. One is described as being in “chains”. (**2 Peter 2:4**)
6. It is a place of regret.
 - a. There will be a concern for evangelism. (**Luke 16:27-28**)
 - b. Are there degrees of punishment? (**Luke 12:47-48**)
7. It is a place of unspeakable wickedness. (**Matt 25:41**)

III. Jesus teaches us about hell when He prayed in Gethsemane.

- A. The burden of Jesus at the start of His prayers. (**Mt 26:37; Mk 14:33**)
 1. “troubled” – to be homesick, to be sated.
 2. The word “sate” describes the glutton who has eaten so much that he cannot eat any more. Even the sight of food becomes unbearable. “The Son of God has endured such infinite suffering that in this hour of agony, He is sated with suffering.”
- B. The agony of the garden.
 1. Jesus first knelt and then fell on His face. (**Mt 26:39**)
 2. Jesus wanted the cup to pass from Him. Jesus had used this expression before but the disciples did not understand. (**Mt 20:22**)
 3. The double form of Abba, Abba shows a tenderness and compassion. Note Jesus’ address to Martha. (**Lk 10:41**)
 4. Note the great intensity of His suffering in the garden. (**Heb 5:7-9**)
- C. Jesus comes to a resolution and now is ready to face the cross. (**Mt 26:42**)
 1. Between the second and last prayer angels comfort Him. (**Lk 22:43-44**)
 2. The intensity of this agony is seen in His sweat.
 3. For the disciples it is too late. Jesus is now ready! (**Mk 14:41-42**)
 4. Why did he accept the cup? It was the only way to save you and me from hell!

IV. Salvation can only come through the cross of Christ

- A. How can a righteous God ever have fellowship with sinful men?
 1. Satan thought that he had won! He never anticipated the cross. (**Zech 3:3-5**)
 2. In the cross Jesus destroyed the power of Satan. (**Heb 2:14-15**)
 - B. Why was it absolutely necessary for Jesus Christ to die on a Roman cross?
 1. In the cross God’s wrath was satisfied. (**Rom 5:6-9**)
 2. What does “propitiation” mean? (**Rom 3:23-26**)
 - C. In my life as a Christian I will “think forgiveness!” This is my focus. (**Lk 1:77**)
- Conclusion:** What will the judgment day be like for you? (**Mt 7:21-23**)