

## #29 THE DOCTRINE OF HELL

30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW | DR. RANDY WHITE

### THREE MAJOR VIEWS AS TO WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO DIE WITHOUT CHRIST

- **Eternal Conscious Torment** – Those without Christ are in “Hell,” a place of eternal conscious torment. This is the traditional view.
- **Universal Restoration** – Those without Christ are eventually restored to salvation (either after at time of “soul sleep” or “purgatory” or temporary punishment. This view is held by those who take a more liberal and allegoristic view of Scripture.
- **Conditional Immortality** – Those with Christ are given eternal life, those without Christ are annihilated.
- Because Conditional Immortality has gained a foothold in evangelical circles in recent years, the focus of this sermon will be to determine whether it has a Biblical case.

### LOGICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDITIONAL IMMORTALITY

- Requirement #1: Man is not an eternal creation.
  - When God breathed life into man, what kind of life was it? Genesis 2:7
  - What did man have to do to stay alive?
    - While we *assume* he had to eat of the tree of life, this is not stated in the text. The tree of life would bring *dead Adam* life, but it cannot be shown that *live Adam* required it.
  - Did Adam *surely die* on the day he disobeyed?
    - If not, was God a liar? This cannot be.
    - If not, was he considered dead by God?
      - This is stated to be: Ephesians 2:1-2.
  - If Adam did *surely die* and yet was *alive and breathing*, could this phrase mean, “separated from God?”
    - The oft told explanation that the Hebrew says, “dying you shall die” runs into problems when we find that the phrase appears some 49 times in the Hebrew, and means, “certain death.” Compare Genesis 20:7.
    - Many Scriptures refer to separation from God as *death* – see Deuteronomy 30:19.
- Requirement #2: There is no continued conscious existence at death
  - Two scenarios are possible with conditional immortality:
    - Body and Soul are separated for a time in which soul receives punishment, then restored to unity, then annihilated.
    - Body and soul are not alive for a time, then made alive at the resurrection, then given immortality or sent back to nothingness.
- Requirement #3: Several Biblical accounts are not theologically correct.

- The account of the Rich Man and Lazarus.
- The Mount of Transfiguration.
- The conjuring of Saul.
- Requirement #4: Death in the Bible means “cease to exist.”
  - But the Bible doesn’t use it that way on many occasions.
  - In 2 Corinthians 5:8 and Philippians 1:21 death is entrance to life.

### WHY DO CONDITIONALISTS CREATE THE SOUL-SLEEP / ANIHILATION SCENARIO?

- Because they fail to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15).
- All Scriptures which speak of *dying and waiting* are from previous dispensations.
- When one realizes that this dispensation is one of *dying and arriving at judgment* then it begins to make sense.
  - One CI proponent says, “*The consistent and systematic emphasis of the apostles also concurs that believers will be rewarded, not at death, but at the second coming*” (<https://www.afterlife.co.nz/articles/the-logic-of-conditionalism/>)
  - Note that the author speaks “*of the apostles,*” and then the article goes on to quote Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, and other *apostolic* (as opposed to Pauline) passages.
  - The article continues, “*If the doctrine of the immortality of the soul is correct, all of these apostles...were misinformed. They placed their hope in the coming of Christ when they should have placed it in the death of the believer. But it gets worse. Even Jesus was apparently just as mistaken. He told believers “hold fast till I come” when he should have said “hold fast till you die.*”
- The same article states, “*The Bible teaches that Christ’s return is the single most important event of all history. The doctrine that people’s spirits remain alive at death and begin eternity then subverts this truth. That doctrine makes the second coming practically unnecessary.*” The fallacy with this statement is that it views the Second Coming as *only to provide individual judgment*. In reality, the Second Coming is much broader, even to *restore all things* and to initiate the earthly reign of Jesus Christ as Man with dominion over all the earth.

### DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT?

- Daniel 12:2
- Matthew 25:46
- Revelation 20:10, 15

### HOW DOES ONE AVOID ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT?

- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved – Acts 16:31.