



# **HOT POTATOES**

## **#4: Is Hell God's Torture Chamber?**

### **Introduction – The Need For The 'Un-Heaven' Dead**

1 John 1:5

### **What Is Clear**

1. After death comes \_\_\_\_\_.  
Romans 14:12; Hebrews 9:27
2. The judgement given is not the \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone.  
Matthew 25:31-46
3. We will be judged based on our \_\_\_\_\_ trust in God & his Messiah.  
Matthew 16:27; Romans 1:5; 2:6-8; 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; James 2:17; Revelation 20:13  
\_\_\_\_\_ won't help!...  
Matthew 23:33
4. Those who reject truth will receive God's \_\_\_\_\_.  
Romans 1:18-19; 2:8; Ephesians 5:6
5. All talk of hell is, in some way, \_\_\_\_\_.  
Mark 9:42-48  
Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30 = thrown outside into complete \_\_\_\_\_.  
Vs.  
Matthew 13:42, 50; = thrown inside a fiery \_\_\_\_\_.  
Luke 16:19-31

Possible meanings of "fire"...

1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 1 Peter 1:7 ; Revelation 3:18  
Matthew 23:15

### **What Is Less Clear**

1. What the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of after-death punishment will be like.  
Daniel 12:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9
2. How \_\_\_\_\_ that punishment will endure and what happens after.

- *Eternal suffering...*  
Luke 16:22-24; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:10, 14-15
  - *Annihilation after a season of suffering...*  
Matthew 10:28; 1 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 6:8; Philippians 1:28;  
2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 2:1; 3:3-12; Romans 1:21-25
  - *Conversion to Christ after a season of suffering...*  
Romans 5:18; 11:32; 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 28; Ephesians 1:10, 23;  
Philippians 2:10-11; Colossians 1:20; 2:21; Revelation 21:5
3. If people who do not knowingly embrace Christ in this life might do so \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 25:31-40

### **Conclusion – Our Response**

1. Embrace & Encourage faith in Jesus because he is \_\_\_\_\_,  
not because he is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Acts 2:14-40; 3:12-26; 7:2-50; 8:35; 13:16-41; 17:16-34; 22-26  
2 Corinthians 5:20
2. Proclaim judgement, but do not make the \_\_\_\_\_  
of that judgement your focus.  
Acts 17:30-34; 2 Peter 3:9

## **HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...**

### WARMING UP...

1. After reviewing your sermon notes, talk about one thing that was most new, encouraging, or perplexing to you.
2. At this stage in your spiritual growth, do you think Hell is best described as a) eternal torment, b) eventual annihilation, c) mythological?

### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read Jesus' depiction of the final judgement in **Matthew 25:31-46**. a) What is the basis upon which Jesus says we'll all be judged? b) What about this passage might support the concept of "anonymous Christians" – that is those who serve Jesus and find salvation through Jesus without consciously knowing it? What might these "sheep" look like today? c) Where are the goats sent? How does this support or challenge your opinion in #2 above? d) How does this passage effect our concept of how we "worship" God?

### SO WHAT?...

4. Looking over the list of activities that Jesus gave as opportunities to serve (or reject) him, brainstorm how you as a Home Church might collectively encourage each other to live this kind of life out as obedience to Christ.

**Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 27, 2002**