

HEAVEN, HELL AND HADES

Outline for "First Principles Class"

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INTRODUCTION:

1. Do people believe that there is a heaven and hell?
2. How many people know the difference between Hades and Hell?
3. What will happen when one dies?
4. In the Shenandoah church of Christ lectureship book published in 1993 the following results of a questionnaire was given. The Northwestern University School of Education released the results.
 - a. The questionnaire had been given out to five hundred ministers of various religious groups.
 - b. Notice the following summary of their findings:

Principle	Deny	Affirm
There is a hell	69%	31%
There is a heaven	41%	59%
There will be a judgment day	39%	61%
There is a devil	54%	46%
We should teach there is a hell	80%	20%
Should teach students judgment is coming	52%	48%
There is life after death	8%	92%
5. The *Humanist Manifesto II* states "Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful...There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body...we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species...humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves."
6. Mrs. O'Hair once stated "Heaven...is a delusional dream of the unsophisticated minds of the ill-educated clergy."
7. There has been a tragic loss of awareness concerning Heaven and Hell.
8. The doctrine of Heaven and Hell are crucial to man's well-being both here and in the hereafter.
9. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:30,31).

I. HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE.

- A. The words heaven/heavens are found 421 times in the Old Testament and 274 times in the New Testament.
 1. There are six different Hebrew words translated heaven in the Old Testament .
 2. There are four different Greek words translated heaven in the New Testament.
 - a. The word (ouranos') [3772] which occurs most often is translated heaven 268 times, air 10 times, sky five times and heavenly one time.
 - b. Another word (ouranoth'en) [3771] is translated from heaven (Acts 14:17; 26:13).
 - c. Another word (mesouran'ema) [3221] is translated midst of heaven (Rev. 8:13; 14:6; 19:17).
 - d. Another word (epouran'ios) [2032] is translated in heaven (Phil. 2:10). This same word is translated celestial two times (John 15:40), high (Eph. 6:12) and heavenly 16 times.
- B. When the word "heaven" occurs in the Bible, it refers, except when it is used figuratively, to one of three realms:
 1. The atmospheric space immediately above us, to the stellar heavens that must ultimately embrace the entirety of the universe.

- a. The atmospheric heavens include the space that immediately surrounds the earth, which includes the troposphere (the air that we breathe) and the stratosphere (Isa. 55:9-11; Matt. 6:26; Gen. 1:1; 2:19; 8:2; 27:28; Dan. 7:13; Job 38:29).
- b. There is an interesting distinction in types (or kinds) of heavens in Matthew 6:19-34, where the birds of the heavens are mentioned in the same context with the “heavenly Father.”
2. The celestial heavens.
 - a. Frequently, in both the Old and New Testament there is reference to vast space above our planet (Gen. 1:14; 15:5; Deut. 4:19; Heb. 1:10; Psa. 33:6; Isa. 14:12; Amos 5:26).
 - b. The Bible refers to some fixed stars and constellations (Job 9:9; 38:31; Amos 5:8).
3. The special dwelling place of God.
 - a. Isaiah speaks of the dwelling place of God (Isa. 57:15; 63:15).
 - b. Heaven is the special abode of God (Deut. 26:15; Matt. 5:45; 7:21).
 - c. God is not alone in heaven (Neh. 9:6; Mark 13:32).
 - d. Christians can look forward to an inheritance reserved in heaven (I Peter 1:4).
 - e. There are several other verses showing how real heaven is (John 14:1-6; Luke 10:20; II Cor. 5:1; I Cor. 15:50f; II Peter 3:13; Rev. 2:7; Heb. 12:22).

C. Heaven is a real place where beautiful blessings will be realized.

1. Beauty is a concept that is said to be “in the eye of the beholder.” Everything that is in this world which is called beautiful is flawed. We live in an imperfect world.
2. Since the earliest of time man has striven to describe the indescribable.
3. Poems, songs, even whole books have attempted to do justice to the flawless beauty of heaven.

D. Heaven is a real place where everlasting things will be recognized.

1. The everlasting God will be recognized (Gen. 21:33; Psa. 33).
2. The eternal King (Jer. 10:10) who sits upon the everlasting throne (Psa. 93:2).
3. God is the God of eternal mercy and truth (Psa. 100:5); eternal strength (Isa. 26:4); everlasting kindness (Isa. 54:8); and everlasting light (Isa. 60:19).
4. Here is the eternal home (Eccl. 12:5) that is filled with joy (Isa. 35:10) and righteousness (Psa. 119:142).
5. It is where eternal life is recognized and realized (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 19:29; John 3:15,16; Isa. 45:17; Heb. 5:9).

E. Heaven is a real place where renewed ties will be realized.

1. Think of the joy that will fill our hearts when we are reunited with faithful loved ones and the great men and women of God from all time.
2. Truly one cannot even begin to realize the happiness of that day.
3. The book of Genesis is filled with the proclamation of different ones, that he “was gathered to his people (Gen. 25:8; 25:17 “Ishmael;” 35:29 “Isaac;” 49:33 “Jacob”).
 - a. Some take this to simply be a phraseology of Hebrew relating to the burial of one with his family.
 - b. The book of Deuteronomy is very clear that no one knows the location of Moses’ burial (Deut. 34:6). In fact he died alone.
 - c. Yet, Numbers 27:12,13 distinctly states that Moses would be gathered to his people.
 - d. If this phrase is simply a term for the family burial plot then we have a contradiction. Clearly the Bible teaches that we will be reunited with God’s faithful in heaven.

- e. The case for a personal reunion with loved ones in heaven is made by David (II Sam. 12:22,23).
- F. Heaven is a real place where constant action will be realized.
- 1. How often has someone asked the question “What will we do in heaven?”
 - a. So many today have the view that heaven is an uninteresting place and few will think of it as a place they would like to be. That is the reason the majority of young people are not faithful.
 - b. There is so much to do in today’s life style that the simple joy of heaven is unattractive to most. If they would take time and study the true environment of heaven they would realize how great it will be to be there.
 - 2. What will we be doing in heaven?
 - a. First we will joyously worship the almighty God (Isa. 6:1ff; Rev. 4:5-5:14; 19:1-4).
 - 1. It is those who do not look forward to the worship of God here on this earth that would not enjoy heaven.
 - 2. Those who eagerly and willingly worship here will be zealous to get to heaven where their worship will not be restrained by earthly obstacles.
 - 3. In fact many have said “If you don’t life worship here, you will not have to worry about worshipping in heaven because you won’t be there.”
 - b. Secondly, we will rest in heaven. That is rest in the Bible sense of the word.
 - 1. Rest will not be a “kick the shoes off and sit in the recliner” rest.
 - 2. In God’s Word rest is used for an arrival to a significant objective. The land of Canaan was to be a rest for the people of Israel. However, when they entered into that rest they did not cease activity.
 - 3. Heaven will not be a place of no activity. It will be a place where our actions are redirected to areas other than those present here on earth.
 - 3. Third, heaven will be a place of reward (Gal. 6:7-10; Matt. 6:19; Luke 16:9; I Cor. 3:14; Rev. 2:10; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 12:12).
- G. Heaven is a real place where total refuge will be realized.
- 1. When one thinks of a refuge or shelter, he thinks of a place of safety and security.
 - a. Safety is a term that has to do with the lack of possible harm or loss.
 - b. Being unsafe is the condition you are in when there is the possibility of an unwanted outcome.
 - c. Having a shelter of refuge is promised by Jesus (Matt. 6:19-22).
 - 1) Laying up treasures on earth subjects them to the possibility of loss or harm.
 - 2) This is known to be true. This is the reason that a heavenly refuge, where there is total safety, is so appealing to the Christian.
 - 2. There will never be any reason for tears (Rev. 21:4).
- H. Heaven is a real place that has been prepared for a prepared people.
- 1. Heaven has been prepared for those who have been prepared for it (Rev. 21:3; 22:14; Heb. 12:22,23; 5:8,9; II Peter 3:13; Rev. 15:2,3).
 - 2. Being prepared has requirements.
 - a. One requirement for being prepared is obeying the gospel of Christ.
 - b. Once one has obeyed the gospel of Christ he must continue to live a faithful life in Christ.
- I. Heaven is a real place that has been prepared for a prepared people how long will we be there?
- 1. In heaven, there is no night; but one eternal day (Rev. 21:23-25; 22:5).

2. Yes, the day will last forever (Matt. 25:46). Multiplied numbers are the passages which emphasize the eternally of our one day in heaven.

II. HELL AND HADES IS A REAL PLACE.

- A. The word hell is found 54 times in the Bible (31 times in the Old Testament and 23 times in the New Testament).
 1. The word (sheol) [7585] which is translated hell in the Old Testament is the designation for the abode of the dead, it is a place of no return, without praise of God, wicked sent there for punishment, righteous not abandoned to it, of the place of exile (figurative) and of extreme degradation in sin.
 - a. This word describes the grave and/or the place of the dead.
 - b. The KJV uses “grave” 31 times, “hell” 31 times, “pit” 3 times
 2. There are three different Greek words translated hell.
 - a. One word (hades) [86] which is translated hell means “the region of departed spirits of the lost but including the blessed dead...Hades never denotes the physical grave nor is it the permanent region of the lost. It is the intermediate state between death and the ultimate hell Gehenna. This word is translated hell 10 times (Matt. 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27,31; Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14) and grave one time (I Cor. 15:55).
 - b. Another word (geenna) [1067] which is translated hell means “the place or state of the lost and condemned.” This word is translated hell 9 times (Matt. 5:29,30; 10:28; 23:15,33; Mark 9:43,45; Luke 12:5; James 3:6) and hell fire 3 times (Matt. 5:22; 18:9; Mark 9:47).
 - c. Another word (tartaroo) [5020] which is translated hell is found only in its verbal form in II Peter 2:4 meaning to consign to Tartarus, which is neither Sheol of the Old Testament nor Hades of the New Testament, nor gehenna of hell, but the place where certain angels are confined, reserved unto judgment.

B. Is hell a reality?

1. Jesus taught that Hell is a reality (Matt. 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 13:41,42; 18:8,9; 22:13; 25:31-46; Luke 16:22-24; John 15:6).
2. The apostles taught that Hell is a reality (Paul – Rom. 2:6-9; 6:23; II Cor. 5:10; Gal. 6:7,8; II Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 10:28-31; Peter – II Peter 2:4; 3:10; John – Rev. 14:11; 20:12-15; 21:8).

C. Since hell is a reality what sort of place is hell?

1. It is a place of insatiable and tormenting appetite and desire (Luke 16:19-31).
2. It is a place of unutterable and everlasting shame and contempt (Dan. 12:2).
 - a. Jesus describes the hideous place of Hell (Matt. 25:30).
 - 1) Darkness – hell is utter darkness; it is banishment from heaven, where all is light, to an extreme and eternal darkness.
 - 2) Weeping – an expression of wailing, anguish and great sorrow.
 - 3) Gnashing of teeth – an expression of great rage and indignation.
 - b. Hell is a hideous place were there will be fire and brimstone (Rev. 21:8).
3. Hell is a place of vile companionships (I Cor. 15:33).
 - a. One can be happy in unpleasant surroundings provided he has good companions, but one would be miserable in the most beautiful surroundings if his companions were low and repulsive.
 - b. Do you wish to be introduced to the sort of characters that will be in hell (I Cor. 6:9,10; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8).
4. Hell is place of memory and remorse (Luke 16:25).
 - a. The rich man had not taken with him in the world of the lost any of his earthly possessions, but he had taken one thing – he had taken his memory.
 - b. Those who continue in sin, those who persist in rejecting the gospel of Christ, and

thus find themselves in Hell, will take with them into that dark world of woe—their memory (II Peter 2:20).

- D. Hell is a reality, it is a hideous place, but who is going there?
1. The wicked will be in hell (Psa. 9:17; Gen. 6:5-8; I Cor. 6:9,10).
 2. Those who obey not the gospel of Christ will be in Hell (II Thess. 1:7-9).
 3. Those who have obeyed the gospel of Christ but have left Christ (James 5:19,20; II Peter 2:20-22).

III. WHAT IS THE STATE OF MAN (Job 14:14)?

A. Today everyone (alive or dead) is in one of two places (the world or hades). No one has entered heaven or hell (gehanna).

1. Those in the world. Remember there are only three groups or classes of people in God's eyes (safe, sinners and saved).
 - a. Everyone is born into the world sinless, therefore, safe (Matt. 18:1f; 19:14; Ezek. 18:20).
 - b. Everyone who grows and matures mentally sins and, therefore, enters the kingdom of Satan (Rom. 3:23; 6:16; Gal. 5:4; John 8:44).
 - c. Some enter the kingdom of God, the church of Christ, therefore, they are the saved.
 - 1) One enters the kingdom, the church of Christ, by being obedient to the gospel of Christ.
 - 2) Only a few will enter (Matt. 7:13,14).
 - 3) Once one enters the kingdom, the church of Christ, he must remain faithful (Rev. 2:10; I Peter 2:11,12).
 - d. Some leave the kingdom of God and return to the kingdom of Satan (II Peter 2:20-22).
2. Those in Hades.
 - a. What is Hades?
 - 1) Hades is a place for the souls of the dead.
 - 2) Hades is composed of two sections, Paradise – Abraham's bosom and torment (Luke 16:22; Jude 6; Luke 16:23). Between these two regions is a great gulf which no one can cross (Luke 16:26).
 - b. Everyone is going to face death (Heb. 9:27; Psa. 89:48; Job 30:23; II Sam. 14:14; Psa. 90:10; James 4:14).
 - 1) Why is everyone going to face death (Gen. 3:19)?
 - 2) What is death (James 2:26)?
 - c. When one dies what happens?
 - 1) The body goes to the grave (Eccl. 12:7).
 - 2) The soul, spirit, goes to Hades (Luke 16:19-31).
 - a) The souls of the safe (babies, children) those who have never sinned goes to Paradise, Abraham's bosom.
 - b) The souls of the saints, the saved, those who have obeyed God go to paradise, Abraham's bosom. There will be an escort for the child of God (Luke 16:22).
 - c) The souls of the sinners those who have never repented of sin, living a sinful life go to torment.

B. One day the judgment is going to take place (Acts 17:30,31; Rev. 20:12-15; II Cor. 5:10).

1. What will happen that day?
 - a. Bodies will be raised from the grave and united with the soul, spirit (John 5:28,29; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15).

- 1) Paul declares the reality of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:1-11).
- 2) Paul declares the ramifications of the reality of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:12-19).
- 3) Paul declares the reliability of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:20-58).
- b. Those who are still alive will be changed (I Cor. 15:52ff).
- c. The universe and all things physical will be destroyed (I Peter 3:9ff).
- d. All will stand before the judgment seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:31-46).
- f. The kingdom will be delivered to God (I Cor. 15:24).
- g. The righteous will enter Heaven – everlasting life (Rev. 21:1-7).
- h. The wicked will be cast into hell (Gehenna) (Rev. 21:8; 20:10).
2. How long will heaven and hell last? ETERNALLY!
3. When will the judgment take place?
 - a. No way of knowing.
 - b. Jesus said, “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only” (Matt. 24:36).
4. Will anyone be surprised on the day of judgment?
 - a. Those who reject the Bible will be surprised.
 - 1) The atheist will be surprised to meet deity (Psa. 14:1; 19:1).
 - 2) The evolutionist will be surprised (Gen. 1-3).
 - 3) The unbeliever will be surprised to be judged by Christ (John 12:48).
 - 4) The materialist will be surprised that he has a never dying soul (Matt. 10:28; John 5:28,29).
 - 5) Scoffers will be surprised that there really is a hell (Mark 9:38-48; II Thess. 1:7-9).
 - 6) New Age believer will be surprised that there is no reincarnation (Heb. 9:27).
 - b. Some who claim Christianity will be surprised.
 - 1) Some preachers will be surprised to find that God meant what he said (Gal. 1:6-9).
 - 2) Some will be surprised that faith alone will not save (John 8:30f; 12:42,43; John 14:15; James 2:17ff).
 - 3) Religiously sincere will be surprised to find that zeal alone does not save (II Thess. 2:10-12; Matt. 7:21-23).
 - a) Those who say one church is good as another will be surprised (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:23; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47).
 - b) The denominationalist will be surprised that there is not such thing as the Baptist church, Methodist church, Catholic church nor any of the over 2,500 different so called Christian religious groups.
 - 4) The good moral man will be surprised that he is a sinner (Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:10,23; Rom. 6:16-18; John 8:32).
 - 5) The innovator surprised to find that things done in the Lord’s name must be by his authority (John 4:24; II John 9-11; Rev. 22:18,19).
 - 6) The un-immersed surprised at the importance of baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3,4; I Peter 3:21).
 - 7) Lodge members surprised to find God’s will is not accomplished in organizations of men (Eph. 5:25; 3:21; 1:22,23; Col. 1:18).
 - c. The well meaning, upright, good intentioned will be surprised.
 - 1) Surprised that there will be no second chance (II Cor. 6:2; Titus 2:11,12).
 - 2) Surprised that they put off salvation too long (Matt. 25:1ff).
 - 3) Surprised that it is to late to think about eternity – for they are there (Luke 16:19-31).
 - d. Some members of the Lord’s church will be surprised.
 - 1) Surprised to find out that it is possible to so sin and be finally lost (Matt.

13:47; Heb. 6:4-6; II Peter 2:20-22).

- 2) Surprised that he will reap what he has sown (Gal. 6:7,8; 5:19-21; I Cor. 6:9-11).
- 3) Surprised that cold, formal, indifferent worship is as sinful as innovations (John 4:24; Rev. 3:15-22).