

Heaven and Hell, Present and Future: Destinations beyond the Grave

Sermon 6: Hellish Heresies

- I. Heresy #1: Universalism
(Every person ever created will eventually be saved from sin and death.)
 - a. The Heretical Argument
A good and omnipotent God will eventually reconcile all things to himself; all punishment in the meantime is ultimately remedial. (Romans 5:18–19; 1 Corinthians 15:21–23; Ephesians 1:9–10; Colossians 1:19–20)
 - b. The Biblical Response
Matthew 25:31–34, 41, 46; 2 Thessalonians 1:5–9; Jude 4, 7, 13; Revelation 14:9–11; Romans 9:22–24
- II. Heresy #2: Annihilation
(Those cast into hell will be annihilated and cease to exist.)
 - a. The Heretical Argument
The good and omnipotent God will eventually end all suffering and remove from creation all who oppose His rule; when the Bible speaks of eternal destruction, it implies eventual annihilation.
Arguments for Annihilationism (Taken from Robert A. Peterson, *Hell on Trial*, p. 162):
 - The Argument Based on “the Vocabulary of Destruction”
 - The Argument Based on Hell-Fire Imagery
 - The Argument Based on God’s Justice
 - The Argument Based on the “Universalist Passages”
 - The Argument Based on Conditional Immortality
 - b. The Biblical Response
Revelation 21:7–8, 22–27; 22:10–15; Daniel 12:2–3; John 5:26–29
- III. Heresy #3: People who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ in this life can escape hell (either in this life and/or in the next).
 - a. The Heretical Argument
A just God will give everyone an opportunity for salvation from their sin and its consequences; the Bible affirms this truth by implication. (Acts 10:34–35)
 - b. The Biblical Response
John 3:35–36; Acts 4:11–12; Hebrews 9:27–28; 1 John 4:2–6; 5:9–12; Romans 3:10–11; 8:5–8; 1 Corinthians 2:14