

THE WEEK OF  
August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009



Prepare Yourself  
Series 5, Number 25  
Hell  
Matthew 25:41

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

Matthew 25:41

As believers - redeemed and saved from the *penalty of sin*(hell) - we probably don't think about hell too much. But should we think about it more? What is our motivation for understanding and even studying, in depth, the reality of this place we know as hell? For the answer to this question we need look no further than the occupants of this place of "everlasting fire". For humanity, the possibility of hell began in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve chose to reject God's way and make their own. Sin entered the creation and a separation between God and Man was produced. That separation and the ramifications of the decision that Adam and Eve made is what we call "The Fall". There is someone else who "fell" also: Lucifer, when he sought to be like God and was thrown out of heaven, falling, as it were, to earth where he rules until the beginning of the millennium. Because of Lucifer's rebellion God prepared a place of "everlasting fire" for he and the other angels that rebelled with him. This place is called hell. The bible describes it as a horrible place of eternal torment. Because we cannot really wrap our temporal minds around the concept of eternal torment, the bible uses analogies that we do understand to paint a picture. Analogically, it will be a place of "unquenchable fire", "thirst", "misery and pain", "frustration and anger", "separation", and "undiluted divine wrath". There can be no worse place. Hell is as bad as it gets. And that's why we should know about it, understand it and talk to others about it. We should desire that no one go there; and that desire should motivate us to warn those we know and care about if they are choosing to reject God's remedy for their sin. "The penalty of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord".

**Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:**  
*If it's the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)*

**This week we consider Hell and the amazing provision God has made for redemption from it.**

**Mon:** Unquenchable Fire: "...into the fire that shall never be quenched..." Mark 9:43 also Matt 3:12

**Tue:** A place of torment: "for I am tormented..." Luke 16:19-31

**Wed:** frustration and anger: "There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 13:42 and 24:51

**Thu:** Prepared for Satan: "Depart from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire..." Matthew 25:41

**Fri:** The penalty has been paid: "...the gift of God is eternal life..." Romans 6:23

#### Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. Of all the descriptions of hell, which is most troubling to you? If a person really believes that hell is really real, how would their life be different? Both as an unbeliever and as a believer.

2. Why do "seeker friendly" churches not speak about the reality of hell? How should we speak about this horrible reality in a way that draws people to Christ?

PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):