

Question 143

Name _____

Q143. What is hell?

A143. A place of dreadful and endless torment.

Scripture Base: Luke 16:22-23; Rev.20:10-15

Doctrine: WCF 32, 33 SC 19

Supplementary Questions

1. What are hell and the lake of fire like?

2. Why do the wicked deserve endless punishment in the lake of fire?

Song: TH 545 "When This Passing World is Done."

Teaching Notes

Review: Q142. What will become of the wicked in the day of judgment?
- *They shall be cast into hell.*

Story: Rev 20:10-15: The Great White Throne Judgment.

Questions

1. ***Both are places of extreme pain and torment.***

Hell is where just the **souls** of the wicked are tormented after they die but before the final judgment, while the lake of fire is where they will suffer in both **body and soul** after the final judgment. (The wicked will have their bodies after the final judgment). Those who are in hell experience great pain: *"Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom" (Luke 16:22-23). The pain is greater in the lake of fire, because there the body is also tormented: "And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. . . . And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:10, 15).*

2. ***It is the only just penalty for their crimes against God.***

Every sin that a person commits is against an infinitely holy God and so each sin deserves infinite punishment. Since no one can suffer infinitely, their suffering must go on forever.

Gospel: Have you trusted in Jesus Christ to save you? Have you turned from your sins and are you continuing to do so as the evidence you are saved? If you haven't, then what we've just seen regarding the punishment of the wicked will happen to you. Everyone who is outside of Christ on the Day of Judgment will suffer forever in the lake of fire. This is something you can't save yourself from. Your debt is too great. You could never pay it. But the good news of the Gospel is that Christ is willing to pay it for you, to save you from God's judgment, if you will trust in Him. The Lord tells you to come. ***"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).*** If you come to Him in faith, He will save you. Listen to what Jesus tells you. Believe that your danger is real. But know that His offer to save you is also real. ***"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).***

Activity: Lake of Fire worksheet

Song: TH 545 "When This Passing World is Done."