Thursology 100:
Hell: Misunderstandings & Problematic Attitudes (The Judgments-Pt 4)

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--Introduction:

--Matt 25:41, 46: "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the *eternal fire*…These will go away into *eternal punishment*…"

--Rev 20:11, 12, 15: Then I saw a *great white throne* and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled…and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds…And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into *the lake of fire*.

--Some Pervasive Misunderstandings…and Problematic Attitudes about Eternal Punishment:

--A historical fact: *Errors* related to eternal punishment _____…both in the _____…and in the _____

--Challenge #1: To affirm God's *desire* to _____ *everyone*…without _____ the clear biblical truth of the eternal _____ of unbelief

--Eternity Truth #1: God _____ for *everyone* to have eternal life

--II Pet 3:9: The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for *any* to perish but for *all* to come to repentance.

--Eternity Truth #2: God has provided the _____ for *everyone* to have eternal life

--John 12:32: And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, *will draw all* men to Myself."

--Eternity Truth #3: _____ people will _____ have eternal life

--Matt 7:13-14: Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and *there are many who enter through it*. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and *there are few who find it*.

--Eternity Truth #4: Eternal punishment will last _____

--Mark 9:47-48: "And if your eye causes you to stumble, cast it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into hell, where their worm does not _____, and the fire is not _____."

--II Thess 1:7-9: "…the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of _____ destruction, away from the presence of the Lord…"

--What we learn from this verse:

1. Hell is _____
2. Hell ____ being _____ from the Lord

--A perfect contrast to the biblical doctrine of Heaven: Eternal Paradise _____ being…_____ the Lord

--Phil 1:20-23: "…according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life *or by death*. For to me, to live is Christ and *to die is gain*. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be *with Christ*, for that is *very much better*…"

--Eternity Truth #5: The _____ of unbelievers aren't _____ when they die

--The premise of "Annihilation Theology": When a person dies…if they don't go to Heaven…then they simply _____ to _____

--Rev 20:10: 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*.

--Challenge #2: To affirm the clear biblical teachings about the reality of the coming _____…without being _____

--A truth about Hell that's very sobering: The most _____ Preacher of all time…preached about _____…repeatedly

--Matt 5:29-30: If your right eye makes you stumble, *tear it out* and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body *to be thrown into hell*. If your right hand makes you stumble, *cut it off* and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body *to go into hell*.

--Matt 10:28: Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in *hell*.

--Four HUGE warnings from Scripture:

--Warning #1: Judgment _____ in the _____ of God

--Warning #2: When John the Baptist and Jesus spoke about Hell…the _____ majority of the time…they were speaking to _____ people*!!!*

--John the Baptist:

--Matt 3:7, 10, 11, 12: But when he saw many of the *Pharisees and Sadducees* coming for baptism, he said to *them*, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from *the wrath to come*?...The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire…but He who is coming after me is mightier than I…and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with *unquenchable fire*."

--Jesus:

--Matt 23:15: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him *twice* as much a son of *hell* as *yourselves*."

--Matt. 23:29, 33: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites…You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of *hell*?"

--A great biblical irony: Most _____ people think of Hell as a place for _____-religious people

--Warning #3: Lots of *religious* people who are absolutely _____ they're headed for Eternal Life…are completely _____*!!!*

--Matt 7:21-23: "*Not everyone* who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not *prophesy* in Your name, and in Your name *cast out demons*, and in Your name *perform many miracles*?" And then I will declare to them, "*I never knew you*; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness."

--Warning #4: Jesus' message was _____ to those who tried to determine who's "_____" and…who's "_____"

--Matt 7:1-3: Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and *by your standard of measure*, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice *the log* that is in *your own* eye?

--Two pictures of judgment:

--The Samaritans:

--Luke 9:51-54: When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem; and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him. But *they did not receive Him*, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem. When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, *do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them*?"

--Luke 9:54-56: When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But He turned and *rebuked* them, and said, "You do not know *what kind of spirit you are of*; for the Son of Man *did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them*."

--An absolutely unwavering mission: While it's all too easy for believers to focus on the wicked getting their _____ punishment …Jesus is _____ focused on their _____!!!

--Sodom:

--Gen 18:22-26: "…Abraham was still standing before the Lord. And Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? *Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it*? Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" So the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account."

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--What Happened to People's Souls…Before the Cross:

--Luke 16:23-26: And in Hades he raised his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his arms. And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a *great chasm* has been set, so that those who want to go over from here to you will not be able, nor will any people cross over from there to us.'

--The Ascension: The captives are freed…but the unbelieving remain in Sheol*!!!*

--Eph 4:8-10: *Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive the captives*, and He gave gifts to people." (Now this expression, "He *ascended*," what does it mean except that He also had *descended* into *the lower parts of the earth*? He who *descended* is Himself also He who *ascended* far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

--What do we learn?

1. The OT believers who were held "**CAPTIVE**" in Sheol…and responded when Jesus preached the Gospel there for 3 days…now **ASCENDED** with Christ to the Father
2. At the *Ascension*…the OT believers **RELOCATED** from being with Abraham in the depths of the earth…to being with Christ…in **HEAVEN**
3. When Christ ascended into Heaven with the OT believers…those who refused to respond to Christ were left behind in **HADES** to await the **FINAL** judgment

--The Tribulation:

--Tribulation Concept #1: Many of the believers who **REFUSE** to worship the Beast will lose their lives **DURING** the Tribulation

--Tribulation Concept #2: The believers who survive all the way **THROUGH** the Tribulation will enter the Millennium **ALIVE**

--Zech 14:4-5, 9, 16: On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west forming a very large valley…Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him…And the Lord will be *King* over all the earth…Then it will come about that *any who are left of all the nations that came against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King*, the Lord of armies, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

--Tribulation Concept #3: After the Tribulation…those who were *martyred* for refusing to take the Mark of the Beast will be **RESURRECTED** at the *beginning* of the Millennium

--Rev 20:4: Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those *who had been beheaded* because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those *who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark* on their foreheads and on their hands; and *they came to life* and *reigned with Christ for a thousand years*.

--Tribulation Concept #4: The **HADES** side of Sheol is still *intact* during the Tribulation and many *un*believers **DIE** and go there

--Rev 6:8: I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and the one who sat on it *had the name Death*, *and Hades was following with him*. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, and famine, and plague, and by the wild animals of the earth.

--Tribulation Concept #5: Unbelievers who join the Beast in battle against Christ at the **END** of the Tribulation…**DIE** in the Battle of Armageddon

--Rev 19:19-21: And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse, and against His army. And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet…these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse…

--Tribulation Concept #6: Unbelievers who die during the Tribulation descend into **HADES**… and do not "come to life"…until the final judgment at the **END** of the Millennium

--Rev 20:4-5: And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God…and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. *The rest of the dead* did not come to life *until the thousand years were completed*.

--The Millennium:

--Who populates the Millennium?

1. The resurrected Tribulation **SAINTS** who were martyred for refusing the Mark
2. Those who live during the Tribulation and **REFUSE** to take the Mark…but aren't **KILLED**
3. The children of those surviving the Tribulation who are **BORN** during the Millennium
4. The **CHURCH**…with our resurrected **BODIES**
   --Rev 20:6: Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

--A completely unique time in history: There will be **MORTAL** people with earthly bodies…and **IMMORTAL** people with resurrected bodies…living on the earth…**SIMULTANEOUSLY**

--The END of the Millennium:

--The Battle of Gog and Magog:

--Rev 20:7-9: *When the thousand years are completed*, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out *to deceive the nations* which are at the four corners of the earth, *Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war*…And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and *fire came down* from heaven and devoured them.

--At the end of the Millennium: A host of people join Satan's **REBELLION** and will **DIE** in another battle against Christ

--The Sheep and Goats Judgment:

--Group #1: The faithful: Inherit the Eternal **KINGDOM**

--Matt 25:31-40: "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, *inherit the kingdom* prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to

drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

--Group #2: The rebellious: Experience eternal **FIRE**
--Matt 25:41-46: "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

--The "Cleanup" Resurrection:

--Dan 12:1-2: "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to *everlasting life*, but the others to disgrace and *everlasting contempt*.

--The Final Judgment: The Great White Throne

--Rev 20:11-15: Then I saw a *great white throne* and Him who sat upon it, *from whose presence earth and heaven fled*, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and *the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds*. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

--**Application**: Every complaint against The Judgment is **DISARMED** by God's saving grace…that has been extended throughout all **AGES**…and to all **PEOPLE**

--A reasonable question: Isn't eternal punishment **HARSH** and **UNFAIR** since it appears that God gave much of humanity only **LIMITED** information about Himself???

--Key Concept: Understanding how God gave **LIGHT**…even **BEFORE** Christ came…answers some **HUGE** questions about the "*fairness*" of The Judgment

--What we learned:

1. At the Ascension…the OT believers **RELOCATED** from being with Abraham in the depths of the earth…to being with **CHRIST**…in Heaven.
2. When Christ ascended into Heaven with the OT *believers*…the *rebellious* were left behind in **HADES** to await the **FINAL** judgment.

--Four overarching reasons why those who died in unbelief before Christ came weren't treated unfairly:

--Reason #1: The many Jews and non-Jews who came to **FAITH**…despite the fact that Christ had not yet come…show that there was **ENOUGH** light to **TRUST** in God

--Jonah 3:5: Then the people of Nineveh *believed in God*; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.

--Vv. 8-9: "…*let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands*. Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."

--Reason #2: From Luke 16 we know that those who died in rebellion before Jesus came…heard Him preach the **GOSPEL** for 3 days in Sheol…just like the *believers* did…and yet…they still **REJECTED** Him

--Reason #3: "General revelation" ensures that **EVERYONE** will be without **EXCUSE** when they're judged

--Rom 1:18-21: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who *suppress the truth* in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is *evident within them*; for *God made it evident* to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, *have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made*, so that they are *without excuse*. For even though *they knew God*, they *did not honor Him as God* or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

--Rom 2:11-16: For there is *no partiality* with God. For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. For when *Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law*, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that *they show the work of the Law written in their hearts*, their *conscience* bearing witness and *their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them*, on *the day* when, according to *my gospel*, *God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus*.

--Reason #4: Because God has spread "Malchus's **EARS**"…in every **AGE**…and to every **PERSON**

--Question #1: Are *you* responding to the light that God has spread around in *your* life?

--Question #2: Are you spending *your* life…being *God's* light…to those who don't know Him yet???