



YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 21: THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LIFE EVERLASTING

Opening

- What are the only two possible destinies for human beings based on Matthew 25:31-46?

Heaven and Hell

- The easiest way to think of heaven and hell is to think of heaven as being with God forever (2 5:8) and hell as being separated from God forever (Matthew 27:46). On Judgment Day (The Last Day), the believers and unbelievers will be separated. The believers will live with God, the unbelievers will suffer in hell.
- There are two Greek words that are translated “hell.” The one word is *Gehenna*, the other word is *Hades*, which is similar in meaning to the Hebrew word *Sheol*. Sometimes *Hades* and *Sheol* mean the place of damnation, but sometimes these words mean only the grave. In love our gracious God tells us about hell and the horrible wrath to come so that we may repent and turn to Christ before it is too late.
- The Bible teaches nothing about any *purgatory* or *limbo*. The Roman Catholic Church wrongly teaches that there is a purgatory, and that there are two limbos, the limbo for unbaptized babies, and the limbo for the Old Testament believers, now vacant. The Roman Church teaches that Christ descended into this limbo after His death and freed the Old Testament believers. The Catholic Creed of the Council of Trent (1564) says: “I firmly hold that there is a purgatory, and that the souls detained there are helped by the prayers of the faithful.”
- It is faith in Jesus which determines whether a person is saved or condemned. See Mark 16:15-16 and John 6:40. “Our Lord Jesus Christ will return on the last day . . . to give eternal life and everlasting joy to believers and the elect, but to condemn ungodly men and the devil to hell and eternal punishment” (Augsburg Confession, XVII).
- On Judgment Day, how will it be determined which ones have faith and which ones do not?

John 5:29

James 2:17-22

This does not mean we are saved by works, but rather the good works will *give evidence* at the end that a person has saving faith. We do not need to worry about having enough good works at the end. These good works will come naturally to the believer because of the work of the Holy Spirit in him—often without the believer even realizing it (Matthew 25:31-40).

The Bible's Description of Hell

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| a. (Is 66:24) | g. (Mt 25:41) |
| b. (Is 66:24) | h. (Mt 25:41) |
| c. (Is 66:24) | i. (Rev 14:11) |
| d. (Mt 10:28) | j. (Mt 25:41) |
| e. (Mt 8:12) | k. (Mt 25:46) |
| f. (Mt 22:13) | |

- Some people (Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses, for example) believe that the wicked will be annihilated; that is, they will cease to exist. They deny any kind of eternal or never-ending damnation. What does this belief make of the work of Jesus?

The Bible's Description of Heaven

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|-------------------|---------------|
| a. (Ps 16:11) | f. (1 Jn 3:2) |
| b. (Mt 25:34) | g. (Heb 4:9) |
| c. (Mt 25:34) | h. (1 Jn 3:2) |
| d. (Mt 25:46) | i. (Rev 21:4) |
| e. (1 Thess 4:17) | j. (Rev 21:4) |

How are we sure of entering eternal life?

Ephesians 1:4-6 (935)

John 10:27-28 (936)

Assignment

- Study Questions 216-219 (pp. 161-163) in the catechism.