

The Furnace of the Fire

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 13:47-52.
- B. Jesus said more about hell than love. He said more about hell than all the preachers combined.
- C. At the end there will be an inevitable separation of the damned and the redeemed.

II. The picture.

- A. One could fish with a line and hook or with a casting net of immense size. The Lord is using the second for his image.
- B. Fisherman sorted the good from the bad after catching them with a net. The same is true for the good and evil.
- C. The kingdom might tolerate both the good and the evil now, but that time is coming to a close. The angels will come and separate the good from the evil. (Matthew 25, John 5)
- D. Jesus warns out of a heart for compassion.

III. The example.

- A. Jesus promises that the evil would be cast into hell and suffer.
- B. Based on the example of Jesus, we should be preaching on hell.

IV. Hell...

- A. Is eternal darkness.
- B. Is a tortuous unrelieved kind of fire. (Luke 16)
- C. Is a place of torment for both body and soul.
- D. Will be torment of varying degrees. (Matthew 7)
- E. Is endless. (Matthew 25)
- F. Is an eternal separation. (Matthew 22, 2 Corinthians 5)

Application Questions:

1. Why do so many Christians have such a difficult time talking about hell to nonbelievers?

2. What principles might help us broach the subject tactfully?

3. What characteristics of hell do people tend to be fuzzy about? How can we know about them? Explain.
