

## What are we to think of heaven & hell?

Tough Questions *Thinking* People Ask about God

5 presuppositions:

1. It seems to me that some people really deserve the worst that Hell has to offer, and as such, Hell is a means of justice and fairness
2. We are not the judge of who is going to Hell & who isn't
3. Although Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we should never assume that *our way* of understanding Jesus is the *only* way He can lead someone to heaven.
4. If God is a God of love & grace, then the idea of Hell must also be consistent with this idea of love & grace too
5. Jesus taught about Hell, but He didn't use it as a "big stick" to threaten people

On Hell:

- Jesus typically uses metaphorical language
- Jesus says, "Hell or one place where people go when they die (our first subject) is related to Gehena (2<sup>nd</sup> subject) which is a trash dump where trash goes when it's original purpose dies... this is the same place that salt goes when it no longer fulfills its purpose.... It goes in the trash.....
- To miss your purpose, is to miss the very reason why any of us were created by God in the first place. And, anything that does not fulfill its purpose becomes trash & goes to Gehena
- Not fulfilling your purpose to love, this is a choice, and God will not force or manipulate anyone into loving Him or anyone else or even themselves. Therefore,
- Gehena can actually be seen as a way for God to *dignify* the freedoms and choices we humans have in life.
- We get so caught up with how the people in Hell must feel. The thing is, they chose it. How grieved, hurt, and broken must this make God feel when they willingly & knowingly walk away from God's love, His grace & His perfect plan for their lives?

Heaven?

.... "Everything that is good & meaningful to you in this present world will be drawn into heaven.... All of it.... If it is good, then it is of God. And if it is of God, then it will be in heaven."

.... "The reason I loved the old world was because it sometimes looked a little like this... but now that I am here... it all makes sense... this is place is what I loved, even though I never knew it until now..... this is what I was longing for all along..... this is where I belong..."