

WHAT HELL IS, THE LAKE OF FIRE

Nowhere in Scripture is hell described as a torture chamber where people are forced against their will to undergo agonizing pain.

Matthew 13:49,50

Hell is described as a place of torment. Torment is self-inflicted by one's own will. Torment is the anguish that results from being evil as a result of selfish choices and being quarantined from all that is lovely and good. Gnashing of teeth is not about repentance. Weeping and gnashing of teeth is living out self indignation toward good and God. Hell does not contain people sorry for their injustices, but people angry for not being able to have their way and angry at being separated from the common grace of God which gave them freedom to choose their own path. Those who are cast into hell would not be happy in heaven because they were never born again of the Spirit so have never lost the aptitude for sin and evil. Their happiness is in sin and yet sin has them bound in isolation. Satan is not tormenting the lost souls. Satan is being tormented. The torment of hell is solely self-induced. And not every lost soul is tormented to the same degree. Self-induced torment is inflicted to the degree that anger has enveloped their being. Doing good to your enemy is sometimes described as heaping coals of fire upon their head. Hell is depicted as a place of eternal fire. The fire is real, but not necessarily physical. People in hell will have imperishable physical bodies, so normal fire will not affect them. Hell has flames, yet it is outer darkness. Hell is a bottomless pit. Today on earth all people experience the common grace of God which is good and gives opportunity for free choices. Hell has no common grace, no opportunity, and no free choices. Hell is the consequence of bad choices. The worst choice of all is refusing to cooperate with the Spirit of God and be brought to saving faith in Jesus for sin removal and eternal life. Self deception is a choice and includes the refusal of dependence upon God, refusal of the need for sin removal, and refusing the need for right standing with God. Jesus came to provide all that we need for life with God. Refusing the Spirit of Christ means life without God. Life without God is hell. Hell in the Lake of Fire is a real destiny for those who refuse God.