



DATE	May 27, 2018
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	The Problem of Hell
SERIES	Everyone has questions about God. They can be difficult and overwhelming and stir up doubts inside of us. Let's look for some answers as we investigate The Problem of God, because an informed faith is stronger than an assumed one.

“Free will carried many a soul to hell, but never a soul to heaven.” - Charles Spurgeon

Today we look at perhaps one of the most difficult questions asked of believers. In this dark subject we will find a surprising light...

Is Hell Real?

Despite being a Christian, have you ever wrestled with the idea that hell is unjust and that a loving God wouldn't send people there? Did David's message reshape your thinking? How?

Read Matthew 25:40-46. Who comes to mind when you think of the “least of these” that could use God's love and light through you?

I Object!

The concept of hell is repulsive to many. Why do you think Jesus spent so much time talking about hell? Before hearing David's message, how did you picture hell in your mind?

What do you think about the fact that God is gracious AND just? How does this answer the objection of the injustice of hell?

Read Luke 16:19-31. Find all words and phrases that indicate the Rich Man is aware and conscious. Which ones are emotional, psychological, and relational? How does this story (this is the only time Jesus uses a person's name, Lazarus, when making a point, so it is most likely more than a parable) demonstrate that universalism and annihilation are untrue?

Another objection to hell is that it is overkill, how can God punish a finite offense for eternity? This misses the point of how grievous sin is. Sin is an infinite crime that warrants an infinite penalty and requires an infinite payment. Read Ephesians 2:8, 9 and reflect on God's grace in giving His Son as the infinite payment for your sin. Sing Amazing Grace.

Read Romans 5:6-11 and Matt 27:46. How does hell show how real the horror of the cross was? How does hell show how great God's grace really is?

The Diamond of Grace

David said, Don't run from hell—run toward grace because grace is a better motivator than fear. Has there ever been a point for you where fear outweighed grace? If so, how did you overcome it and make the switch to grace?

Let us focus on the diamond of Christ's salvation and let the black velvet of sin and death fade away in the light of His glory!