

### Discussion Questions

- Have you ever thought of Hell as a silly cartoon place? How is the reality different?
- Are you worried about ending up in Hell? What should you do about this worry?

### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

How long is forever? Can you imagine it? Could you ever measure it? The idea of forever is something we marvel at when we think about how Christians will enjoy living forever with God. There is another forever that is sobering to think about. The catechism this week says the wicked with experience unspeakable torments in Hell forever. There will be no end to the suffering of unbelievers in Hell. Some people have tried to argue with this doctrine. Famous Christian teachers such as John Stott have decided that Hell couldn't last forever. They suppose eventually God will just annihilate sinners so that they no longer exist. This is not what the Bible teaches. Matthew 25:46 says the wicked will go away into eternal punishment. Revelation 14:11 *And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night...* God is just and He will judge rightly. He has declared that the punishment for sinning against His infinite character is infinite judgement. Those who deny the eternal judgement think they are being compassionate. They don't want to imagine sinners suffering for eternity. We shouldn't want anyone to experience this! The truly compassionate thing would be to tell unbelievers that this is their destiny if they don't repent and believe in Jesus for salvation.

### Discussion Questions

- Why does the judgement in Hell last forever? Is God just to do this?
- What would be some benefits in your life to meditating more on the reality of Hell?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

### Baptist Catechism Question #43

**Q:** What shall be done to the wicked, at the day of judgment?

**A:** *At the day of judgment the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels for ever.*

### Suggested Memory Verse

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

## Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Last week we began to look at what happens when sinners die without knowing Jesus Christ. Their souls are placed under judgement while they wait for the Day of the Lord. This week's questions look further at what happens to unredeemed sinners in that day with Jesus returns. The first thing we note is that they experience a resurrection of sorts. We know that believers will be resurrected but it might surprise some people to realize that unbelievers will be raised from the dead as well. John 5:28 *Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out...* This resurrection is for both the just and the unjust. While both are raised from the grave there is a massive difference between the bodies in which they are raised. Those who believe in Jesus are raised with new glorified bodies. They are perfected like Jesus and they are without sin. Unbelievers are raised in bodies, but they are not freed from sin. They do not experience the joy of being made like Jesus in his resurrection body. They are raised with sinful bodies in which they experience the judgement of God. Sinful passions will still consume them. In terror they stand before their judge and they know they deserve his justice! The question for each one of us to ask ourselves is clear. What sort of resurrection will I experience when Jesus returns?

### Discussion Question

- What are some differences between the bodies of the just and unjust at the resurrection?
- Why do you think Jesus will raise the wicked out of the grave?

## Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Last week's question termed the day of judgement *the Great Day*. Why do you think we call it *Great*? The greatness of the day points to the greatness of the Judge who will judge all the earth in righteousness. Revelation 16:14 *...the great day of God the Almighty*. The day is great because of how God will bring to light all people's deeds, even the ones hidden in our hearts. 1 Corinthians 4:5 *[the day] the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God*. Finally, the day is great because of the severity of the judgement that God will execute on the ungodly. Jude 15 *"Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."* Notice that Jude says God will both *convict* and *execute judgement*. Currently the ungodly argue with God. They say they aren't evil and that what they do is right. In that Great Day no one will be arguing with God's judgement. Each person's evil deeds will be manifest before them. It will be so clear that the ungodly will be silenced in their protests.

### Discussion Questions

- How is the Great Day different from when we say, "I had a great day?"
- How should meditating on the Great Day make us think about God?

## Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Often people in our world try to excuse their sin to others by saying, "that's between me and God." In a sense it is true. Your obedience to God is ultimately something you will have to answer for to God alone. People who say this, however, often say it to prevent Christians from calling them on their sin. They don't want to be accountable to Christians for how they have disobeyed God's law. As for God, they don't believe He will actually judge them. Reality will one day come crashing down when Jesus returns. The ironic thing is, in the day of judgement Jesus will judge every unbeliever for their deeds; He will do this very publicly! Revelation 20:11-12 *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.* As much as we try to hide our deeds now, they will one day be declared before all man and angels. Only those who have faith in Jesus will escape this judgement.

### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Jesus will judge unbelievers publicly for their sins?
- Have you ever tried to hide your sin? What should you do about such hidden sin?

## Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever seen silly cartoons where a pitchfork wielding red devil character rules in hell and torments everyone who lives there? Additional foolishness is expressed by those who talk about how they look forward to partying in hell with the devil. They like engaging in sin and think they will enjoy sinning with the devil. While such ideas are common in our culture they are made up fantasies. Who rules in Hell? God is the ruler of Hell. He made it and He is the only King of that realm. As for Satan and his angels, Hell is not their kingdom. It is their place of torment. Jesus tells us about the purpose of Hell. Matthew 25:41 *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'* God is the one who torments the inhabitants of Hell. We see the silliness of people who act like Hell will be a party. Rather than thinking about Hell as a place where unbelievers can get away from God, they must realize that in Hell is where they will finally encounter God. God will meet them with His wrath, and there will be no mercy to be found. This is why the Gospel is so important for us today, while we are still alive. If you believe in Jesus now, in this life, you can have mercy for all eternity. Hell will have no place for you.