

Is Hell Eternal?

Annihilationism

- I. What is Annihilationism?
 - A. Belief that the unrepentant sinner will face the wrath of God for a limited time, consistent with the nature, and depth of sin, but eventually they will be “extinguished” or annihilated to the point of non-existence
- II. Objections to Eternal Punishment
 - A. The Emotional Objection
 1. God’s love is incompatible with eternal punishment in Hell
 2. John Stott - John Wenham - Philip Hughes
- III. The Justice Objection
 - A. A Finite number of sins should not mandate an infinite punishment. The punishment does not fit the crime
 - B. Eternal Punishment cannot be true justice, but divine cruelty
 - C. Eternal Punishment = “Endless torture chamber”
- IV. Answer to the Objection(s)
 - A. We think about justice from our own fallen and finite perspective
 1. Our sense of justice is subject to change
 2. God has a standard of justice which He cannot violate
 3. We lack the ability to know the true depth of sin
 - B. The Justice of Eternal Punishment in Light of our Natures
 1. All of us possess a fallen-sinful nature (Ephesians 2:1-3)
 2. Unless He changes our nature, we will continue to reject / sin against Him
 3. Both the saved and the non-believers will be raised in the Resurrection
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 4. The Lost will remain in their Fallen State

5. In all their thoughts and actions in Hell, they will forever sin against God - show no remorse

a)

b)

c)

6. They are not paying for a Finite number of sins, but for continual-ongoing sin for all eternity

V. The Language Objections

A. Destroy (Destruction) - Does not require annihilation

B. Matthew 2:13 - Trying to find Jesus in order to "Destroy" Him (kill Him) - Doesn't mean annihilation (out of existence)

C. Luke 4:33-34 - This destruction is not annihilation, but indicated eternal torment - destroyed by being continually punished in Hell

D. Matthew 10:28

1. God will punish and destroy the wicked in Hell

2. Larger context of Scripture

a) Matthew 25:41

b) Matthew 3:12

c) Daniel 12:2

d) Mark 9:44-49

e) Luke 16:23-24

f) 2 Thessalonians 1:9

g) Revelation 14:10-11

h) Revelation 20:10