

July 20, 2014 Sermon Application handout
“A Difficult Doctrine”
Nahum 1:6

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Pray for those who are spiritually perishing and need Christ. Pray for those who are being persecuted for sharing Christ at all costs. Pray for your own heart as you begin this message—that the eyes of your heart would be willing to accept the truths of God’s inerrant, infallible, and sufficient truth.
2. Read and review Nahum 1:1-6. What characteristics of God are being depicted in this passage? Do you believe this characteristic to be outdated or even insignificant—especially given that we live in a post-modern era? Why or why not?
3. Many have written that Hell is nothing but a metaphor for the bad things that happen in life or they say that God would never devise such a punishment, that it is beneath Him. Do you think Hell is only a metaphor? Where should you go to find your answers; the world or God’s Word?

II. God’s Wrath is Against S

4. Read Romans 1. What was Paul’s primary concern? What did he desire for the Roman believers as stated in verses 15-17?

5. What does Paul remind the Roman believers of in verse 18? What is being revealed from heaven for those that do not believe and suppress the truth?

6. What is this response of God in reaction to? What is the problem—is it with us or God (cf. Rom. 1:18 and 3:23).

7. Going back to the Nahum passage; what is God's response to those who were continuing to live in unrighteousness and lawlessness? Do you believe it is a good thing that God hates sin with a passion then and now? Why or why not? What is the danger in a God who doesn't hate sin?

8. Is God's wrath something that you think about? How might understanding it better motivate you to share the Gospel with others?

9. Take time right now to pray specifically for those in your life that do not know Christ. Pray that God would grant them repentance. Pray that they would see themselves as a sinner in need of a Savior. Pray that you would get an opportunity to share the Gospel with them this week and even incorporate the truth you learn today about God.

III. God's Final Wrath is R _____

10. One characteristic of God's wrath is that it is real and Hell is a real place for those who are recipients of it. While it's true that the world doesn't believe Hell exists; list out reasons why there are many in the church who dismiss its existence. Also list out any views that you are familiar with that speak to this. How do they come to these conclusions?

11. Now read Matthew 10:28; Mark 9:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 3:7; John 3:16, 10:28; Revelation 2:11; 20: 14; and 21:8. Note what is being spoken of. How is it described? For those that are sent to this place, what is their destiny (look at Mk 9:48 carefully). After reading these Scriptures, what do you believe destroy, destruction, and perish mean?

12. When the Bible says that the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched in Hell—this means that there is a constant source of fuel, that the one in Hell exists in a state of being destroyed but never completely destroyed (cf. Rev. 19:19; 20:10, 14-15). Is this truth something new to you? How do you respond to this truth? Does it create a sense of urgency when it comes to sharing the Gospel with those who are perishing now and will be perishing eternally?

IV. God's Final Wrath is T _____

13. Read Revelation 20:10. Not only is God's Wrath and Hell real; what do we know about the quality of one's existence who end up in Hell? What will it feel like for them?

14. How does our own Lord and Savior describe this place in Matthew 8:12 and 13:41? What additional information does He add that wasn't mentioned in the passages you've read so far?

15. How does Jesus illustrate this place in Luke 16:23? What is particularly terrifying about this passage when it comes to the rich man? Does he ever find relief from his suffering? What does that teach you about God's Wrath and Hell?

V. God's Final Wrath is E_____

16. Not only is Hell a real place; it is also a terrifying place. But there is something else that makes it an even greater, unimaginable horror. Read Revelation 14:9-11. What do you notice in verse 11 about the rising smoke? Does it ever stop? What does that teach you...that the fire never what? Why is this particular expression of God's wrath so horrifying?

17. After studying this; do you think God's Wrath is something to be taken lightly? As you have studied; what has stood out to you in particular? What truths have you gleaned and can apply to your own life?

III. Conclusion: Run to _____

18. Now that you've spent some time studying and examining what Scripture has to say about God's wrath, sin, and a real place called Hell; lest you sorrow without hope—there is always Good News for sinners on the edge of falling into that deep chasm. There is One who is full of Mercy who was willing to pay for that sin with His own life—the same hands that has the power to cast sinners into Hell are the same hands that were stretched out on a cross. End your time reminding yourself of God's desire, the power in the Gospel, the sinner's responsibility, and the need to run to Christ!

A. What is God's desire for all men (see Ezek. 18:23; 33:11; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Peter 3:9)?

B. Who is the message of the Gospel for (see Matt. 24:14; Mark 16:15; Acts 17:30-31)?

C. Can a person earn their salvation by good works (Gal. 2:16; 2 Tim 1:9; Titus 3:5)?

D. What is man's responsibility in the salvation process (John 1:12-13; 3:16; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:8-9)?

E. What happens to a person when God saves them (Rom. 3:24; 28, 5:11, 8:15)?

F. How does Christ's sacrifice satisfy God's wrath (1 Jn 2:2; 4:10; Heb.2:17-18)?

G. How does God redeem the sinner (Gal. 3:13; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:17-19)?

H. What are some of the results of becoming a new creature in Christ (John 3:1-7; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:7)?

19. In light of what you just surveyed from God's Word, why is there always hope for those who run to Christ? Do you have this hope?

“The wrath of Almighty God is now undoubtedly hanging over a great part of this congregation: Let everyone fly out of Sodom: ‘Hasten and escape for your lives, look not behind you, escape to the mountain, lest ye be consumed” (Jonathan Edwards).

Resources:

Specific Resources for Nahum:

Nahum by Walter Maier

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God by Jonathan Edwards

Hell on Trial by Robert Peterson

Erasing Hell by Francis Chan

General Resources for the Minor Prophets:

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice

The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg

The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood

Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer

Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr.