

July 27, 2014 Sermon Application Handout

"A Difficult Doctrine, Part 2"

Nahum 1:6

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Thank Jesus for living the perfect life that you should have lived. Thank Him for being willing to go to the cross in your place and taking upon Himself your sin. Thank Him for being willing to suffer the damnation of hell...for you.
2. Review your notes from last week's sermon. How is God described in Nahum 1:2-6? Why is God's wrath a good thing (Nahum 1:7-12)? What is God promising Judah (Nahum 1:12-15)? What was the biggest lesson you learned from "A Difficult Doctrine, Part 1?" What did you apply this past week?

II. A Difficult Doctrine

3. As we continue the discussion of God's Wrath and the reality of Hell; begin your study time by reading 2 Thessalonians 1. Who did Paul write this letter to originally? How does he begin this letter to those believers; what is he encouraged by?
4. For context, read Acts 17. Why was it important for Paul to write that letter to the Thessalonian believers? What were they experiencing at the time?
5. According to 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; what did Paul remind the believers of as far as how God would deal with their persecutors?

6. What are some words that Paul uses that characterize God's final judgment of hell. (For example, he says "repay" in verse 6).

7. Look up Isaiah 66:15 and Romans 12:19. Who will avenge the wrongs that have been done? Who will pay back the evil that has been committed? What part does God play? What part are the believers to play?

8. How about you? Are there people in your life that are causing you some persecution and/or affliction? Go back to Romans 12. According to verses 14, 17, 18, 19-21; how are you to respond? List out specific ways in which you can apply these imperatives.

9. Is Hell a place of punishment or rehabilitation? Explain your answer. Read Luke 13:24 and list out what Jesus teaches about this place.

10. In reflecting upon 2 Thess. 1:9, how does this impact you to know that Hell is a real place of eternal destruction with no-relationship with God?

III. Responding to a Difficult Doctrine

11. **Implore**
 - A. There are many ways you can respond to this difficult reality; one is to implore your own heart. Read Luke 6:43-47. What does Jesus say believers should produce? When was the last time you inspected the "fruit" or "treasure" of your own heart? List out ways you've seen progressive growth in your life in Christ over time? Think through whether or not you recognize a deep abiding love for Christ, a genuine pursuit of holiness, and a desire to spend time with Him as well as His people (cf. 1 John 3:9; 2 Pet 1:10).

- B. Another way one can respond to the reality of Hell is to implore others. When you think of others in your life who are not believers; what do you feel towards them-callousness or compassion? What does it cultivate in your own heart-pride or humility? Surgeon once wrote, "Oh, my brothers and sisters in Christ, if sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies; and if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay, and not madly to destroy themselves. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for." What do you think he means here? What would imploring others look like?

- C. The need for the Gospel is great so why is it so difficult to share it? List out reasons why you think people are hindered to share this life saving message? Then list out what hinders you.

12. **Adore**

- D. Now think through the Gospel for a moment. In light of all you've learned about Hell, what did Jesus suffer on your behalf on the cross? What do you think the pain would have been like for Jesus who was separated from the Father? Why was Jesus forsaken of God? Whose place did He stand in? How should you respond toward Christ in light of this?

- E. Nahum asked the question "Who can stand before God's fury? Who can endure the burning of His anger?" The answer is: There is One who can...and He did! Indeed this is Good News! End your time in prayer. Pray for those who are in desperate need of a Savior. Also pray for boldness and opportunity to reach out to them with the Gospel.

"The thought of hell is paralyzing for most people, which is why we often ignore its existence-at least in practice. After all, how can we possibly carry on with life if we are constantly mindful of a fiery place of torment? Yet that's the whole point-we **shouldn't** just go on with life as usual. A sense of urgency over the reality of hell should recharge our passion for the gospel as it did for Paul, who, 'knowing the fear of the Lord,' persuaded people to believe (2 Cor 5.1). we should not just try to cope with hell, but be compelled-as with all doctrine-to live differently in light of it." (Francis Chan)

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.