

“PUNISHED WITH EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION”

INTRODUCTION

In Paul's epistle to the Thessalonians, he reminds us of God's justice and righteousness, in blessing the righteousness and punishing the wicked in the day of judgment. Read 2 Thes. 1:6-9. Now, from v. 9, we see the words “PUNISHED WITH EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION”, from which we shall take the 3 words, “Punished,” “Everlasting” and “Destruction”, for the 3 major points of our lesson.

Before getting into our lesson, there are 4 Hebrew and Greek words of the Bible that are worthy of our attention. 1st, the word “**Sheol**” of the Old Testament is found **31** times, meaning “*the unseen state,*” which corresponds to the word “**Hades**” in the New Testament, found **10** times, meaning “*the unseen world*”. Then, there is the word “**Tartarus**” (used **1** time in the New Testament, 2 Pet. 2:4), which identifies a part of “hades.”. Finally, the word “**Gehenna**” in the New Testament, found **11** times, and refers to the “valley of Hinnom” where refuse and waste was constantly burned near Jerusalem, and is correctly translated “hell” with reference to the place of eternal punishment for the wicked.

There are some 12 synonyms for a description of “hell” in the New Testament.

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| 1. Lake of fire and brimstone. | 5. Furnace of fire. | 9. Mist of darkness. |
| 2. Second death. | 6. Destruction. | 10. Blackness of darkness. |
| 3. Everlasting Fire. | 7. Everlasting destruction. | 11. Lake of fire. |
| 4. Everlasting Punishment. | 8. Perdition. | 12. Lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. |

Now let's look at the 3 major words in 2 Thes. 1:9, “Punished,” “Everlasting,” and “Destruction.”

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the word “PUNISHED.”

- A. The word “punished” is in the future past tense, to signify the future judgment of God in the last day.
 - 1. It implies that “transgression, disobedience and wickedness” has been committed, and God will **avenge** it in that day. Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn. 3:4; 5:19
 - 2. The first time the word “punish” is used in the Bible is in Gen. 4, where Cain was “punished” for killing his brother Abel. Gen. 4:13
 - 3. No rebellion will go unnoticed or unpunished. 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 14-15

- B. God will take **vengeance** on the wicked in the judgment day.
 - 1. Vengeance belongs only to the Lord. Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30-31
 - 2. The wicked WILL be punished.
 - a. The disobedient to God will be punished. 2 Thes. 1:8-9; 2 Pet. 2:9-15 (Read and analyze as desired)
 - b. Those who depart from God will be punished. Heb. 10:29
 - 3. Vengeance is a way of “making things even”, by giving good to those who are right with God, and evil consequences for evil conduct. John 5:28-29

II. 2nd, the word “EVERLASTING.”

- A. The word “everlasting” simply means “lasting forever”, and is used interchangeably with the word “eternal” in Matthew 25. cf Mat. 25:41, 46

- B. VINE'S Greek Dictionary of New Testament words says the word refers to the future, with something permanent and unchangeable (p. 10).
 - 1. Jesus used the word “gehenna” (for **hell**) as a place of everlasting fire.

Mark 9:43-48 (Discuss)

2. Just as the fire of burning trash in the valley of Hinnom was continuous, SO shall the fires of hell be continuous—forever and ever.

III. 3Rd, the word “DESTRUCTION.”

- A. The word “destruction” (from the Greek word *apollumi*) does not mean “annihilation”, but means “ruin, the loss of well-being, or to perish.”
 1. It refers to the loss of the soul for all eternity. Mat. 10:28; Luke 13:3
 2. Destruction is “death” or the opposite of “life.” Mat. 7:13-14

- B. False teachers will be leaders among the lost, for having taught error and causing others to be lost because of their false doctrine. Matt. 15;13-14; 2 Pet. 2:1-9 (Analyze); Phil. 3:19
 1. Just because some teachers seem “so sincere” in their beliefs, does not mean that **what** they are teaching is the truth.
 2. Some indeed twist the scriptures to their own destruction, and the destruction of those who believe their false teachings. 2 Pet. 3:16

CONCLUSION

- I. To avoid the “punishment of everlasting destruction,” one needs to be obedient to God.
 - A. This obedience makes one free from the bondage and consequences of sin. Rom. 6:17-18
 - B. Then, this obedience is followed by a life of faithfulness.
- II. Won't you be saved, right now?

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