What We Believe Series

Part 6: Jesus descended into hell, and rose on the third day

Matthew 27:32 - 28:10 NASB

1. **Controversy with “Jesus descended to hell.”**
2. Descended to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Greek word of Hebrew origin)

* The place of punishment of the finally impenitent, after the Judgment, as in Matthew 5:22, 29; Mark 9:43.

1. Descended to (Hebrew word) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* "The region of departed spirits of the lost (but including the blessed dead in periods preceding the ascension of Christ)”- Vines NT Dictionary. Where the dead await the resurrection, as in Luke 16:23 and Acts 2:31; Jesus, as stated in 1 Peter 3:19-20, ‘went and preached unto the spirits in prison.’

1. Descended to “\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.

* He died and went to the grave i.e. the “lower part of the earth” -Ephesians 4:8-10 just like all other human beings.

Question. 50. Wherein consisted Christ's humiliation after his death?

Answer. Christ's humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried, and continuing in the state of the dead, and under the power of death till the third day; which hath been otherwise expressed in these words, He descended into hell.- Westminster Larger Catechism

1. “Hell” is used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* Death is eternal separation from God. God reigns on the just and unjust; however, when on the cross, all sin of the world was upon him, God the Father turns his back on Jesus and for a single moment in time, Jesus feels hell i.e. is separated from the Godhead with the full weight of sin and God’s judgment upon Him.
* See 2 Corinthians 5:21
* It’s the only time he does not refer to God, as “Father”.

Conclusion: By and large the church expresses that Jesus descended to “hell”, though because Scripture does not explicitly state this we cannot collectively and conclusively agree on what this means.

1. **The third day he rose from the dead. (Matthew 28:1-15)**
2. Jesus’ resurrection was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ resurrection (vs. 9).

* See 1 Corinthians 15:12-19: If Christ was not raised our preaching is foolishness, our faith is empty and our hope is lost. We can’t hope for our own resurrection, and to inherit the Kingdom if there’s no resurrection

1. Some chose to \_\_\_\_\_, despite the evidence (vs. 11-15).
2. **The Implications**

Unbeliever:

1. You have not sinned \_\_\_\_\_\_ than Jesus’ sacrifice can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (See John 19:30)

* He knew everything we would ever do and died anyway. We were born after his death, meaning every future sin is covered.

1. Before you were born He expressed his desire to be with you and his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ still stands. (Revelation 3:20 NASB)

Believer:

1. You are no longer a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to sin. (See Revelation 1:17-18)
2. We are set free to the sweetness of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* See Romans 8:1-2, 1 John 2:1-2 and Hebrews 4:14-16

1. We have a \_\_\_\_\_\_ (See 1 Corinthians 15:12-58)

* Cliff notes version: “*but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 Corinthians 15:57 NASB).