

*have no interest in any Mediator, and nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to spare you one moment.*

He preached it on 8th July 1741 at Enfield Connecticut to a congregation largely unmoved by the 'Great Awakening' touching Europe and North America at that time. Even before he had finished the sermon people were calling out to know what they must do to be saved.

Should we have more preaching about Hell today?

**4.** In what ways should a Biblical understanding of Hell motivate us?

TC 24-vii-15

## Heaven and Hell

### Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth, 'for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

### 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

<sup>5</sup> All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. <sup>6</sup> God is just: he will pay back trouble to those who trouble you <sup>7</sup> and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. <sup>8</sup> He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might <sup>10</sup> on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

### Philippians 3:20-21

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

### **Luke 23:42-43**

<sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

### **John 14:1-6**

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

### **Matthew 18**

<sup>8</sup> If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. <sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

### **Hebrews 9:27-28**

<sup>27</sup> Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

### **Psalms 25:8-11**

Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

<sup>9</sup> He guides the humble in what is right  
and teaches them his way.

<sup>10</sup> All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful  
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

<sup>11</sup> For the sake of your name, LORD,  
forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

### **Isaiah 55:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,’  
declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

### **Romans 10:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

## **A study, for home groups or individuals**

**1.** What do each of the above passages tell us about:

- (i) God
- (ii) People

**2.** Some say “God, who is love, would never send anyone to Hell.” Why might we sometimes think that we know better than God?

**3.** Consider this extract from Jonathan Edward’s famous sermon *Sinners in the hands of an angry God*.

*O sinner! Consider the fearful danger you are in: it is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath, that you are held over in the hand of that God, whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you, as against many of the damned in hell. You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it, and burn it asunder; and you*