

## HELL WORDS

1. Text: Matthew 5:29-30
2. This lesson will deal with a very difficult subject, one many moderns wish would simply disappear. It is truly a “hard doctrine.” A 1995 survey of 500 ministers found 69% rejected the Bible’s teaching of a literal hell.
3. What is hell? Problem: There are various words translated in the King James Version “hell” that are really not the true biblical hell. Let’s distinguish those:

### I. **The Old Testament Sheol**

1. This is a Hebrew word found in the OT 65 times.
2. Thirty-one times it is translated hell.
3. Thirty-one times it is translated grave.
4. Three times it is translated the pit.
5. The American Standard Version of 1901 transliterates it sheol.
6. Usually newer translations render it grave, or beyond this life.
7. Sheol is the continued existence in a shadowy underworld of mankind after death. It is not annihilation. (Psalm 139:8) Little distinction is seen between good and evil people in sheol.
8. Understand progressive revelation: advancement of doctrine from Old to New Testament.

### II. **The New Testament Hades**

1. This Greek word is found 10 times in the NT and unfortunately in the King James Version it is always translated hell. But it is not hell in the truest sense.
2. It is actually the counterpart to the OT sheol, the place all the dead dwell.
3. During the intertestamental period (the 400 years between Malachi and Matthew) the word came to reflect separate compartments in hades for the good and bad.
4. Two separate places for hades are seen in Luke 16:23 The rich man in torment in hades lifted up his eyes.
5. Also in Acts 2:27,31 The perfect Lord’s soul was not left in hades. This sinless one would never have gone to a realm where sin was punished.
6. Hades then is the “unseen abode” of the dead with a separation for the good and evil people.

### III. **The New Testament Tartarus**

1. This Greek word is found only in II Peter 2:4 and translated hell.
2. Greek writers in dividing hades, referred to Tartarus as the lower realm of hades where the departed evil spirits were confined and punished prior to the judgment.
3. Since only one biblical verse has this term we must be careful in using it.

### IV. **The New Testament Gehenna**

1. This is the basic word for hell as we usually think of it. It is used 11 times in the gospels and once in James 3:6. Almost all we know of hell comes from our loving Savior. Here are the passages:
2. Matthew 5:22 One can be in danger of hell fire.
3. Matthew 5:29 The whole body can be cast into hell. Also 5:30
4. Matthew 10:28 Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
5. Matthew 18:8-9 Cast into everlasting fire equals hell fire.
6. Matthew 23:15 You make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.
7. Matthew 23:33 How can you escape the condemnation of hell?
8. Mark 9:43 To go to hell into the fire that shall never be quenched.
9. Mark 9:45 Be thrown into hell.
10. Mark 9:47-48 Cast into hell fire where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.
11. Luke 12:5 Fear Him who has the power to cast into hell.
12. James 3:6 Tongue is set on fire by hell.

Conclusion:

