

LIFE LESSONS – Making It Live

David Welsh | “Truth. Under Construction?” | 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 | August 6- 7

“Common Objections”

What impacts your conception of hell? Motivation and conviction are such a key factors in the way we live our lives. Pastor David shared “Six common objections to hell”. **Discuss** these and share the ones you most closely identify with: hell is an unpopular idea; the punishment doesn’t fit the crime; life is hell; hell seems intolerant and hateful; religious leaders reject the doctrine of hell; I like being liked. Share why this so impacts your testimony of God’s grace in your relationship with others. Can you share a scripture that would give God’s perspective on the statement you listed? What is the “revised focus” that the Lord would want you to have? **Discuss** how you can make steps to follow through with this focus.

“Hell’s Reality”

What do you really believe about hell? Discuss what the Bible teaches about its reality. Virtually every book in the New Testament underscores some aspect of the reality of hell. Negative thinking is a trap, but we do need to understand the “reality of scripture and its application to life!” Discuss why it is essential that we understand the key doctrines of scripture and use them appropriately in our daily lives! Check your concordance in the New Testament and share those scriptures that talk about hell.

“Hell’s Existence”

What was your motivation for attending church this week; for reading your Bible, for praying?

Discuss: If hell doesn’t exist and everyone goes to heaven; then we don’t need the church, we don’t need Christ, and we don’t need the cross! We are getting to the point “where the rubber meets the road” and to think about what is your “theology” of Jesus Christ and His purpose on this earth. For a Christian, our “theology” dictates our morality! It also dictates how we live the other parts of our lives. When you look at your life and beliefs, would you agree or disagree with the previous statements? Share how we could do some self-evaluation from a spiritual perspective!

“Separation”

What do you think is the worst part of hell? In reality, the worst part of hell is separation from God. From an experience standpoint, **discuss** how it is impossible to fully understand what the reality of the “eternity of hell” for an unbeliever would actually be. The same is true to some degree about the “eternity of heaven” for a believer! Only through scripture do we get a “glimpse” and then it is as “for now we see through a glass darkly” (*1 Cor. 13:12*) what is the contrast between heaven and hell and what would it be like to have total separation from God and living eternally without hope! Discuss why these are deep and fearful areas to pursue without the promise of God’s redemption through Jesus Christ!

“God’s Pursuit”

Can you share if there is someone whose salvation are you praying for? God pursues every lost soul. David expresses his heart in *Psalms 139* that speaks of God’s creation and His presence in our lives. (Read aloud). **Discuss:** Only through the diligent and regular reading of scripture along with the work of God’s Holy Spirit can we come to some awareness of God’s ongoing love and his persistence in loving every saved soul as well as seeking out every lost soul! As a believer we can experience a broken fellowship with God, which can be restored, but we also become aware of God’s relentless desire for each person to seek and find God’s presence for eternity in salvation through Jesus Christ. Find and share some scriptures that speak of God’s love to the saved and the unsaved and seek a deeper understanding of the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross for all of us! Share your thoughts about this Scripture: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (*Romans 5:8*.)

Written by Ross Lamp