

Liberalism in the Church (Hell: Part 2 – Traditionalism vs. Conditionalism)

I. Review:

A. At death, the soul goes to Hades (the realm of the dead)

i. Hades is divided into two areas:

1. Paradise (Abraham's Bosom)

- a. The souls of the righteous wait in Paradise until Christ returns.
- b. At the resurrection, the soul is united to its new body and goes to be with Jesus forever after judgment.

2. The Abyss or Tartarus (lower region of Hades)

- a. The souls of the unsaved wait in Tartarus until Christ returns.
- b. At the resurrection, the soul is united to its new body and cast into the lake of fire after judgment.

3. Refer to "The State Of Man" diagram

B. Traditionalism vs. Conditionalism (Annihilation)

- i. Traditionalism believes the soul is immortal and hell is a place eternal conscience torment
- ii. Conditionalism believes the soul is mortal and the wicked, after some duration of pain in hell, will eventually be annihilated
- iii. Some annihilists do not even believe in any duration of pain whatsoever; you just simply fizz out (ex. JW).
 1. Those who believe in annihilation:
 - a. World Wide Church of God (Herbert Armstrong)
 - b. Jehovah's Witnesses
 - c. Seventh Day Adventists
 - d. Even some evangelical, ICC and Church of Christ leaders.
- iv. What does the Bible say?
 1. Let's look at how the Bible describes death...
 - a. The bible pictures death as a separation between two things (not as an annihilation)
 - i. Consider the following chart:

Physical death	Ecclesiastes 12:7/James 2:26	body	S E P A R A T E D	spirit
spiritual death	Isaiah 59:1-2	man		God
second death	Rev 21:8; 22:14-15	man		God
dead to sin	Romans 6:2,11	disciple		sin
dead to law	Romans 7:4	disciple		law
marriage dissolved by death	1 Corinthians 7:39	man		woman

b. Life would be the very opposite of death:

- i. Physical life – body and spirit/soul enjoined
- ii. Spiritual life – man and God enjoined

2. What does the Bible say about the resurrection?
 - a. John 5:28-29 (ESV), *“Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”*
 - ii. Since there will be a resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous, what kind of bodies will they have?
 1. Paul said in 1Corinthians 15:53 (ESV), *“For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”*
 - a. Man’s body is not immortal now, but it will be made immortal at the resurrection.
 - b. If all men put on immortality at the resurrection, how can they cease to exist?
3. Annihilists would argue that the word “destroy” denotes annihilation!
 - a. Matthew 10:28 (ESV), *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell (Gehenna).”*
 - i. The word “destroy” is from the Greek word, “apollumi”
 1. Definition: to lose, destroy, mar, perish, die
 - ii. The word “kill” is from the Greek word, “apokteino”
 1. Definition: to kill
 - iii. Notice how Jesus did not use “apokteino” when dealing with the body and soul in hell?
 - iv. Does “apollumi” denote annihilation?
 1. Luke 15:4 (ESV), *“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost (apollumi) one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost(apollumi), until he finds it?”*
 2. Luke 15:8 (ESV), *“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses (apollumi) one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?”*
 3. Mark 2:22 (ESV), *“And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined (apollumi). No, he pours new wine into new wineskins.”*
 - a. When something is lost, destroyed or ruined, it does not mean that ceased to exist!
 - i. The sheep, the coin and the wine existed in a lost or ruined state.
 - b. For example: Dunking a cell phone in water destroys it but does not annihilate it!
 - v. Therefore, man can kill the body but not the soul; God has the ability to destroy (or make loss) the body and soul in hell.