

## “What Do We Believe? – He Descended Into Hell”

1 Peter 3:18-20

**Central Thought:** *Jesus experienced Hell in the place of sinners – He “swallowed” all of hell to give us a drink of Heaven.*

- 1) What are we confessing?
  - Jesus went to the **place** called Hell in our place.
  - Jesus experienced hell **without** going there.
  - Jesus simply **died**.
- 2) What is hell in the Bible?
  - A real place. Matthew 25:41,46
  - A real condition and **experience**. Matthew 22:13; Luke 16:24; Revelation 14:11
  - An **eternal** reality. Matthew 25:41,46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9
- 3) Why would Jesus go to the *place* called Hell?
  - To **lead** Old Testament believers out of a place of waiting and into the glory of heaven.
  - To proclaim His victory and triumph over the devil and all the **powers** of darkness.
  - To complete the **sacrifice** for sin.
  - To give those who died before his coming a **second** chance to repent and believe.
  - It is more **important** that Jesus experienced hell in our place, than that He actually went to the place called Hell.
- 4) What hell did Jesus take in our place?
  - The hell of all human **ills** – rejection, injustice, betrayal and denial.
    - In Hell, people without Jesus will suffer eternally, hopelessly.
    - For believers, Jesus **swallows** human brokenness – in our place.
  - The hell of a life **weighed** down with sin.
    - In Hell, those who refuse Jesus’ offer will be **crushed** under the weight of sin.
    - For believers, Jesus swallows the weight of sin in our place.
  - The hell of **separation** from God.
    - For all who reject Jesus, Hell will mean complete **abandonment** by God.
    - For believers, Jesus swallows separation from God in our place.
  - The hell of a torturous **death**.
    - In Hell, there will be nothing but ongoing death.
    - For believers, Jesus **swallows** eternal torture and pain in our place.

## For reflection and Life Group facilitation:

- 1) What is your idea of hell? Is that what the Scriptures say?
- 2) Why does “separation from God” sometimes sound not as serious as “burning of flesh”?
- 3) Why do some think that Hell will not be so bad?
- 4) Read James 1:2-4. What is the difference between suffering to death as Jesus did and suffering to life as we can do by faith in Christ?
- 5) When we complain in our suffering, what does that say about Jesus’ suffering?

**Word bank:** *abandonment, crushed, death, died, eternal, experience, ills, important, lead, place, powers, sacrifice, second, separation, swallows, swallows, weighed, without*