

# A Long Look at Salvation wk3

- What are some of God's good gifts that mankind often elevates to a place of worship, rather than worshipping the Creator?
  - What are some gifts that you are tempted to elevate to an improper place of worship?
- Read Jeremiah 2:11-12. Why are the heavens to be appalled, agitated and devastated (the actual words used, replaced with the phrase "shudder with great horror")?
  - Why would mankind ever exchange having a personal relationship with the Creator of the world for the creation?
  - Pastor Keith said the Hebrew word picture is that the heavens are terrified that God may tear apart the universe. Does that surprise you - that God might tear apart the universe?
  - Why do you think He would react that way?
  - Do you think that is an over reaction on His part?
- Read Romans 11:22. Have you ever stopped to ponder the very statement the verse makes: "Consider the kindness and sternness of God?"
  - Keep in mind that the word for kindness shares its root with grace, and the word for sternness was weakened by the translators from its stronger meaning, severity.
  - This was written to the Gentiles to remind them that it was God's grace that got them in the kingdom, and it was God's severity that cut unbelieving Israel out of the kingdom.
- Why do you think Paul said consider both the kindness (grace) and sternness (severity) of God?
  - Why do you think so many people only consider the grace of God and forget the severity?
  - How does understanding the severity of God increase our appreciation of the grace of God?
- What do you remember from the sermon about *Gehenna*? (It was a valley, in OT times they did child sacrifice there, they burned the garbage there and dead animals and dead criminals bodies, it became synonymous for a place of eternal punishment)
  - Why would Jesus use this image to describe the place of final punishment?
- Pastor Keith said that God's grace and His severity come from the same place. Where? (God's holiness, and self-sufficiency)
  - Why do we think we are owed God's grace?
  - Why do we think we are too good for God's severity?
- Do you think this misunderstanding of God's grace and God's severity plays a part in questions like "How can a loving God send people to hell?"
  - Have you heard those questions before?

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- How have you answered them?
- What happens to God's holiness when we act like our sins aren't that big of a deal, and we really are pretty good people deserving grace?
- Do you agree that sin is basically robbing God of His glory? Why or why not?
- Would glory robbing qualify as something deserving the final punishment of hell?
- Many think that hell is so horrible and how could God send anyone there. Have you ever looked at the reverse? Have you ever said, "What kind of God is this that the horror of hell would be the just response to man's sin? How awesome, how holy and marvelous must He be?"