

W the H excerpt p 5-6

## Chapter 1 Hell:

People are disgusted by the mere mention of Hell. If you bring up the subject you are rejected as being judgmental – a hater. The funny thing about Hell is that it doesn't go away because we refuse to discuss it.

What the heck, let's talk about it anyway.

Hell is all around us. Watch the news. Play a video game. Watch the newest blockbuster movie. Our senses are assaulted with hellish images. Read about slavery, drug addiction or poverty. Is not the hellishness of what surrounds us overwhelming?

If we call things hellish then what is Hell and why is it a concept that permeates our world?

Hell Is not a Christian invention. It is a universal theme of humanity.

Hell is a construct which allows us to understand good and evil, justice and injustice, death and eternity.

If you have no interest in those things then stop reading now and save some time. If you have a little interest, then continue on with me.

### Hell: Good and Evil

What happens when we die? Is everything just over? Nothing.

It is hard to believe in nothing. That is a difficult concept because it requires that what we now live is nothing also. If our life (+1) equals zero when we finish it, then death (-1) must totally negate our life.  $1 - 1 = 0$ .

It is hard and depressing to think that our life will cease to have all meaning once we die. If that is true then there is no meaning to good and evil, justice or injustice, now, either.

### Does Good Exist? Does God Exist?

Is evil a thing or just wishful thinking in the minds of religious people?

Good is that quality which allows for the harmonious fellowship of human beings. It is that manner of relations between people which allows them to sustain community throughout generations of co-existence. Good is codified in God's Law.

We define evil with reference to good. Evil is the qualities exhibited in people which disrupt fellowship, and which are unsustainable, unless checked. War is evil – until war ceases there is no hope of sustaining life. No one wins a war; they only survive it. Hatred and lying have corrupting effects on human community. Their presence must be subject to boundaries, or they will ultimately destroy meaningful fellowship.

Prisons are a boundary upon evil. Societies unite to protect themselves from the destructive effects of evil (as they define it in their laws) by isolating evil doers and preventing their influence from spreading.

Gardeners do the same thing with weeds. The plants which would choke out the healthy growth of 'good' plants (those which produce a useful harvest) are removed from fellowship with the good plants and cast into a compost pile. The heat of decomposition destroys not only the bad plants but also their seeds.

Hell is God's compost pile.