

The Doubts We Have #6 - Are all non-Christians going to hell?

Icebreaker Question(s)

Josh used springs on a trampoline as an analogy for how we can examine our beliefs and still keep on an upward trajectory. How are your springs doing - especially the ones we've looked at (doubt, Christianity being 'right', LGBTQ+ issues, suffering)? Has your thinking changed on any of these? What other springs perhaps need looking at?

Sermon Discussion

How did you answer the poll question: Do you ever worry about the eternal fate of the people you love?

Yes, it often worries me
No, I trust in God's plan

Sometimes, but I try not to dwell (on it)
I'm still exploring my beliefs

Is there someone specific who has come to mind when you've thought about this idea?

Have you ever experienced preaching or witnessing that tries to 'scare you into heaven' by emphasizing the fears of hell/separation from God? How do you feel about this approach?

Who would be a person that you would describe as kind, caring and loving who you have a hard time seeing as someone who God would condemn to hell?

Discuss Pastor Josh's statement that: "the Bible seems to suggest that our eternal destiny has less to do with what we believe and more to do with how we live our lives."

What is your reaction to the point made that Jesus said that those who are in danger of hell are:
those who in anger call others "you fool" those who lust after a woman in their hearts
those who give into temptation and the religious hypocrites

Related to the above question, how difficult is it for you to hear Pastor Josh challenge the traditional idea "of faith that is based on a single transaction - that if we said a little prayer and committed ourselves to Jesus, then we secure our eternal status."?

Can you recap the 3 perspectives on the fate of non-Christians that Josh shared? (Exclusivism - remain alienated from God forever, Universalism - God ultimately saves all people, Inclusivism - salvation for all sincere seekers) Do you find the inclusivity option to be the most satisfying/reasonable? Why or why not? [option: match up the following verses with each perspective - Hebrews 11:6, John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:3-6]

What are some reasons that you would consider understandable for people to not follow the Christian faith? (Josh mentioned victims of abuse by Christians, going through hardship)

How does the verse about Jesus in John 10:10 "my purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." (NLT, some versions say 'abundant life') resonate with you? Have you found it to be true?

Pastor Josh ended with this idea: What the world longs for is not the threat of eternal damnation, but:

1. the Good News of the God who loves us,
2. which gives our lives purpose,
3. that answers the deepest longings of our hearts
4. and can change our lives for the better

Share briefly about one of these 4 ideas and what it has meant personally to you.

When sharing about your faith what are some things that you tend to emphasize? Are any of the above 4 points part of your thinking? Where does Jesus fit into all of this?