

Sermon: Christianity and Eternity.
Series: *Exploring Christianity*

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46.
Date: August 1, 2021

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Read verse 46 again. Do you believe in an afterlife? Do you struggle to believe in Hell? Why or why not? In Heaven? Why or why not?

b) Jesus says that we are either a sheep or a goat. What makes a person a sheep or goat according to this passage? (be careful about answering with law rather than grace)

2) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) How does this passage demonstrate both the justice of God and the love of God? OR...how does the doctrine of Hell demonstrate both the justice of God and the love of God.

b) How does a low view of Hell prove a low view of sin and even a low view of God?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Jesus tells us that the **righteous** will **inherit** eternal life (v.34,37). What does this tell us about how we are made righteous? See Romans 4:5 and Galatians 3:23-29.

b) How might this passage point your heart to the gospel of grace? How does it humble you? Encourage you?

APPLICATION

a) How would you respond to someone who says Hell is not fair? How would you respond to someone who says that the cross/salvation by grace is not fair?

b) Are you sure that if you died today you would go to Heaven? Why or why not?

FIGHTER VERSES: Ephesians 2:4-10.

PRAYER

- Praise God for both his love and his justice – justice that would punish sin, and love that would take that punishment in our place.
- Confess ways that you have failed to do for others as unto Christ.
- Ask God to help you look forward to living in his presence in heaven, while living in his presence today in your heart.