

DAY 47: THE CONSUMING FIRE AND THE ENDURANCE OF THE SAINTS

I. THE CONSUMING FIRE

- A. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” ([Proverbs 9:10](#))
- B. The Lord our God is a consuming fire
- C. Concerning the issue of hell in the church, there are three primary views:
 - 1. Traditionalism: Most common, those who do not believe in God will die and go to hell, which involves conscience, eternal torment
 - 2. Annihilationism: The wicked will eventually cease to exist, they will be erased
 - 3. Universalism: Even after death, God will ultimately redeem everyone
- D. The view that God will save everyone, universalism, is simply not biblical
- E. Annihilationism is more commonly referred to as “Conditional Immortality”
 - 1. Believe that, apart from the body, there is no consciousness
 - 2. Soul sleep: between now and the judgement, everyone that is dead is essentially asleep
 - 3. Upon resurrection, those who believe will be redeemed, those who don’t will cease to exist
- F. The issue with Annihilationism is that the belief that consciousness equals life is not Biblical
 - 1. From a Biblical perspective, you can be conscious and still be spiritually dead
- G. What is described in [Isaiah 66:23-24](#) can be described as people weeping and in torment forever
- H. The righteous will awake to everlasting life, the others to disgrace ([Daniel 12:2](#))
- I. “The pit of torment” is described in intertestamental texts
- J. Jesus believes in consciousness of the soul ([Luke 23:43](#))
- K. “Weeping and gnashing of teeth” ([Matthew 8:12](#))
- L. “Eternal fire... to eternal punishment” ([Matthew 25:41-46](#))
- M. The devil and the Antichrist will be tormented forever ([Revelation 20:10](#))
- N. Possible to be outside of your body and conscious ([2 Corinthians 12](#))
- O. Righteous one being comforted, other in agony ([Luke 16:19-25](#))
- P. Fallen angels and the wicked are, presently, in prisons of darkness awaiting judgement ([2 Peter 2:4-10](#))
- Q. Ultimate wrath to come is after death ([Revelation 14:9](#))



MARANATHA GLOBAL BIBLE STUDY
THE BOOK OF REVELATION // JOEL RICHARDSON

II. THE ENDURANCE OF THE SAINTS

- A. Emotionally, it is challenging to believe in the existence of eternal, torment
 - 1. However; it is biblical
 - 2. What if our emotions are misleading?
- B. We must, rather, submit our emotions to the Word of God
- C. Those who stand in the presence of the Lamb, after all is said and done, are singing, “Just and true are your ways” ([Revelation 15:3-4](#))
- D. How much are we willing to endure to get to this point?
- E. You will believe the truth not based on intellect, but based on whether or not you are willing to do the will of the Father ([John 7:16-17](#))
- F. Resolve to embrace the cross

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.[a] Because of the joy[b] awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people;[c] then you won’t become weary and give up.” ([Hebrews 12:1-3](#))