“The Damnation of Hell?”
Matt. 23:33

Introduction:
A. Fear of severe punishment to deter wrong doing considered obsolete.
   1. The “carrot” is in the “stick” is out.
   2. Such fear has been all but removed from governments, schools, parents, churches, preaching.
   3. The language of our text would be banned from many pulpits today.
B. Fear of hell is not only a legitimate motive for serving God – it is an essential one.
   1. One reason for wanting to go to heaven is to avoid hell.
   2. Fear is one of man’s strongest motivators (Ill. Bull running young man).
C. Jesus and his apostles taught three important facts about hell.

Discussion:
I. Hell Is Real.
   A. “Hell” appears 23 times in the King James New Testament.
      1. 12 times from Gehenna – the everlasting fire (Matt. 5:22, 29, 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mk 9:43, 45, 47; Lk. 12:5; Jas 3:6)
      2. 10 times from Hades – place of departed souls (Strong’s) (Matt. 11:23; 16:18; Lk. 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27, 31; Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14).
      3. 1 times from Tartarus – “deepest abyss of Hades” (Strong’s) (2 Pet. 2:4)
   B. “Hell” used by Jesus and Apostles both as deterrent to sin and motivation for repentance.

II. Hell Is Severe.
   A. It is worse than bodily dismemberment (Mk. 9:43-48).
   B. It is worse than death (Matt. 10:28; Heb. 10:26-29).
   C. It is called “fire”:
      1. It is called “hell fire” (Matt. 5:22; cf. Rev. 20:14)
      2. It is “unquenchable fire” (Matt. 3:12; Mk. 9:43-49)
      3. It is “everlasting fire” (Matt. 25:41)
   D. It is called “outer darkness...” (Matt. 25:30).

III. Hell Is Escapable.
   A. If one will come to repentance (Luke 13:3; 2 Pet. 3:9)
      1. Involves obeying all the “gospel plan of salvation” (Note: 3 accounts of great commission)
      2. Involves turning from sin toward God. (Cf. Acts 20:21)
   B. If one will genuinely try to avoid sin (Heb. 10:26-29).
   C. If one will genuinely repent and confess when he fails (1 John 1:7-2:1).
   D. If one will submit to God’s gracious offer of salvation, he has no reason to fear hell.

Conclusion:
A. Now, you know why faithful preachers and teachers are so interested in souls.
B. The very possibility of going to hell should be enough to get results.