**Beholding God’s Severity**

***Studying Hell as a Means of Salvific and Preserving Grace***

**(Romans 11:22)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1.** In Romans 11:22, why does Paul command the Gentile believers in Rome to “Note…the severity of God”? Why is this commandment important for us today? What is the purpose of studying God’s severity (i.e. his wrath, the doctrine of hell, judgment, etc.)?

**2.** Cite 3-4 passages of Scripture that support the idea that hell is eternal in its duration. How do these passages conflict with the idea of annihilationism (i.e. unbelievers who die suffer God’s wrath for a while but are eventually annihilated and cease to exist)? Universalism (i.e. everyone will ultimately be saved)?

**3.** Read the following passages and describe what they teach regarding the conscious experience of hell: Isaiah 14:3-11, Luke 16:19-31. In your opinion, how might a person’s remembrance of their life on earth influence their experience of hell?

**4.** Explain what the following passages teach us about the experience of hell: Matthew 8:12, Matthew 13:49-50, Mark 9:47-48. Name 3 metaphors that Jesus used to describe the experience of being tormented in hell. Why do you think Jesus cited fire so often as his way of explaining hell?

**5.** What affect (past or present) has your study of the doctrine of hell had on you? How do you feel about the fact that most of the teaching about the doctrine of eternal, conscious torment (hell) comes from Jesus Christ? In your opinion, why is the doctrine of hell misunderstood, misrepresented, or ignored altogether?