Part 4: The Traditional Doctrine and Why It Is Reasonable

Notes and Quotations from Other Sources:

A. If, as it seems, these terms are symbolic rather than literal (fire and darkness would be mutually exclusive in literal terms), we may be sure that the reality, which is beyond our imagining, exceeds the symbol in dreadfulness. New Testament teaching about hell is meant to appall us and strike us dumb with horror, assuring us that, as heaven will be better than we could dream, so hell will be worse than we can conceive. Such are the issues of eternity, which need now to be realistically faced.¹

B. However strong such kind of objections against the eternal misery of the wicked, may seem to the carnal, senseless hearts of men, as though it were against God’s justice and mercy, yet their seeming strength arises from a want of sense of the infinite evil, odiousness, and provocation there is in sin.²

C. As soon as the door is opened to Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Baptists from Cleveland, many Christians become very uneasy, saying that then Jesus doesn’t matter anymore, the cross is irrelevant, it doesn’t matter what you believe, and so forth.

Not true.
Absolutely, unequivocally, unalterably not true.

What Jesus does is declare that he, and he alone, is saving everybody.

And then he leaves the door way, way open. Creating all sorts of possibilities. He is as narrow as himself and as wide as the universe.³

¹ Packer, Hell in Concise Theology, electronic version
³ Bell, Love Wins ebook, p.78
D. In the long run the answer to all those who object to the doctrine of hell is itself a
question: “What are you asking God to do?” To wipe out their past sins and, at all costs,
to give them a fresh start, smoothing every difficulty and offering every miraculous help?
But He has done so, on Calvary. To forgive them? They will not be forgiven. To leave
them alone? Alas, I am afraid that is what He does.⁴

Bibliography:


—. "The misery of the wicked in hell will be absolutely eternal." The Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University. n.d.
http://edwards.yale.edu/archive?path=aHR0cDovL2Vkd2Vkd2FyZHMueWFsZSSiZHUVY2dpLWJpbi9uZXdwaGlsby9nZXRVYmplY3QucGw/Yy41Mjo5LndqZW8= (accessed December 6, 2011).


