

2 Peter 2:6-11 etc.
"Sodom Speaks Today"

Hellfire, brimstone ...

- I. Sodom's Sermon
 - A. To the Nations
 - B. To Communities
 - C. To the Church
 - D. To Individuals
- II. Jesus' Message
 - A. Condemnation
 - B. Salvation
 - C. Judgment

... and hope for sinners.

Children, Listen ...

1. Is it important for the world to know that God will punish sin?
2. How is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah a warning for the world?
3. Why is it important for us to know we are sinners?
4. What is the only way to be saved from the punishment for sin?

Why All the Hellfire and Brimstone?

The condemnation of sin and the warnings that alert sinners to the repercussions of it may seem harsh at times. The caricature of the maniacal street preacher is a handy image for critics who oppose the Gospel. Perhaps fiery preaching gets out of hand sometimes and provides great fodder for mockery. But urgent and graphic alarms about impending wrath have a legitimate and vital place in this fallen world as God Himself shows us throughout Scripture. He gave a grand sermon with a most vivid illustration of the punishment of unrepentant sinners in the form of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. This was a real incident but the Word makes clear that it was an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly. So often the warning about living in sin (certainly including but not limited to homosexuality) is seen as an act of spite and messages pertaining to such may be deemed by some as hate speech. But in reality a fair warning about the seriousness of unrighteousness and the wages rewarded to sin is an act of love. That is, when it is attended by the message of grace and mercy. Let the warning resound to the fallen world that the wrath of God looms heavily over sinners who face sure doom unless they repent – and let the Gospel of Jesus Christ be proclaimed to the ends of the earth that desperate sinners might here the good news of salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.