

Chapter Twelve

Hell: Some Observations on the Views of John Stott, Clark Pinnock, and Edward Fudge

There appear to be four basic positions on the destiny of those who die without repenting:

- (1) They will finally be saved -- universalism.
- (2) They will not survive physical death, but cease to exist -- conditional immortality.
- (3) They will survive physical death, be resurrected and judged, suffer in hell for a limited period of time, and then cease to exist -- annihilationism.
- (4) They will survive physical death, be resurrected and judged, and suffer in hell unendingly -- the traditional orthodox view.

Three Proponents of Conditional Immortality or Annihilationism

In the last few years some highly visible evangelicals have stepped forward and announced that they now hold or are seriously leaning toward either the second or third position above -- conditional immortality or annihilationism.

1. John Stott, in an article that appeared in *World Christian* magazine in May 1989, makes the following (excerpted) statements:

What is hell? We surely have to say that this banishment from God will be real, terrible, so that "it would have been better from him if he had not been born" (Mark 14:21), and eternal. The New Testament contains no hint of the possibility of a later reprieve or amnesty I have never declared publicly whether I think hell, in addition to being real, terrible, and eternal, will involve the experience of everlasting suffering Will the final destiny of