

HEAVEN & HELL



Theme: **Hell is real and eternal.**

WHY?

- 1) Everyone lives forever somewhere. (Eccl. 12:7; Matt. 25:46)
- 2) Judgement after death is final. (John 3:36)
- 2) We have a mission! (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Tim. 2:10; Matt. 28:19)

WHAT THE BIBLE DOESN'T TEACH US ABOUT DEATH.

- 1) **Naturalism** teaches that you do not have a soul, you are just a body, and when you die, you cease to exist. This is not true.
- 2) **Universalism** teaches that, in the end, everyone or almost everyone goes to heaven, and that hell will be empty or sparsely populated. Some will say that all religions lead to God and all paths end in salvation. This is not true.
- 3) **Reincarnation** teaches that we have multiple, successive lives, that you will die and return, and die and return, and die and return, and that you have to pay off your karmic debt to the god or gods or universe. This doctrine is a central tenet of the Indian religions. This is not true.
- 4) **Annihilationism** teaches that when non-Christians die they simply cease to exist, or they suffer for a while in hell, and then eventually they cease to exist. This is not true.
- 5) **Purgatory**: The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as a "purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven," which is experienced by those "who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified" (CCC 1030). This is not true.

WHAT THE BIBLE DOES TEACH US ABOUT DEATH?

• **Everyone lives forever somewhere.**

- The Bible clearly teaches that the human soul/spirit will exist eternally. (Ps. 22:26; 23:6; 49:7-9; Eccl. 12:7; Dan. 12:2-3; Matt. 25:46; and 1 Cor. 15:12-19)

• **Death is a temporary cessation of bodily life and a separation of the spirit from the body.**

- Death is not normal or natural, death is a curse, an enemy, the consequence of sin. (Gen. 3:14-19; 1 Cor. 15:26; Rom. 5:12)

• **There is ONLY one way into Heaven. Jesus said "Enter by the narrow gate." (Matt. 7:13-14)**

- The way to eternal life is "narrow" & "hard" in that it is through Jesus alone.

- Those that take the path that is easy (by seeking the approval of man rather than God) will find that the easy way only leads to destruction and ultimately to eternal punishment and separation from God.

- Heaven is exclusively for those who believe in Jesus. (Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5; John 14:6; Rom. 6:23; John 17:3)

• **At the point of death the soul/spirit of believers go Immediately into God's presence.**

- Once a believer has died, though his or her physical body remains on the earth and is buried, at the moment of death the soul/spirit of that believer goes immediately into the presence of God with rejoicing. (2 Cor. 5:6-10; Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43)

- 2 Cor. 5:8 // "we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord"

- Phil. 1:23 // "to depart and be with Christ for that is far better"

- Luke 23:43 // Jesus said to the thief who was dying on the cross next to him, "**Today you will be with me in Paradise**"

- Christians that have put their faith in Christ, repented and turn from their sin and believe that He took upon Himself the wrath of God and died for our sins and rose again on the third day and now rules and reigns from heaven at the right hand of the Father will live with Christ eternally with new glorified physical bodies (imperishable and sinless). (John 3:15; 1 Cor. 15:42-44, 49, 15:53)

At the point of death the soul/spirit of unbelievers goes immediately to eternal punishment.

- Once an unbeliever has died a physical death his or her judgement and punishment is eternal. (Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 6:23)
- John 3:36 // Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- Hebrews 9:27 // And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,
- Eternal punishment in hell comes not only because of a willful rejection of Christ, but also because of the sins that we have committed and the rebellion against God that those sins represent.
- John 3:18 // **Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH US ABOUT HELL.

• **Hell is a place of eternal conscious punishment for the wicked.**

- Satan does not and will not rule or reign in hell.
- Hell is the place of punishment that God prepared for the Devil and his angels. (Matt. 25:41)
- Hell is where the beast and the false prophet and those who worship them will drink the wine of God's wrath. (Rev. 14:9-11)
- Jesus Christ rules and reigns over everything seen and unseen including hell where the wicked human soul/spirit, demons and Satan will be tormented there day and night. (Colossians 1:16; Revelation 20:10-11)

• **The Bible does not give us a detailed exposition of hell, but there are many descriptions of the fate of its inhabitants in that place of eternal punishment. They include:**

- 1) eternal unquenchable fire (Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:43)
- 2) outer darkness (Matt. 25:30)
- 3) eternal punishment (Matt. 25:46)
- 4) eternal torment (Rev. 14:9–11)
- 5) weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30)

WHAT DID JESUS TEACH US ABOUT HELL.

- **Jesus spoke about hell more than anyone in the whole Bible.**
- **Roughly 13% of Jesus' teaching is about hell, judgment and punishment.**
- **Roughly half of His parables are in reference to hell, judgment and punishment.**

- 1) Hell is worse than the worst physical suffering and persecution. (Matthew 10:28)
- 2) Hell is a place of regret and sorrow. (Matthew 13:37-43)
 - » Hell is not sinful human pleasure forever.
- 3) Hell is eternal punishment. (Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 9)
- 4) Hell is a place of conscious awareness of something better but unattainable. (Luke 16:19-31)
 - » Hell is an conscious awareness that there is a God that they will never have an all satisfying relationship with forever. (Rev. 14:9-11)
- 5) Hell is void of perfection, goodness and relationship with God. (2 Thess. 1:9)

WHAT DOES THE CROSS OF CHRIST TEACH US ABOUT HELL?

- 1) The cross teaches us that there is something to be saved from. (Acts 4:12; Luke 19:10)
 - » The cross of Christ saves us from the all powerful coming wrath of God. (Rom. 5:6-10)
- 2) The cross teaches us that sin leads us all to death. (Rom. 6:23; James. 1:15)
- 3) The cross teaches us that Hell is avoidable. (Luke 23:39-43; John 3:15)
- 4) The cross teaches us that death has been defeated. (Rev. 20:14)

FAQ: HOW COULD A LOVING GOD SEND ANYONE TO HELL?

- First we must all understand that no one deserves heaven, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." - Rom. 3:23 (Job 15:14; Ps. 51:5, 14:2–3; Eccl. 9:3; Rom. 5:12)

- Ephesians 2:1-5 // And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

- Divine wrath is God's righteous anger, judgement and punishment, provoked by sin. (Ps. 78:56-66; Zeph. 1:14-15; John 3:36; [Rom. 2:5-6](#))

If God did not sentence people to hell for breaking His laws, it could be said that God is not just. (Psalm 7:11)

- The wrath of God will purify every element of wickedness from our future. (Matt 3:12, [13:24-30](#); Luke 3:17)

- In a very important sense, God doesn't send anyone to hell. The only ones there are those who have rejected His revelation, choosing to suppress the truth He made plain to them.

- Sinners have no one to blame but themselves if they are damned.

- To go to hell, someone must reject the God who created them and loves them.

- Hell is only for those who persistently reject the real God in favor of false gods.

- God is "not wishing that any should perish," - 2 Peter 2:9 (Rom. 2:4; 1 Tim. 2:4; Ezekiel 33:11)

- Ezekiel 18:32 // For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live."

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." - C.S. Lewis

"The question isn't 'How could a loving God send anyone to Hell?' the question should be 'How could anyone reject a loving of God?'" - Louie Giglio

- Heaven and hell are the result of God's love and justice.

- All Christians, new or mature, should always remember and be thankful that Jesus has already borne the wrath of God for our sins and has made us righteous by His blood. (Rom. 3:24-25)

AM I GOING TO HELL?

Jesus died and rose and is exalted in heaven. If you repent and turn from your sin, change your mind about who or what is lord of your life, and believe, trusting that you can stake your life and eternity on the truth of what God says, then you will receive full forgiveness of all sin, new life in and by the Holy Spirit, membership in the church of Jesus Christ, a meaningful part in His rescue mission in the world, and citizenship in His kingdom as a child of God. You will be with Jesus and His people now and forever. Have you confessed your sins to Jesus Christ, seeking forgiveness and salvation through His sinless life?

We want this for you.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

• **The church is created by God.**

- Acts 20:28 // Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

- 1 Corinthians 3:9 // For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

- Romans 12:4-5 // For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

• **The mission of the church is to make disciples.**

- Mark 16:15-16 // And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole

creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

- 2 Timothy 2:10 // Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

- Matthew 28:19-20 // Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Our joyful mission is to put Jesus on display to every nation.

• **The mission of the church is to glorify Christ.**

- John 15:7-9 // If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

- John 16:13 // When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

- God created us to reflect His holy image. We will be made perfect and sinless, unable to want for anything, fully satisfied, without suffering or death when we meet Jesus in Heaven.

- The mission of the church is to know and love Christ so supremely as to represent Him and His values accurately and vividly to the world and serve people’s deepest needs in the way Christ Himself would meet them.

The church’s mission is to present Jesus Christ to the world, while He presents to the same world His rescuing work in and through His church.

Estimated number of deaths

56 million people die per year
4.5 million people die per month
153,000 people die per day
6,000 people die per hour
106 people die per minute
2 people die per second

As Christians we must believe that eternal punishment is true and just, yet we should also long that all people should come to faith in Christ and thus escape eternal condemnation.

What will we do as the church of Jesus Christ?