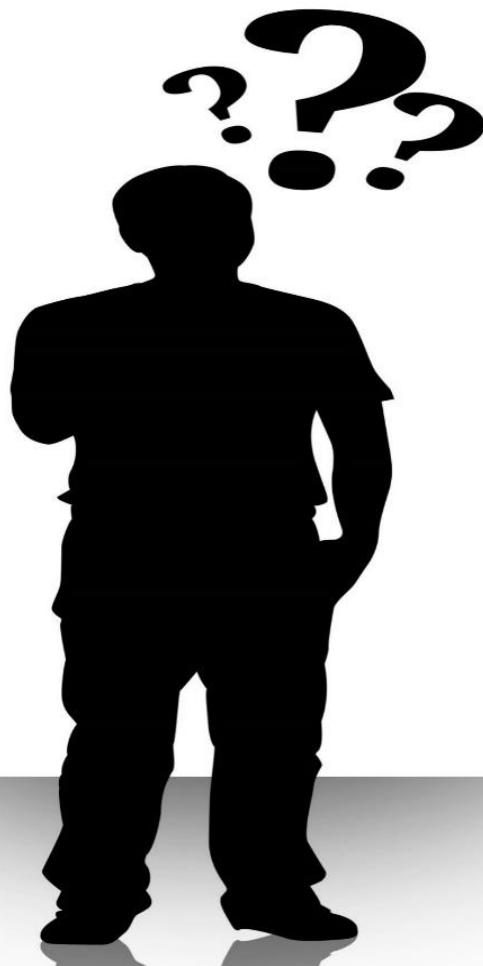


Is There Really A Hell?



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

Is There Really A Hell?

Learn from some evidence for the existence of Hell and consider what you should do with this knowledge

Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ www.godsaidso.com/dgw144

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW144

Written by Eric Krieg

About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

Copyright: Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

Scripture quotations: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @
WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM**

Is There Really A Hell?

Is there really a Hell that people will be forced to live in after Jesus Christ returns? This is a question that must be answered by people who are contemplating what happens after their earthly lives are over. If there is no Hell or if only the worst of the worst sinners will go there, then it really does not make any difference whether you live a life of obedience to God or not. But, if there really is a Hell and if those who die while living in any kind of sin will go there, then you must decide whether you desire not to go to Hell enough that you will live entirely in God's service.

There is some confusion that exists on the subject of Hell. First, there are those who simply deny that the Bible teaches a place of eternal punishment that is called "Hell." To some of these individuals, Hell simply refers to the total destruction or complete annihilation that some people will experience. They claim that being cast into Hell refers to some being completely put out of existence.

Yet, as we will investigate further during this study, whatever the punishment of Hell consists of, it lasts just as long as the reward in Heaven. For instance, Matthew 25:46 records Jesus as saying, "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Now, who is there who believes that those who have lived in such a way so as to receive the grace and mercy of God will only be rewarded for a brief instant? Will these be put out of conscious existence forever? Or, will there be a reward for them that never ends? You see, the same Greek word is used in this verse to describe both the punishment and the life. It refers to

something that will never end – for the life and the punishment.

Second, there are many who object to such a place as Hell because they believe that a loving God could not condemn anyone to such a place. They recognize that God is a loving God who sacrificed Jesus Christ to save people from the punishment of Hell (see John 3:16). Surely, according to their thinking, such a God who is full of love would not possibly condemn anyone (except maybe the worst of the worst sinners) to a place of never-ending torment. They may even reason that there are varying degrees of sin and that "lesser" degrees of sin are not bad enough for a loving God to send people to Hell.

However, although God is a loving God, the Bible reveals that He is also a severe God who not only is capable of punishing all those who die in their sin – but promises to do so! For instance, Romans 11:22 says, "Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off." Hebrews 10:30-31 says, "For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." God also declares that He is a "consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29).

Third, there are some who conclude that there are different degrees of punishment that exist. So, according to this thinking, those who commit certain sins will receive less of a punishment than others. Therefore, not only must there be different degrees of punishment, but there must also be different degrees of sin.

Yet, the Bible teaches that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). This is spiritual separation from God. Each and every sin makes this separation with God. There are no exceptions in which some sins do not make any separation from God. Now, in order for there to be differing degrees of punishment in Hell, there would have to be evidence that some sins make less of a separation from God than other ones. Some sins would have to be viewed as being more favorable to God than others. Yet, God does not identify some sins as being worse than others.

Instead, as Romans 1:18-32 indicates, sins like covetousness, envy, strife, pride, disobedience to parents, and failing to forgive are as deserving of death as idolatry, homosexuality, hating God, and murder!

Because of all this confusion in the world today and our own curiosity about the subject of Hell, many are left wondering, “Does a place called Hell really exist?” “If it does exist, what is it like?” “Can I avoid going to Hell?” “How can I avoid going to Hell?”

In this lesson, we want to consider some of what God has revealed about Hell in the pages of the Bible. We will be considering its reality as well as the description that is given of it. Then, we will consider who will be sentenced to spend eternity in Hell on the Judgment Day. And, we will consider what all of this means for how we should be living life on earth.

The Bible Identifies Hell As A Real Place

God’s word is absolutely perfect and true (see Psalm 19:7). Therefore, as we look into the word of God (as revealed in the pages of the Bible), we can be assured of the fact that Hell is a real place. And, we can know that it is also a place that is prepared for real people to dwell there one day.

Use of “hell” in the Bible

As you make your study of “hell” in the pages of the Bible, you will notice three Greek words (in the New Testament) to discuss the subject. However, without properly understanding these words, you can be led to false conclusions. So, let’s spend just a few moments focusing on each one of these words.

First, consider the Greek word that is only used one time. 2 Peter 2:4 says, “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.” The Greek is “Tartarus.” Most English translations of the Bible have

translated this word as “hell.” But, since this is the only passage in the Scriptures that uses this Greek word, we are limited in our understanding of this place. This passage does, however, teach us that it is the place that holds the angels who have sinned against God. In this place, they are reserved for judgment. Then, as we will discuss later, at the time of the final Judgment, those angels who had committed sin will be sentenced to everlasting punishment in Hell (see Matthew 25:41).

Second, consider the Greek word “Hades.” Here is a word that gets confused with the place that the Bible calls “Hell” because of some unfortunate mistranslations. For instance, some have improperly concluded that Jesus spent time in Hell because of the translation of Acts 2:27. The *New King James Version* has properly translated the verse: “For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.” This verse is used to speak concerning Jesus Christ – that He would not be left in Hades. Yet, the *King James Version* has translated this verse, “Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”

As you do a study of this Greek word “Hades,” you will discover that it does *not* refer to the same place as Hell. For instance, continuing with our study of Acts 2:27, we should ask: “Where did Jesus go whenever He died?” Clearly, He went to Hades. In Luke 23:43, we discover that Jesus went to a part of Hades that He could refer to as “Paradise.” Luke 16:19-31 also proves to be helpful in our study. In this passage, Jesus teaches that Hades is a spiritual waiting place. It is where the soul goes at the point of physical death. And, it will remain there until Jesus Christ returns. Then, those who are in Hades will be brought out for the final Judgment (see Revelation 20:11-15). We should also note that there are two sections of Hades (as pictured in Luke 16:19-31). There is a section of torment and there is a section of comfort (or, Paradise). Whenever Jesus died, He went to this section of Paradise in Hades.

Third, consider the Greek word “Geenna.” For instance, consider that Jesus speaks of individuals who would be cast into “hell” in Matthew 5:22 and 29 (also in Matthew 10:28 and Luke 12:5). Matthew 5:22 says, “But I say to you that whoever is

angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.” Matthew 5:29 says, “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

Gehenna (or Geenna) originally referred to the valley of Hinnom. This was a valley that was just south of Jerusalem. This valley was notorious for being the place where all manner of filth and dead animals would be discarded – and burned. Therefore, this place would be known for its great stench and its continually burning fire – and known as a place of destruction and decay. This would have been a very vivid picture for those who heard Jesus speak this word.

But, Jesus’ use of this word clearly did not stop at a literal interpretation of the valley of Hinnom. He was teaching a much greater punishment than just concerning a literal fire in this valley south of Jerusalem. For instance, Matthew 18:8-9 says, “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.” I want you to specifically notice the connection made in this passage between the “hell fire” (geenna fire) and the “everlasting fire.” So, the “hell” referred to by this Greek word is a place of everlasting torment. And, it is proper to conclude that this place is the place of eternal punishment that is referenced throughout the New Testament.

Promises that some will be punished

The Bible is clear in promising that there will be some who will be punished. And, this punishment will be in a place that is depicted by fire. Consider a sample of just two passages that promise some will be punished.

First, consider Matthew 7:13-14. “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Please recognize that not only will some experience destruction, but *many* will experience such!

Second, consider Romans 2:5-11. “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who ‘will render to each one according to his deeds’: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.”

God will judge each person who has ever lived on this earth. And, you should notice that His Judgment will be entirely fair. He will simply reward or punish each one according to what he/she has done during his/her life on earth. But, you must recognize that there will be those who will experience the indignation and wrath of God, along with tribulation and anguish. The ones who will receive such (as we will see later in this lesson) are those who do not obey the truth and who do what is evil.

Description Of Hell

Clearly, God has promised to punish people in Hell fire. Now, as further proof that Hell really does exist, the Bible describes the punishment that will be experienced in this place. Consider a sample of how the Bible describes this place of torment where many people will spend their eternities.

John 3:36

John 3:36 records this statement of truth: “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

This passage does not mention Hell specifically. However, this passage clearly warns of some who will be punished. Some will have the “wrath of God” abide on them – rather than experience everlasting life. Whatever this punishment will be (which we will be exploring throughout this lesson), notice that it represents the vengeance of the Almighty God!

Allow your mind to contemplate the power of this great God. This is the God who was able to *speak* the world, the light, the plants, the birds, the animals, and all things into existence. This is the God who was able to create man from the dust of the ground and woman from the rib of the man. This is the God who caused the great Red Sea to be parted after bringing ten powerful plagues upon the Egyptians. This is the God who caused a great fish to swallow Jonah. This is the God who caused the earth to break open and swallow some rebellious people.

Oh, the great power of this God! Those who have obeyed His voice have always experienced the great blessings of His power. However, those who have *not* obeyed His voice have always experienced His great wrath. Furthermore, those who fail to listen to God will have the wrath of this Almighty God “abide” on them for all of eternity. Now, let’s consider what the Bible tells us about the punishment He has prepared for those who do not obey Him.

Matthew 25:46

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus gives us a picture of what the Judgment Day will be like. In this passage, He tells of how He will separate all people who have ever lived like a shepherd divides His sheep from the goats. Those on His left hand represent those who were unfaithful to Him during their lives on the earth. Those on His right hand represent those who were faithful to Him during their lives on the earth. As He concludes this Judgment scene, He says, “And these will go away into

everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matthew 25:46).

Therefore, the unrighteous (unfaithful) will be given “everlasting punishment.” The Scriptures help us to see that this everlasting punishment is in Hell. Now consider what the phrase “everlasting punishment” helps us to understand about Hell.

First, it is punishment. By implication, then, whatever the nature of this punishment will be, it will not be pleasant. Second, notice that this punishment is “everlasting.” So, as we will continue to see how the Bible describes this place, it is important to understand that this punishment will be *never-ending!*

Matthew 25:30

As we continue to seek an understanding of what Hell will be like, consider how Jesus described the punishment that would be given to those who were unfaithful stewards, in Matthew 25:30: “And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

As Jesus concludes this parable about stewardship, Jesus taught that the one who would not be a faithful steward would be punished in this way. Notice the elements of this punishment. (1) It would be in a place of extreme darkness (“outer darkness”). (2) There will be great weeping. And, (3) there will be such extreme pain that people are pictured as gnashing (or grinding) their teeth.

Mark 9:43-48

In Mark 9:43-48, Jesus warned about the great dangers of Hell. “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—where

‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’”

Specifically notice what is said concerning Hell in this passage. First, notice that Jesus says the punishment in Hell will be worse punishment than physically maiming your own body. Second, consider that this passage presents Hell as being a place in which the fire will never be quenched. Third, notice that Hell is said to be a place where “their worm does not die.”

Regarding this worm, there is much that is speculated. However, I would suggest that this is figurative language that pictures the great destruction that will be present in Hell. Think about the fact that a worm feeds on that which has decayed – and that Jesus said this worm will not die (seeming to imply that this worm will always have destruction to feed on). Additionally, notice that Jesus said “*their* worm does not die.” So, each one who will experience the punishment in this place will experience this kind of destruction!

Revelation 21:8

In Revelation 21:8, Hell is pictured: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

First, Hell is pictured as being a lake that burns with fire and brimstone. So, those who will be punished eternally in Hell are graphically pictured as being dropped into the middle of a lake that is burning with fire! Second, this passage depicts Hell as being the “second death.” This is descriptive of eternal spiritual death, which is separation from God.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Finally, consider what 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 tells us about Hell: “and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

First, this passage again identifies the punishment that will be brought upon the disobedient as being the outpouring of God’s vengeance. Second, it is described as “everlasting destruction.” Third, this vengeance is described as being “in flaming fire.” Fourth, this everlasting destruction will be away “from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

Of all the horrible aspects of Hell, this last one is the worst! Hell will be a place that is entirely separated from God! He will not be present in any way in Hell. There will be nothing that is godly about Hell. This is why this place is described as being the “second death” in Revelation 21:8. This also explains why Jesus will tell those going to this place to “depart” from Him (Matthew 7:23; Matthew 25:41).

Who Will Go To Hell

Hell is described in the Scriptures as being a place of never-ending pain, anguish, and suffering. And, worst of all, Hell is a place in which some will spend eternity completely separated from God. But, who will go to Hell? If you have a desire to avoid spending your eternity in Hell, you need to ask this question – and find the Bible answer. Let’s consider how the Bible answers this question.

How to go to Hell

God is perfectly holy (perfectly separated from everything that is evil). 1 John 1:5 says, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” In Revelation 4:8, God was praised by four living creatures, saying, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

Since God is entirely holy and pure, nothing that is evil/sinful can remain in fellowship with Him. 1 John 1:6-7 (after declaring that God is entirely pure) says, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the

blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” Similarly, Isaiah 59:1-2 says, “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.” Since God is entirely holy, our unrighteousness creates a spiritual separation between us and God.

This spiritual separation between us and God due to our sins is called a “death.” Please understand that “death” refers to a separation. Physical death is a separation of the body and the spirit (James 2:26) and spiritual death is a separation between us and God. So, Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Therefore, if we are guilty of living in our sins during our lives, we will be “dead” while we are living (see 1 Timothy 5:6).

Physically dying while in sin is what results in eternal “death” (separation from God). While we live, we have opportunity (through Jesus Christ) to be forgiven of our sins and be saved. However, once we have died in our sins, there is no longer any opportunity to make corrections in our lives.

The Bible is very clear that those who die in their sin will experience this “second death” in Hell fire for all of eternity (Revelation 21:8). Consider the following passages:

Revelation 21:27 says nothing that “defiles,” “causes an abomination or a lie” will enter the Heavenly city; but, “only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” will enter. Revelation 22:14-15 says that those who “do His commandments” will have the “right to the tree of life” and will “enter through the gates into the city.” But, “outside” of the Heavenly city will be those who died in sin (the “dogs, and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murders and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie”). Matthew 13:40-42 reveals that, when Jesus returns, those who “practice lawlessness” (sin) will be “cast...into the furnace of fire” where there “will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” John 3:36 says that those who believe in the Son have “everlasting life”; but that those who do not believe the Son “shall not see life, but the wrath of God

abides” on them. Romans 1:18-32 indicates that the “wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men” (vs. 18) – and then identifies sinful activity that will be subject to the wrath of God. This includes: Idolatry, homosexuality, fornication, covetousness, envy, pride, evil-mindedness, failing to forgive, failing to be trustworthy, disobedient to parents, etc. Verse 32 says that those who “practice such things are deserving of death” – as are those who “approve of those who practice them.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 identifies some unrighteous activity that will result in individuals not inheriting the kingdom of God: Fornication, idolatry, adultery, homosexuality, sodomy, theft, covetousness, drunkenness, reviling, and extortion. Galatians 5:19-21 demonstrates that those who practice the “works of the flesh... will not inherit the kingdom of God.” The works of the flesh are identified as: “adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.”

The devil and his angels will go to Hell

As we consider the fact that those who go to Hell will go to Hell because of their sins, we must understand that the devil and his angels will spend their eternities in Hell. Jesus made it clear that this place of eternal punishment (Hell) was prepared for the devil and his angels (although those who follow the devil will also be given this same punishment in Hell fire). Matthew 25:41 says, “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Regarding the devil (Satan), the Bible teaches us plainly that Satan chose to sin against God. In John 8:44, Jesus said that the devil is a murderer and a liar. 1 John 3:8 says that the devil “has sinned from the beginning.” Therefore, Jesus says that He will spend eternity in Hell (Matthew 25:41). Revelation 20:10 also demonstrates that Satan will spend eternity in Hell: “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

The Scriptures are also clear that the devil's angels have sinned against God. 2 Peter 2:4 references "the angels who sinned" being cast into Tartarus and delivered "into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment." Jude 1:6 identifies angels "who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode" being "reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day." Therefore, Jesus says that they will spend eternity in Hell fire (Matthew 25:41).

The disobedient will go to Hell

While Jesus said that the everlasting punishment in Hell fire has been "prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41), they will *not* be the only ones who will spend eternity there. Everyone who dies in sin will spend eternity in Hell (as we have seen demonstrated from numerous passages already). In fact, Matthew 25:41 even demonstrates this point. When Jesus separates the faithful from the unfaithful on the Day of Judgment, it is this group of unfaithful people Jesus says will be separated from Him and spend eternity in the "everlasting fire" that has been "prepared for the devil and his angels."

Similarly, we have already considered Revelation 20:10, which pictured the devil being cast into the "lake of fire and brimstone" in which he will be "tormented day and night forever and ever." However, the passages continues (in Revelation 20:11-15) to demonstrate that those who did not obey the instructions of God during their lives will also be "cast into the lake of fire" (as these are the ones who do not have their names written in the Book of Life).

The Scriptures teach that there will be two groups of people who will be eternally punished in Hell fire. First, those who have sinned and have never been forgiven will spend eternity in Hell. That is, those individuals who have never become Christians by being obedient to the gospel's plan of salvation will spend eternity in Hell. In order to become a Christian and be forgiven of your sins, the Bible teaches you must: Hear God's word (Romans 10:17), believe (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30-31), confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed, Romans 6:3-4) in water (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

Second, the Bible teaches that those who have (at one time) become Christians, but have not been faithful to God, will spend eternity in Hell. Galatians 5:4 clearly teaches that it *is* possible to fall from the grace of God and be lost. Hebrews 10:26-39 also discusses the fact that individuals who have become Christians in the past can live so as to be eternally lost in Hell.

So, the Bible is clear: Those who do not obey God and die in their sins will spend eternity in Hell. In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus says that it is not enough just to believe in Him or claim to follow Him. Instead, you must do the will of God. Otherwise He will declare to you, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you will practice lawlessness." Similarly, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 demonstrates that those who "do not know God" and those who "do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" are the ones who will experience the vengeance of the Almighty God and be "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

Living With The Reality Of Hell

Because God is a severe God, He will sentence those who do not obey Him to everlasting punishment in Hell fire. But, God tells us that we do not have to spend eternity in this place. For, it is only those who refuse to believe in Jesus Christ and obey His commandments who will be sentenced to this place. Those who do believe and obey Him will be saved from the consequences of their sins. So, please consider how you should respond to the reality of Hell.

Be thankful for your opportunity not to go there

Everyone who has committed sin deserves to spend eternity in Hell fire (Romans 6:23). And, we have all decided to live our lives to please ourselves rather than God. This has resulted in sin. And, sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). So, there is not one person who has committed sin and has earned his/her salvation from sin. In fact, it is

impossible to earn your own salvation from sin and from the fires of Hell. Instead, it is only by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that any of us can be saved from eternity in Hell. Romans 5:9 says that it is through the blood of Jesus that we can be “justified” (made right in God’s sight) and “saved from wrath” (the wrath of God). Now, you must be thankful that God has loved you enough to die for you so that you do not have to spend your eternity in this terrible place of eternal torment – and make the most of your opportunity to be saved from it!

Abhor what is evil

Sin is the cause for spending eternity in Hell fire. Therefore, rather than viewing sin as a forbidden pleasure that God is trying to keep you from enjoying, you should develop an entirely different view of sin. You should learn to view sin through the end result. So, even though you may desire to experience the temporary pleasure that sin offers to you, you must view that sinful thing through the perspective of eternal suffering in Hell fire! Then, whenever you learn to view sin in this way, you should develop a hatred and horror of sin. For instance, Romans 12:9 says to “Abhor what is evil” and “Cling to what is good.” Determine to get as far away from sin and evil as you can possibly get. Don’t play around with it in any way!

Do everything you can to avoid it

Hell will not be enjoyable at all. It will be complete separation from God and everything that is good. It will be never-ending torment. But, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, you must recognize that you do not have to spend eternity in this place. You *can* choose to believe and obey Jesus Christ so as to be saved. So, what you do during your earthly life matters! Galatians 6:7-8 puts it this way: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” If you live your life for your own earthly desires, you will experience the torments of Hell. But, if you dedicate your life entirely to God, you will experience eternal life in Heaven. Surely, Hell will be so terrible that you should determine to do

everything you can possibly do *not* to go there – even if you must deny yourself of your own earthly desires, sacrifice your relationships, and even die for the Lord Jesus Christ!

Conclusion

Yes, there really is a Hell! It is a place that is prepared for the devil, his angels, and those who rebel against God with him. Hell is a place that will be so terrible that we cannot even begin to fully imagine the punishment that will be experienced there. But, we must simply accept (by faith) what God has revealed about Hell and make every sacrifice necessary in order to avoid spending eternity there! But, will you choose to believe in Hell so much that you will fully dedicate your earthly life to serving God?

Study Questions

What are some beliefs about Hell?

1. The Bible Identifies Hell As A Real Place

How does the Bible use the word “hell”?

Does God promise that some will be punished?

2. Description Of Hell

How does John 3:36 describe Hell?

How does Matthew 25:46 describe Hell?

Why should you do everything you can to avoid Hell?

How does Matthew 25:30 describe Hell?

How does Mark 9:43-48 describe Hell?

How does Revelation 21:8 describe Hell?

How does 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 describe Hell?

3. Who Will Go To Hell

How does sin result in people going to Hell?

Why will the devil and his angels spend eternity in Hell?

Will the disobedient go to Hell?

4. Living With The Reality Of Hell

Why should you be thankful for your opportunity not to go to Hell?

Why should you abhor what is evil?