



Who Will Go To Hell?

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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How To Go To Hell

As you consider all the Bible's teaching about the place called "Hell" that God has prepared, in which many will spend their eternities, there are certainly some who would question how a loving, gracious, and merciful God could condemn the majority of people who have lived on this earth to such eternal punishment. Yet, you must realize that God is a loving, gracious, and merciful God – *and* He is also a severe God. Romans 11:22 identifies both as being part of God's nature: "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." God's goodness is manifested in that He has sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross, so that everyone has the *opportunity* to have eternal life in Heaven. However, God's severity is seen in that He will exercise His wrath on those who do not obey Him, condemning them to eternity in Hell. Therefore, it is a "fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" if we have not been obedient to Him (Hebrews 10:31).

You see, 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.” Also read James 1:14-15 to see the same outcome of sin. 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).

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 sin and be saved. However, once we have died in our sins, there is no longer any opportunity to make corrections in our lives. Therefore, consider the language of Revelation 21:8 (regarding Hell): “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.”

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

1. 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.
2. 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”).
3. 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.”
4. John 3:36 says that those 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.
5. 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.”
6. 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.
7. 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 given 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 & His Angels

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).

Those Who Have Not Been Obedient To God

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. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus is providing us with a picture of the final judgment scene. At this time, He will separate everyone who has ever lived into two categories, just as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. Those on Jesus’ right hand are pictured as being those who had been faithful to the Lord during their earthly lives – and will be rewarded with eternal life in Heaven (Matthew 25:34, 46). However, those on Jesus’ left hand are pictured as being those who had not been faithful to the Lord during their earthly lives – and will be condemned to eternal punishment in Hell fire (Matthew 25:41, 46). Therefore, 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 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.”

Conclusion

This is what the Bible says in answering the question, “Who will go to Hell?” Do you want to go to Hell? If not, you must be obedient to God’s commandments.

Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series

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