



What the Bible teaches concerning Hell

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In this day with so many different teachings and beliefs coming from so many various sources it is of utmost importance to go to the only reliable source for the correct answer. The Word of God (The King James Bible).

Hell is a topic much debated in today's culture because it is an unpleasant and unpopular place to consider. Yet if we are to fully understand the grace and mercy of God in salvation, and the urgency of winning the lost to Christ it surely is of utmost importance to know what happens to those who die in unbelief.

The penalty for sin is death **Romans 6:23**, all men die because all have sinned **Ecclesiastes 7:20** The difference is that when a person who has trusted Christ with their soul and believed on Him for salvation dies, they go to be with the Lord in Heaven. Those who have not put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ go to a place called Hell to await final judgement and be cast into the lake of fire.

The first question we must answer concerning Hell is simple: Why would God make such a place? **Matthew 25:41**. Hell was created to be a place of everlasting torment for the Devil and his fallen angels, not mankind.

Question Two: Why do men go to Hell if it was prepared for the Devil and his angels? **Psalm 89:14**, God is a just God. Justice decrees that if a man commit a crime he pay for that crime, mankind has committed the crime of sin and therefore we must pay the penalty which is death. Not just physical death as all bodies wither and die but spiritual death where our soul, not being righteous enough to stand before God is cast out of God's presence at the final judgment to dwell in torments in the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:11-15**.

Thank God for Jesus Christ! Knowing that man could not stand righteous before Him, God sent His Son to pay the sin debt for mankind, giving us a way of escape from spiritual death. **John 3:16, Romans 3:24-26**, If we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ we can stand before God in Christ's righteousness instead of our own! Those who choose to stand before God without the shed blood of Jesus Christ covering their sin will be judged according to the Word of God. **John 12:47-48**, in Summary; men go to Hell because they choose not to accept Jesus Christ. It is not God's will or desire that any man go to Hell **1st Timothy 2:3-4, John 3:16, John 12:32**

We know God created Hell for Satan and his angels, we know men go there because if they reject Christ they are judged in their own righteousness which God's Word says in **Isaiah 64:6** "...all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..."

The third question about Hell is, how do we know it is a real place? Many people throughout history have claimed that Hell is a place of the mind or a thought or a representation of a state of being but God's Word is very clear that Hell is a real physical place where souls go. How do we know it's a real place?

- The word Hell is found in God's Word 54 times
- Christ Himself speaks of Hell at least sixteen times
- Revelation references a bottomless pit seven times
- Christ went to Hell to get the keys **Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27, Revelation 1:17-18**
- A location is given for Hell **Deuteronomy 32:22** reveals Hell is part of earth, **Proverbs 9:18** speaks of the depths of Hell, the phrase "down to Hell" is used six times in **Isaiah 14:15, Ezekiel 31:16, 32:27, Matthew 11:23, Luke 10:15, and 2nd Peter 2:4**. Most interesting though is **Amos 9:2** "Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down." Hell is inside the earth. Before you claim otherwise consider that the deepest mankind has

drilled into the earth is 7.6 miles. Sounds deep but to reach the center of the earth the hole would need to go 3,959 miles deep.

If you believe God's Word you must believe in a literal Hell as taught by Christ, His disciples, and the Old Testament Scriptures.

The passage with the greatest detail given concerning Hell is found in **Luke 16:19-31**

Some will try to avoid the idea of a literal Hell by claiming that the Luke passage is simply a parable, but Christ never uses individuals' names when telling parables and parables are essentially stories told for the purpose of aiding in teaching a lesson. Reading **Luke 16:19-31** we could certainly learn many lessons as with any passage of God's Word, but the main teaching seems to be about the place itself. In **Luke 16:19-31** we learn the following:

1. Hell is a place of Torments
2. Hell is a place of great heat and flame (see also **Matthew 18:9**)
3. There is no escape from Hell
4. Those in Hell remember their earthly lives
5. There is no communicating with the living from Hell

From other passages we learn of Hell that:

1. It is a place of darkness **2nd Peter 2:4**
2. It is a place where the fire will never be quenched **Mark 9:45**
3. Hell is a temporary holding place for souls destined for the lake of fire **Revelation 20:13-14**
4. Those cast into Hell will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire **Matthew 25:41**
5. Many who expect Heaven will end up in Hell **Matthew 7:21-23**

The most important question concerning Hell is this: HOW DO I AVOID IT?

We touched on this earlier but to avoid Hell is really quite simple.

1. Realize that God loves you **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
2. Realize that you are a sinner, and that sin causes you to stand guilty before a Holy and Righteous God. **John 3:18** "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." **Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
3. Realize that your sin debt must be paid **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death;..."
4. Realize that the sin debt has been paid by Jesus Christ **Galatians 1:4** "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father;"
5. Pray in faith believing and ask Jesus Christ to be your Saviour, to apply His payment for sin to your account before God **Romans 10:9** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

If you have any questions regarding the information presented here or are interested in obtaining more study materials, please feel free to contact Pastor Lynn via email at Pastorlynn@crossroadsofslipperyrock.com