

hell. If you are going to recognize their lies, you have to know the truth. The only way to do that is to study the written word of God.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Every person chooses for himself the eternal destination that he receives. Because of our sin nature, we are all born *already on our way to hell*. Jesus provided the *only way* for us to be *saved from hell*. There are only two options: everlasting life with Jesus or everlasting separation from Him in hell. There is no third, fourth or fifth option. All roads do not lead to heaven. In fact, with the exception of the one road provided by Jesus, all roads lead directly to hell. Every person will choose his eternal fate for himself. God does not make that decision for us. He simply honors the decision each person makes for himself or herself.

Acts 4:10-12

10) Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11) This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12) **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.** [emphasis added]



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good person. I don't do drugs like the guy down the street. I don't cheat on my spouse. I haven't killed anyone. I think God should let me into heaven." No matter how good you think you are, you will **never** be good enough to earn your way out of hell and into heaven. The thing we conveniently overlook is that, in God's judgment of us, we will not be compared to the person down the street. We will not be judged against human standards at all. We will be judged against the perfect, pure, holy standards of a perfect, pure, holy God. Furthermore, He not only looks **at** us, He looks **in** us as well. He knows every thought and every desire hidden in the depths of our hearts. Nothing, nothing, **nothing** is hidden from Him. There is not a single one of us who can undergo such divine scrutiny and emerge meritorious on the other side. Every single one of us need a Savior.

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
[emphasis added]

It is absolutely necessary to understand that salvation is obtained only through Jesus. Salvation does not come through a mere one-time, emotional recitation of some "magical" prayer. Salvation does not come from any amount of time imagined in a mythical purgatory. Salvation does not come through performing acts pleasing to an Islamic allah or any other false god. Salvation does not come through good works. Nothing we do can earn our own salvation. No amount of faith in anyone else will provide you with the salvation that only Jesus Christ can provide. There is no other way to receive eternal salvation. Jesus is the only way to everlasting life. There is no shortage of false religions in this world, vying for your attention, spreading falsehoods that only have the power to condemn you to

both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

17) Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

18) **To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

19) Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

20) But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.** [emphasis added]

Salvation does not come through anyone or any means other than the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Our sincere repentance is necessary for us to receive the forgiveness of our sins that Jesus sacrificed Himself to provide. No amount of good deeds will suffice. It is the condition of our heart that makes us able to receive salvation.

The fact that Jesus paid the sin debt that each one of us owe does not mean that everyone will automatically go to heaven when they die. That is not what Scripture teaches. We bear some responsibility in this transaction. We are responsible for yielding our hearts to Jesus in sincere repentance.

When judging our own selves, we tend to compare ourselves to other people who, by human standards, make us look good and virtuous. We may think to ourselves something along the lines of, *"I'm a pretty*



Most of the people you know are going to hell. Think about that... Most of the people that you know will go to hell when they die.

Take note of all the people you encounter throughout a normal day. Family, friends, co-workers, the person beside you at the gas pump, the cashier at the grocery store, the person in the other aisle pushing that buggy with the squeaky wheel, the person assisting you on the other end of the telephone line, the woman walking her dog down the sidewalk, the person collecting garbage for the city, the young man handing you your order through the drive-thru window, the person who cut you off in traffic, the lovely niece who calls you just to chat, the beautician styling your hair, the lady at the bank counter, the mechanic fixing your car, the homeless person you pretend not to notice, that TikTok influencer you like so much... Most of these people will spend eternity in a literal hell. Regardless of whether or not they even believe it is a real place, most of the people in this world right now will go to hell the moment they die. You may even be among them.

Introduction

Suspend your presuppositions long enough to understand that reality was established eons before you came along. Certain events took place before your arrival that put this world and everything dwelling therein on a particular trajectory. Your being born into this world did not change that trajectory, nor did it cause anything to operate in accordance with your understanding, your imaginings, or your own personal sense of right and wrong. Not at all. In fact, reality remained just as it was before you were born, accepting no obligation to conform to your expectations. While you may very well be the center of your own universe, you are merely a tiny spec of infinitesimal proportions within the context of God's creation. His creation is so vast, so intricate in its complexity, that your finite human mind cannot begin to comprehend the significance and the depth of things which are seen, let alone the eternity of things yet to be seen.

As mere human beings, we have exactly zero basis for possessing even a hint of arrogance. Even so, many will end up in hell as a direct result of his or her own unfounded human haughtiness. *This doesn't make sense to me, therefore it cannot be true.* Refusing to believe the truth does not release you from the consequences of the truth. Rather, refusing to believe the truth allows you to wander around in willful ignorance while ensuring your ultimate destruction.

Luke 24:45-47

45) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46) And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:**

47) **And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.** [emphasis added]

Jesus called sinners to repentance throughout the entirety of His public ministry. Among His final words to His disciples before He ascended to heaven was a direct instruction that, "**repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations...**" The fact that these were among Jesus' final words spoken to His disciples before He left this world and ascended into heaven should serve to underscore the severity of the message He conveyed. Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations. In Jesus' own words, repentance is necessary for the forgiveness of sins that only He can provide. Any other message is a deception leading only to damnation.

Even after His ascension into heaven, Jesus appeared and spoke to Paul (who, prior to his conversion, was called Saul of Tarsus) on the road to Damascus with the same gospel message of repentance.

Acts 26:15-20

15) And I said, Who are thou, Lord? And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.**

16) **But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness**

Misconceptions, Deceptions and Outright Lies

Luke 5:31-32

31) And Jesus answering said unto them, **They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.**

32) **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.** [emphasis added]

Jesus continued preaching repentance throughout His public ministry.

Luke 13:1-5

1) There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2) And Jesus answering said unto them, **Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?**

3) **I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

4) **Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?**

5) **I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.** [emphasis added]

Luke 24 records Jesus' final words to His disciples just before He ascended into heaven.

When it comes to the subject of hell, there is no shortage of disputes and outright denials of even the possibility, let alone the reality. Eternal torment is a concept so far outside of our human perspective that it is often preferable to dismiss it entirely rather than take it seriously. A person once told me rather matter of factly, "*A good God wouldn't send anyone to hell.*" Consider the absurdity of that statement. Such "reasoning" measures all-knowing, all-powerful, holy God by man's flawed and fluid standard of "good." That same person went on to claim that hell is not an actual place of torment, it is merely "symbolic." That is not at all in line with what the Bible actually teaches. The Bible teaches that hell is absolutely a literal place of everlasting torment. Jesus Himself warned people about hell throughout His entire public ministry on earth. In fact, Jesus gave Himself as the perfect sacrifice in order to provide mankind a means of being reconciled to God, thereby escaping the torment of hell. He did not give His life to save people from a **symbolic** hell. Jesus gave His life to save people from a **literal** hell. We need never forget that we are the created, God is the Creator. As such, He sets the standards, we do not. The Bible clearly shows that man is measured and judged by God's perfect, unchanging, holy standards. It is not the other way around. Furthermore, God does not send anyone to hell. Due to prior events beyond our control, **we are born already on our way to hell.** Each person chooses his eternal destination for himself. When a person leaves this world having rejected the truth of Jesus, spending eternity in the presence of God is no longer an option for him. **Hell is the only alternative to the presence of God.**

Church pews are full of people on their way to hell. Many churches have become little more than 501(c)3 social clubs, where people gather once a week to sing a few songs, shake a few hands and sit through a 20-30 minute sermonette. The Gospel message is toned down, with any mention of sins being glossed over and generalized rather than specified so as not to offend anyone. Seldom, if ever, are current events in America addressed from the pulpit with Scriptural conviction or biblical condemnation. Repentance is a somewhat vague notion mentioned from time to time. If a person's heart never feels the conviction of his sins through the clear, unfiltered preaching of the Gospel, it is likely that he will never feel a genuine need to repent. After all, he reserved his seat in heaven with that emotional prayer he recited so many years ago. He is in church every Sunday. Everyone sees him there. He pays his tithes. He helps people in his community. He is well thought of by all who know him. He is careful to keep his favorite sins hidden, although he doesn't really consider them actual sins because he doesn't believe he is hurting anyone. Surely, he's all set. So he thinks...

The casualness with which so many self-professing Christians in America approach their relationship with Jesus and the written word of God is horrifying. Merely having the **appearance** of being followers of Christ seems to be the actual goal. I venture to say that a vast majority of self-professing Christians spend hours on social media every week while their Bibles collect dust on a shelf. As long as they post "*Prayers* 🙏" regularly in the comment sections on Facebook and show up at church on Sunday to give God almost a whole hour of lukewarm attention, they're good. People can and do sit in church Sunday after Sunday, decade after decade and still go to hell when they die. By all outward appearances, they are fine, upstanding Christians. You'd be wise to remember that appearances are very deceiving.

15) And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.** [emphasis added]

Jesus did not come to this earth to affirm people in their sins, as many so-called religious leaders claim today. Jesus came to help people see their sins for what they truly are, call them to repentance and offer Himself as Savior. Notice what Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees in the following passages:

Matthew 9:10-13

10) And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

11) And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

12) But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, **They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.**

13) **But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.** [emphasis added]

Mark 2:17

When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, **They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.** [emphasis added]

Repentance is an essential component of the Gospel message. Jesus called for repentance from the beginning of His public ministry, right up until He ascended into heaven. True repentance involves a changing of your mind, a changing of your heart, from being in agreement with this world and the prince of this world, to being in agreement with God. True repentance involves turning away from the worldly and turning toward God. True repentance produces a strong desire to live a life that is honoring to God. Repentance is inextricably linked to the remission of sins. You cannot have remission of sins without sincere repentance. To claim otherwise is to cheapen and insult the divine sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf. To claim remission of sins without repentance is to deceive yourself into believing you have received salvation when, in reality, you are on your way to hell the moment you take your last breath in this world. To claim salvation while continuing to revel in your favorite sins is to treat Jesus' sacrifice as a "get out of hell free" card. This is not a game and that is not how it works. The inseparability of repentance and salvation are clearly taught in Scripture by the very One who died to pay our sin debt in the first place.

Both Matthew and Mark record Jesus' first words of His public ministry as a call for repentance.

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** [emphasis added]

Mark 1:14-15

14) Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

In addition to America's casual Christianity, there are many clearly defined, yet completely false religions leading people into eternal damnation with their false doctrines. False religions include Islam, Roman Catholicism, Atheism (yes, Atheism is a religion), Mormonism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jehovah's Witnesses and countless others pushing doctrines contrary to the written word of God. There is no purgatory, hell is not temporary, there is no such thing as reincarnation, and we do not cease to exist when our physical bodies in this realm die. None of these deceptive concepts align with the Scriptures. Detailing the falseness of each of these errant belief systems is far beyond the scope of this writing. Suffice it to say that every belief system that does not squarely align with, and limit itself to, the clear teachings of God's word, *The Holy Bible*, is a false religion designed to lead people away from Jesus, away from the salvation that only He provides, and straight into eternal torment. There are no exceptions. This is true, not because I say so, but because **GOD says so.**

You will find growing numbers of people who hold to the claim that this life is all there is and once you die, that's it, there is nothing else. Atheistic and Agnostic evolutionists fall into this category. The common thread holding their religion together is stubborn arrogance resulting in the elevation of man to a god-like status, leaving no room for a Creator to whom they should owe any measure of accountability. Think about this for a moment. Do you think that something as simple as the shirt you are wearing right now had a designer or do you think it randomly came to be that style, that color, that size and with those tags simply and randomly over time with no input from an intelligence higher than itself? If it is obvious to you that your shirt must have had a creator, how is it then that the world around you did not? Further consider airplanes. No one doubts that airplanes had a creator. They are far too complex to have randomly evolved over time to become what they are now. They clearly had a designer. Mankind designed them. Interestingly enough, it was in studying birds that man was able to understand what was necessary

to create machines that can fly. Long story short, mankind has clearly amassed a thorough understanding of the complexities of aircraft design and function and is now capable of producing an endless number of airplanes. Were it not for the human creator, airplanes would not exist. A pile of metal would rust away before it would randomly assemble itself into a functioning airplane no matter how much time it is given. The intervention of a higher intelligence is an absolute necessity. Now consider the human body. The intricacies of the human body far exceeds that of the most sophisticated aircraft ever constructed, yet the claim is that human beings came about through random chance with no designer or creator, simply because of lots of time. Even the most advanced medical professionals are regularly forced to admit they still do not fully understand all of the complexities and inner workings of the human body. And that's just regarding the body itself, not considering the life force animating that body, giving it intelligence, a will, a personality, and everything that makes it an individual. So, all of that just happened to come about randomly and accidentally because of lots of time?

The belief that man evolved from literally nothing, thanks entirely to the "magic" ingredient of lots of time, and randomly became the sentient, intelligent beings we see today requires a measure of blind faith not found in all of Christendom. Literally, nothing blew up (aka the Big Bang) and, over lots of time, randomly evolved into everything we see today, all by itself with no need for an actual designer. Left to its own devices, chaos became order and nothing became everything. Evolution is merely a theory taught as fact. Predictably, the secular minded accept it without question. This view leaves no room for anything beyond the physical life experienced in this realm, therefore the idea of hell need not receive any consideration at all. Under examination, it does not take long for the evolutionary tale to unravel and reveal itself to be a complete deception. Unfortunately, few take the time to seriously investigate and, instead, accept it at face value because they are told to by the so-called "experts." Many, no doubt, are simply more comfortable

John 3:13-18

13) **And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.**

14) **And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:**

15) **That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.**

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.**

17) **For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**

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.**

[emphasis added]

The act of believing in Jesus as referenced in John 3:15-16, and 18, is not merely acknowledging that He existed. It goes much deeper than just head knowledge. Believing in Jesus is a verb. It is an **action**, not a passive intellectual acknowledgment. This is believing that results in entrusting one's spiritual well-being to Jesus. Truly believing in Jesus produces visible results in the life of the believer. You cannot be a true believer in Christ and stay the same as you were before you believed. The outward evidence of your change in status from unbeliever to believer is produced from the change that has taken place within your heart. The change that takes place within your heart is called repentance. A truly repentant heart instinctively gravitates toward the will of God, losing interest in the worldly snares that once held it prisoner.

Proverbs 28:26

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Our own personal happiness is not God's purpose for our lives in this world. This world is where hearts are sifted and eternal destinations are chosen. Is your heart seeking Jesus or is it chasing worldly pleasures? Is your heart submitted to your Creator or is it rebellious and proud? The condition of your heart will lead you to your eternal destination. That will either be eternity with Jesus or eternity separated from Him. There are no other options.

Every one of us owes a sin debt that we cannot pay on our own. God is Holy and, as such, He cannot simply turn a blind eye to our sins and overlook them as if they do not exist. As a Holy God, he cannot merely excuse our sins and remain true to His Holy nature. The sin debt that each and every one of us owe must be paid. Jesus, the perfect Son of God, came to this earth to pay that debt for us. He lived a perfectly sinless life, died on a cross as the sacrifice for our sins, was buried and rose again three days later. Jesus paid our sin debt in full. He is the only One who **could** do that and He is the only One who **did** do that.

following the crowd. Sadly, that crowd they are following is on a fast track to a very real hell, led by a very real satanic deception.

There are people who hold to the belief that there are many paths to heaven and that only the really, **really** bad people will go to hell. This belief system is based on nothing more than the wishful imaginings of people who want the rewards of heaven, but without moral boundaries in this life. Even a minimal comparison with the written word of God quickly exposes the complete falsehood of this line of belief. I actually had one person tell me that, if there is a God and a heaven, he will go there because he believes he is a "*pretty good person*." He has never killed anyone, he tries to do what is "*right*" and he tries to live an honest life. Forget the fact that he has no relationship with Jesus and flatly denies his need for a Savior. He is basically a good enough person that, if there is a God and a heaven, he should be allowed to go there. He is quite content to live with that assumption without further investigation of any kind. His mind is made up that that makes sense to him, so that must be the way it is. There is no need to do anything other than continue living the way he always has and that will be good enough... if there really is a God and a heaven. This man is quite content within the confines of his ignorance, oblivious to the fact that he is gambling with his eternal soul while holding a losing hand. By all indications, he genuinely believes that reality conforms to whatever makes sense to him.

This line of "thought" is another form of complete denial of God's word that will only lead him and countless others to everlasting hell. In fact, anyone subscribing to this line of thought should try the following experiment: Drive to the most affluent neighborhood in your city and pick out a house you'd like to live in. Knock on the door and tell the person who answers that you are there to move in. Tell them that you believe you are a good enough person that you should be able to live in that house and that you will be moving in, despite the

fact that you do not know one another and have no relationship with one another. Do you honestly expect that they will agree and allow you to move into their home, based solely on your belief that you should be allowed to do so? If not, then why would you expect God to allow you to move into His home when there is no relationship between the two of you? (Note: The preceding analogy is not original to me. I came across it in my studies and it stuck with me. I can not recall the source, however, if anyone reading this knows who first came up with this analogy, please let me know and I will happily give them credit.)

Moving on, we have all heard the increasingly popular, yet fully false assertion that God loves us all so much that everyone will eventually be accepted into Heaven. This is the satanic lie of Universalism. One person's path may be different than another's, but, eventually, everyone's chosen path leads to heaven. There are variations of this imaginary journey but none are found in the Bible. This is just a culmination of wishful thinking on the part of man, mixed with satanic deception that allows man to live as he chooses while still feeling spiritual as though he, in and of himself, possesses some measure of godliness. This view, as well as the other views discussed here, could not possibly be more wrong. They are wrong, not because I say so, but because **GOD says so**. None of these views align with the clear teachings of God's holy word. This idea of "*everyone will eventually be accepted into Heaven*" is just another satanic deception that man has chosen to cling to because it suits his preferences. It is simply another path straight into the pit of hell.

While we're at it, lets address those who say things like, "*A god who tries to scare me into worshipping him is not a god I want to worship.*" Such a statement highlights that person's total lack of understanding as to what is actually happening. God is not trying to scare you into worshipping Him. He is trying to warn you of a very real danger that

How To Receive Salvation

The most important question you will ever seek to answer in your lifetime is, "*How can I receive salvation?*" The answer to this question has very real, everlasting consequences.

Romans 10:9-10

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.

10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Don't wait until you "get your act together" before seeking Jesus. You have no idea when your time in this world will end. If you leave this world unsaved, separated from Jesus, there will be no hope for you. If you put off seeking Jesus until it all "makes sense" to you, you will never be saved. You will have condemned yourself. Seek Him now and let Him give you understanding. You are not guaranteed another chance. Don't gamble with your eternal soul. It does not matter what you have done, if you are still breathing, you can still be saved. Call on Jesus right now.

The messaging of this world says, "*Follow your heart. Your happiness is all that matters.*" That is exactly opposite of what the Bible teaches.

Jesus' warning in these two passages leave no doubt that there is a coming judgment in which everyone will be judged. People who have rejected Jesus will be condemned "*into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels*" and "*shall go away into everlasting punishment*". Those who have truly repented and believed in Jesus as their Savior will go "*into life eternal*." Jesus is not ambiguous in his warnings. People are literally going to hell. Annihilation is not even an option. Universalism is equally nonsensical and non-existent. Jesus is very straight-forward in His warnings, yet people still go to extreme theological lengths to deny that He said exactly what He meant, and meant exactly what He said.

Knowing that He had only a short time in this world, why would Jesus choose to spend so much of that time warning people about the dangers, the certainty and the eternity of hell if it did not actually exist? Jesus very clearly believed in a literal hell. He clearly believed hell is a real place and that the majority of people will go there. Jesus believed it so much that He willingly gave His own life to pay the sin debt that each and every one of us owe. He provided the way for every one of us to be reconciled to our Creator and saved from this horrible fate that He spent so much of His time warning about. We each have a responsibility to repent of our sins in order to receive the salvation that Jesus purchased and offers to us. We also have the free will to reject it. Each and every person on this earth makes this decision for himself or for herself. After you take your last breath in this world, if you find yourself in hell, you will remember that the choice was yours and you chose hell. God did not send you to hell. He simply gave you what you chose - an existence separate and apart from Him.

you cannot see. Once you have even the slightest recognition of that danger, you will want to worship Him. If a stranger on the street warns you that there is an out of control bus heading directly toward you, are you going to refuse to alter your course or even look because that guy probably just wants you to thank him for something? Only if you're an idiot. In all likelihood, you will heed his warning and then you will want to thank him for saving you from disaster. The same basic principle applies with regard to God. You are living in a world you do not fully understand. You cannot see everything that is happening around you. There is far more going on in God's creation than our five senses can detect and our human minds can comprehend. God is warning you of horrific danger ahead. He has made the way possible for you to be spared from that danger. God has done His part. How you respond is up to you. You own the consequences of your decision.

Jesus made it clear that there are varying degrees of punishment in hell. His words reveal not a one-size-fits-all punishment, but rather an eternal punishment that is individually designed for those who enter.

Jesus warned of a coming judgment for all of mankind.

John 5:28-29

- 28) Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,
- 29) And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Matthew 25:31-33, 41, 46

- 31) When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
- 32) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
- 33) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

- 41) Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

- 46) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matthew 23:14-15

14) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widow's houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the **greater damnation**.

15) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. (emphasis added)

Mark 12:38-40

38) And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

39) And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts:

40) Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive **greater damnation**. (emphasis added)

Luke 10:12-15

12) But I say unto you, that it shall be **more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city**.

13) Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

14) But it shall be **more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you**.

15) And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell. (emphasis added)

The Reality of Jesus and Reliability of the Bible

Jesus came to earth to give Himself as the ransom for all who would believe in Him. He was horribly tortured and literally nailed to a cross. Jesus died a humiliating, excruciating death and rose from the dead three days later. Jesus endured separation from God in order to pay our sin debt in full. He did not do all of this to save us from a "symbolic hell" or from mere annihilation. He did not do this as just another means of salvation. The very insinuation of such an idea displays astounding ignorance of the clear teachings of the Scriptures. Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself in order to save us from an eternal fate so real, so horrific that the human mind cannot begin to comprehend it. People scoff at His word, laugh at Him and mock Him today, just as they did while He hung on that cross 2,000 years ago. Yet, He is still patiently holding back His final judgment in order that the last person who can be saved, will be saved. Time, however, is quickly running out.

Before getting further into this matter, it is important to keep in mind that when Christians speak of Jesus, we are not speaking of some mythical person pulled from our collective imaginations and placed on a divine pedestal. No. Jesus was a real person, just as you and I are real. Historical evidence has provided abundant proof of the actual, physical existence of Jesus. As a matter of fact, as much historical evidence exists to confirm His existence as that which exists to confirm the reality of non-Christian historical figures whose existence, interestingly enough, is never questioned. The writings of first and second century authors, including non-Christian authors,

contain confirmation as to the actual, physical existence of Jesus of Nazareth. Considering all of the upset caused by the dawn of Christianity, if Jesus had not been an actual person, surely those who opposed this new belief system would have seized the opportunity in their writings to attack Jesus, the very foundation of Christianity, as nothing more than a mythical musing rather than an actual person. Why don't the writings of first and second century non-Christian authors deny His actual, physical existence? Because **Jesus existed**. By all indications, denial of the actual existence of Jesus is merely a tactic of modern day anti-Christian sentiment based on nothing more than a desire that it be so.

The actual, physical existence of Jesus is further evidenced by the fact that **time as we know it was divided and recorded based on His birth**. Think about that for a moment. Jesus was not a person of high social ranking with regard to worldly standards, yet His very existence in this world was so impactful, so significant that time immemorial is divided in accordance with His birth. Time is recorded as "B.C." (before Christ), and, "A.D." for time after His birth, (latin phrase "anno Domini", meaning, "In the year of our Lord"). Jesus did not own land. He likely did not own anything beyond the clothes He wore. Jesus did not sit on the throne of any earthly kingdom. He was looked down upon and openly scorned by those whom society elevated and venerated. Jesus was hated, rejected, spat upon, beaten, tortured and crucified. Yet the Gregorian calendar, which records time based on the birth of this man, Jesus, is still the primary civil calendar used by all but a small handful of the recognized countries in existence today. This fact alone should make one pause and consider that there was something so profound, so absolutely consequential about this man called Jesus, that **His birth divided time as we know it**. Of course, in more recent years, the secular world has begun substituting "B.C.E." and "C.E." in an effort to diminish the impact of Jesus on time and history. Try as they might, they cannot erase Jesus or the significance of His existence on this earth.

to dispatch Lazarus to do as he requested. The rich man still had the same haughty character that he had developed during his life on earth.

- A person's fate is sealed upon his or her death in this world. (verses 22-23, 25-26)
- The realm after this present world is divided into two places: a place of comfort and a place of torment. No one can pass from one side to the other. (verse 26)
- People in hell can hear. The rich man had no trouble hearing and comprehending what Abraham said to him. (verse 27)
- People in hell remember their lives in this world and they remember their family. He knew that they would "*also come into this place of torment*" unless they repented. He wanted to warn them but was unable. (verses 27 & 28)
- If a person will not believe the written word of God (referred to here by Jesus as "*Moses and the prophets*"), then that person will not be persuaded by a miracle, even a person rising from the dead. (verses 29-31)
- People in hell know they deserve to be there. Nowhere in this passage does the rich man dispute that he is where he deserves to be. Nowhere does he mount a defense for himself. Never once does he claim to be unjustly sentenced to this place of torment. He knows that he is exactly where he deserves to be.

Not everyone in hell will receive the same punishment.

being said, let's take a look at some of the things Jesus revealed in the passage above.

- First and foremost, note that neither Lazarus nor the rich man ceased to exist upon their physical death in this world. Lazarus was "*carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom,*" a place of comfort and blessedness beyond the grave. The rich man "*died and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments*". Both men experienced physical death in this world, but rather than ceasing to exist, each went to another realm of fully conscious existence: Lazarus to a place of comfort and the rich man to a place of torment. Though their physical bodies in this world had stopped functioning and died, their souls, that unseen part of each man that encompassed his true being, the life that had animated his earthly body, lived on in a fully conscious state.
- People in hell can see. (verse 23)
- People in hell can cry and speak. (verse 24)
- People in hell can recognize other people they knew in this world and remember them by name. (verse 24)
- People in hell feel heat, pain and are tormented. (verse 24)
- People in hell desire mercy but do not receive it. (verses 24 & 25)
- Hell is a place of fire and torment. (verses 24 & 28)
- People in hell still have the same character they nourished and developed while in this world. Notice in verses 24 and 27 that the rich man still viewed Lazarus as someone beneath him, someone to be sent to do as the rich man desired. The rich man never addressed Lazarus directly or apologized for not helping him during his life on earth. He very clearly still viewed Lazarus as a person of lower status than himself and asked "*father Abraham*"

Furthermore, Jesus' disciples, men who knew Him personally having spent day and night with Him for roughly 3 years, met their end with an unbreakable conviction that Jesus truly was the Son of God. They believed so strongly in who Jesus was and in what Jesus taught that all but one willingly died violent, bloody deaths rather than deny Jesus their Savior. John was the only one believed to have died of old age and that was only after he survived being boiled in oil for his allegiance to Jesus. People do not go willingly to such horrific deaths as these men did for something or someone they do not fully believe in. While John is the only disciple specifically noted as having been physically present at Jesus' crucifixion, "*a great company of people*" witnessed His death (Luke 23:27). Jesus physically rose from the dead after 3 days in the grave. He went to the remaining 11 disciples so that they could see Him for themselves, they could touch His body, witness Him eat food and know without a doubt that their Savior had risen from the dead (Luke 24:39, 41-43). Jesus' disciples experienced evidence so strong, so absolutely irrefutable that He was the promised Messiah, that bloody, torturous deaths were preferable to renouncing their belief in the Savior Jesus Christ.

Modern society tries to downplay the significance and authority of the Holy Bible. Some will claim that it is full of errors and contradictions, yet these claims quickly evaporate upon closer inspection. Some try to claim that science has disproven the Bible. Again, such claims quickly evaporate upon closer inspection. Others flippantly dismiss the Bible, saying it is just a book, like any other book, written by men. There is clearly zero actual thought put into that assertion. Simply put, mere men would **not** write the Bible because the Bible condemns mankind and restricts man to submission under a higher authority. These are two things that basic human arrogance simply will not accept. Had any such book been written by men alone, it would have faded into obscurity long ago. The fact is, the Holy Bible has divine authorship, God Himself, and therefore, it has withstood the test of time. God did what no mere man could accomplish with regard to writing His message to us. He used about 40 different men,

most of whom never met one another, to write the 66 books of the Bible. These books were written over a span of roughly 1,500 to 2,000 years, in 3 different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek), on three different continents (Asia, Africa and Europe), with a unity of message that can neither be explained nor produced by human means alone. All of this was done without benefit of the modern technology that we take for granted today.

The *King James Version* is without question the most accurate English translation we have of the written word of God. For centuries it has withstood the test of time. Be very wary of newer translations boasting of easier reading in more modernized wording. Demonic influence and human nature being what they are, newer alleged translations are far too often written with a bias toward a preferred theology and with zero accountability. One letter alone is able to change the entire meaning of a verse. A glaringly clear example of this is found in John 1:1 of the *New World Translation*, written by and for Jehovah's Witnesses. Of course, that is just one example of many blatantly deliberate errors found within the pages of the NWT. I highlight that one in particular because it is one of the Jehovah's Witnesses most referred to verses to support their errant belief that Jesus Christ is not God. Furthermore, you would be wise to view with heightened skepticism any version or new translation that uses a gender neutral approach under the guise of being "more accurate." Today's society has become so ridiculously hyper-focused on gender language that one should consider whether such changes are actually necessary for accurate understanding, or rather an attempt to capitulate to the demands of the more hostile factions of the population. If the latter is true, those succumbing to the pressure to make changes to God's written word are treading on dangerous territory. The risk of being found in violation of Revelation 22:18-19 looms greatly on that horizon. The temporary rewards received from a rebellious society are nothing in comparison to the consequences that are earned through such a trespass.

- 24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.
- 25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.
- 26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.
- 27) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:
- 28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.
- 29) Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
- 30) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
- 31) And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Some people say that Luke 16:19-31 is a parable like Jesus' other parables. Others say that Jesus is recounting an actual event. That particular discussion is beyond the scope of this writing. Suffice it to say, Jesus found this story and the information therein important enough to publicly tell it to the covetous Pharisees who had just ridiculed him for his teaching on the unjust steward. In looking closely at this passage, keep in mind that Jesus had a reason for every word He spoke. Nothing Jesus said was merely chit chat or for entertainment purposes. The words Jesus spoke during His ministry here on earth were words of eternal importance, words of deep meaning, words of correction, and words of warning. Only a fool will ignore the words, teachings and warnings of God incarnate. That

Matthew 23:33

Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Jesus said that hell is a place of damnation. In Matthew 23, in His scathing address to the scribes and Pharisees, people whom society held in high regard, Jesus openly and publicly warned of real consequences for their hypocritical conduct. He did not say everything He said to them only to warn them of fictional consequences in some make-believe, mythical place. No. He was calling out **real people** for their **real behavior** that was sending them and others to **real damnation** in a **real hell**. Jesus clearly warned of an actual place called hell.

Look at the warning Jesus gave to the Pharisees in the book of Luke:

Luke 16:19-31

19) There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20) And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

The *King James Version* has undergone a rigorous purification process with the final revisions, which consisted primarily of spelling updates and correcting printing errors, completed in 1769. Atheists and heretics alike have since hammered away at it in hopes of destroying its authority as the infallible word of God. They have all failed in every attempt. The *King James Version* has proven time and again that it is the most accurate English translation of the written word of God. Gaining an accurate understanding of God's message to us is well worth any and all additional effort necessary on the part of the reader. It is best to stick with the tried and true *King James Version* if seeking the truth is your goal.

Before you dismiss the inerrancy and the divine authorship of the *Holy Bible*, accept this challenge: try to discredit and disprove it. I don't mean do a quick Google search to find a website supporting your presuppositions or letting Snopes do your research for you. I mean actually take the time to study the Bible and try to disprove it. You cannot do it. The *Holy Bible* is the written word of God.

If you insist on having every question you have about God answered to your complete satisfaction before you will allow your heart to believe, you can forget it. You will remain unsaved and spend eternity separated from your Creator. Your human mind can not comprehend all that God is. He has provided us with enough clear evidence that He is who He says He is, so that we can put our faith in Him for the things we can not understand on this side of eternity. It is interesting that people require far more evidence of God, while completely ignoring the obvious evidence He has provided, than evidence required of anything else in this world. When you fly in an airplane, do you have to know every detail about that aircraft, exactly how it works, why it works that way instead of this way, who built it, who inspected it, and so on before you get on board? No, you don't. You just get on and put your life in the hands of imperfect people to keep

you safe. You don't know them. You can't see most of them. You have no relationship with any of them. They are just as prone to making mistakes as the next guy. Yet you literally trust them with your life without giving it much thought at all.

That same blind faith is required every time you get in your car to drive somewhere. You trust that it will not suddenly malfunction, causing you to crash at 70 mph. You trust everyone else on the road to follow the rules and not crash into you. If you didn't, you'd never go anywhere in a car. Every time you put a bite of food or a medication in your mouth, you trust that total strangers did everything correctly so as not to cause you harm. Every time you go to a doctor, you literally trust him with your life. You don't know if he earned that degree or cheated his way through. You just trust him.

Why is it so easy to trust total strangers, people who are guaranteed to make mistakes, with your life, yet so difficult to trust your Creator with your eternity? Think about that.

Matthew 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 12:4-5

4) And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

5) But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Jesus' words in these passages make it clear that there is a part of you that lives on after the physical body is dead. That part of you that lives on is your soul, as mentioned in Matthew 10:28, and that part of you can be cast into hell. That this part of you can be cast into hell is cause to "*Fear him*" gives the clear implication that this is a horrible fate, not merely a ceasing to exist, as those who teach annihilation claim. Once the body is dead, if the soul ceased to exist, there would be no reason to fear anything or anyone since there would be no consequences to experience beyond the physical death of the body. Jesus Himself made it very clear that this is not the case. Jesus warned in these two passages that the unseen part of you, your soul, lives on after the physical body is dead and that unseen part of you can be cast into hell, "*where their worm dieth not*" and "*the fire is not quenched*." Jesus did not utter idle words. Why would He give such a strong warning if there wasn't a real danger to be aware of and avoided?

What Did Jesus Say About Hell?

43) And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

44) Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

45) And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

46) Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

47) And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

48) Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

In this passage, Jesus described hell:

- twice as "*the fire that never shall be quenched*";
- three times as a place "*where their worm dieth not*";
- three times as a place where "*the fire is not quenched*".

In the passage above, Jesus described hell as a place of unending horror. He describes a place of torment with undying maggots and perpetual fire. The repetition of these phrases in this short passage, spoken by Jesus Himself, should drive home the reality and unending horror of this place called hell. Jesus is not advocating for self-mutilation in this passage and He is not merely entertaining His disciples with colorful fairy tales. Jesus is expressing the importance of putting a stop to thoughts and behaviors that lead to immorality and to sin. He is issuing a very serious warning to His disciples while stressing the horrific consequences of failing to heed this warning. Jesus is warning of an actual place of torment.

As we move forward, it is wise to bear in mind that Jesus did not seek merely to entertain anyone or simply fill an awkward silence with idle words. Furthermore, Jesus actually warned that, "*every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment*" (Matthew 12:36). Each and every word Jesus spoke was deliberate and far more full of meaning and importance than can possibly be expressed here. Jesus spoke with a purpose and for a purpose at all times. No idle words ever left His lips. Keep that in mind as we explore what Jesus said about hell.

In the very first sermon Jesus preached, as recorded in the Bible, He addressed the reality of hell and warned that most people will go there.

Matthew 7:13-14

13) Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Notice the count provided in this passage: **many** vs. **few**. According to Jesus, the majority of people will choose the less restrictive wide gate and broad way. They will live as they choose, focused on enjoying their own worldly desires, rather than submit themselves to

the clear will and plan of their Creator. Just seven verses down in that same chapter, Jesus gives this terrifying warning:

Matthew 7:21-23

21) *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

22) *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

23) *And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*** (emphasis added)

A person will never hear more horrifying words than those spoken by Jesus in verse 23. No amount of denial, arrogant rejection, excuses or rationalizations will alter the finality of the fate following that particular declaration from the mouth of the Savior Jesus. Do not be fooled by worldly deceptions. In this passage, Jesus highlights the fact that even many professing Christians will be shocked to find out that they are not allowed into the kingdom of heaven. We humans can become masters at masking our thoughts and hiding our true motives. We may easily fool others around us but we have absolutely no chance of fooling the One who created us, the One who sees what is in our hearts.

God made it clear to the prophet Samuel when Samuel was on his mission to anoint the next king of Israel (David), that we do not look at people as He does.

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: **for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.** (emphasis added)

Jesus declares this same truth in his letter to Thyatira, the church that tolerated sin rather than disciplining it.

Revelation 2:23

*And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that **I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts:** and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.* (emphasis added)

Jesus is the One who created us. Jesus is the One who came down to earth as a man and sacrificed His life to save us from damnation. Jesus is the One who will judge everyone who rejects Him and the salvation only He can provide. Keeping all of this in mind, let's look at what Jesus said about hell - the very place He gave His life to save us from.

Mark 9:42-48

42) *And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.*