

Who Believes In Hell Anymore?

TEXT: Various

THESIS: There is a Hell because God says so and we had better be prepared when this life is over to enter into Heaven and not into eternal torment.

INTRODUCTION:

1. When asked the question, "Is there a heaven?"
 - a. 59% of the world says, yes.
 - b. But when asked the question, "Is there a hell"
 - i. 69% of the world says, no.
 - c. In fact in America, 85% believes in heaven, but only 58% believes in hell.
2. Our culture has sustained a steady assault from humanistic philosophy for several decades.
 - a. Irreligious values has clearly taken its toll.
 - b. Our children have been fed a steady diet of atheistic evolution which holds that we as human beings, owe our ultimate origin to rocks and dirt and the chance forces of nature.
 - c. The television has become the moral framework that promotes unacceptable behaviors which are on the rise in our society and the people of the world have taken these liberalism and exploited them to the point where there are more and more divorces and remarriages, homosexuality and premarital sex.
3. Our language has becomes flooded with cursing and foul language including using God's name in vain.
 - a. People are more dishonest, lying, cheating and deceiving one another.
 - b. Pornography, so called adult bookstores, entertainment houses, rises in Satanism occult continues to flourish.
 - c. Beliefs in Hinduism, Buddhism and reincarnation are on the rise.
 - d. Our court systems are jammed packed because of increasing crimes.
 - e. America is no longer a country dominated by church-going people.
 - i. Where once America characterized by people who strongly sought freedom for religion.
 - ii. America is more nearly seen today as a culture that strives for freedom from religion.
 - iii. Indeed, forces have been working to eradicate God and the Christian religion.
4. However, the fact is we have many things to be thankful for despite the fact that things are not always as bad as they seem.
 - a. There is much evidence for us to draw the conclusion, that our society has become increasingly hedonistic (devoted to pleasure), anti-Christian and out of harmony with Bible teaching.
 - b. In many areas of the country, the Bible is no longer considered the verbally inspired word of God.

- i. In fact some have said in regards to hell, that Christ taught a doctrine of cruelty and it is his doctrine, that put cruelty into the world.
 - ii. Some misguided brethren have said, “Is hell a dungeon dug by almighty hands before man was born, into which the wicked are to be plunged? . . . For our self, we rejoice to say it, we never believed and upon the evidence so far offered, never can believe it.”
 - c. The moral, spiritual and religious foundation of our society is deteriorating.
- 5. But, there is an antidote and there is only one antidote.
 - a. We as a nation of people, are in desperate need of returning to the Bible, the written instructions of God who is in heaven.
 - b. We need to go back to conforming ourselves to those written instructions.
- 6. With this said, let us notice
 - a. God’s teaching on hell.
 - b. How to escape hell and gain heaven
 - c. How to remain saved

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD’S TEACHING ON HELL

- A. Only from the Words of God are we capable of sustaining ourselves and get us through this life in such a way that we will be prepared for the life to come.
- B. God’s word can change your life by generating faith, obedience and contentment.
 - 1. The Word of God teaches that sin is a violation of God’s law for, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” (1 Jn. 3:4).
 - 2. Thus, we cannot sin against God and still expect to go on and be acceptable to God.
 - 3. Sins must be forgiven.
 - 4. But it can only be forgiven under certain conditions which God has set forth in the Bible.
- C. If we sin against God, if we violate this written revelation and we are unforgiven of that sin, when we leave this life, that will result in ultimate punishment.
 - 1. Those are the facts of the matter.
 - 2. The Bible clearly teaches that those who leave this life with their sins unforgiven will spend eternity in Hell.
 - a. You cannot believe in Heaven and not believe in Hell.
 - b. The Bible teaches that there is a Heaven just like it teaches that there is a hell.
 - c. “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. 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.” (Lk. 12:4-5).
 - d. Jesus Christ believed there was a hell and warned us about

violating God's will.

- D. Notice his words in Jn. 5:28-29, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 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."
1. "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:" (Matt. 25:31)
 2. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matt. 25:36)
 3. Now, you cannot believe in eternal life and believe that there will not be eternal punishment.
 4. Just as this life is over, there will be forever, eternal, so separation from God, due to one's failure to obey God in this life, which results are eternal punishment.
- E. Matt. 18:9, "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."
1. Jesus is not teaching here the idea of mutilating the body.
 2. He is simply stressing the fact that whatever it takes for us to be obedient to God in this life, to be conformed to his will, to resist the forces of temptation that try to lure us into their grasp, it is worth making the sacrifice so that we might enter into eternity prepared to live with God forever rather than to spend eternity in Hellfire.
- F. Matt. 23:33, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"
1. This is a rhetorical question.
 2. Jesus way saying that they were so wicked, they were so evil, they were so out of step with God's will in this life, that Jesus saw no way for them to leave this life without facing damnation in hell.
- G. Notice if you will, Matt. 13 and the story of the Sower.
1. In vs. 1-23 we read of:
 - a. The wicked one or enemy who takes away that which is in the heart of the believer so they will fall away (vs. 19).
 - b. There are some who have received the Word, but they soon develop no roots to it, so they become easily offended and no longer are faithful (vs. 21).
 - c. There are others who have obeyed the Word, but because of the thorns of life and pleasure always tempting them, they fall from God (vs. 23).
 - d. Then there are some who obey the Word, understand it, and bear fruit to it which is what God desires.
 2. In vs. 24-30, Jesus talks about:
 - a. Sowing the seed in the field.

- b. And, how the enemy sowed tares among the wheat.
 - c. Then at harvest, the reapers bundle the tares and burn them while gathering the wheat and putting that wheat into the protected home of the Sower.
 - 3. Then, from vs. 37-43 we find what all these things are:
 - a. He who sows the seed is the Son of Man.
 - b. The field is the world.
 - c. The good seed are the faithful children of God.
 - d. The tares are the wicked including the forgetful, shallow, fallen Christians.
 - e. The enemy is the Devil.
 - f. The harvest is the end of the world.
 - g. The tares are taken and cast into the furnace of fire where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth.
 - h. The righteous shall go forth as the sun into the Kingdom of the Father.
 - 4. Now, how can a person possibly listen to those words spoken by Jesus Christ nearly 2,000 years ago and still say there is no such thing as hell?
- H. Paul wrote about this matter in Rom. 1:32 and talks about what one deserves when one lives out of harmony with God's will: "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."
 - 1. "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;" (Rom. 2:8-9)
 - 2. This means that all mankind is involved.
- I. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:15)
 - 1. Yes there is a hell.
 - a. There will be eternal punishment for those who leave this life having sinned against God, violated his will and yet left this life unforgiven of those sins.
 - b. It is important for us to know how we can be forgiven because when one forgives another, when they have not asked to be forgiven is not forgiving them of anything.

II. HOW TO ESCAPE HELL AND GAIN HEAVEN

- A. How might we be forgiven?
 - 1. The answer is simply: only through Christ.
 - 2. He is the Savior of all those who will be saved.
- B. Quickly summarizing the New Testament teaching on how to be saved initially, how to become a Christian.

1. “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.” (Jn. 8:24)
 - a. You have got to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
 - b. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (Jn. 14:6)
 - c. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Heb. 11:6)
 - d. And, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mk. 16:16)
 - (1) The number one thing you have got to do to be acceptable to God and to escape Hell in eternity is to believe in Jesus Christ and to have faith in the word of God which comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17).
 2. Notice, the 13th chapter of Luke:
 - a. Twice Jesus tells us to either repent or perish (vs. 3, 5)
 - b. Notice these 4 verses in the chapter:
 - (1) Vs. 24: “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”
 - (2) Vs. 25: “When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:”
 - (3) Vs. 27: “But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.”
 - (4) Vs. 28: “There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.”
 - c. The Biblical doctrine of repentance means that having come to a belief in Christ and his word, you change your mind about the way you have been living, your previous doctrinal beliefs, your previous religious thinking, as well as the various actions and behaviors that you have engaged in.
 - d. You put those behind you and change your mind, setting your mind on the Word of God and compliance with that word.
 3. “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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Rom. 10:9-10)
- C. So we believe in Jesus Christ and his word, we turn from our sins, change our minds about them, confess the name of Christ with our mouth, confess his

Lordship, his Deity.

1. Then finally the New Testament teaches we must be immersed in water in order to be forgiven of sins.
 - a. “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (Jn. 3:5)
 - b. What does it mean to be born of water and the spirit?
 - (1) It means to be immersed in water according to the instructions given by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.
 - (2) Many other passages makes this clear.
 - (a) “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Gal. 3:27)
 - (b) “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:” (1 Pet. 3:21)
 - c. So water immersion is when we are saved by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts. 22:16)
2. So in order to become a Christian, we must do all of those matters.
 - a. Once we become a Christian, however, we are not given a guarantee that we will be automatically be accepted into heaven.
 - b. It depends upon whether or not we continue to live faithfully.

III. HOW TO REMAIN SAVED

- A. In order to remain saved, we must continue to be forgiven of sin as a Christian.
 1. We must study God’s Word so we can know how to live the Christian life and then comply with that by living faithfully.
 2. When we do sin as Christians, we must repent of that sin, confess it and pray to God for forgiveness.
 - a. “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.” (Acts 8:22)
 - b. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 Jn. 1:9)
 - c. “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” (Jam. 5:20)
- B. We cannot leave this life unforgiven and unprepared!
 1. “Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the

world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.” (1 Cor. 5:10-11)

2. Notice these two scriptures.
 - a. “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb. 10:31)
 - b. “For our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb. 12:29)
 3. Now, if you believe God to be all love, you are right in your belief.
 - a. But, do not think for one second that the God of all love will not display is full wrath and vengeance upon the disobedient.
 - b. And there is not a single person in this world that can hide from it!
- C. If these passages do not convince us to live faithfully in this life and to be prepared for eternity, perhaps this one will:
1. “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In **flaming fire taking vengeance** on them that **know not God**, and that **obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished** with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;” (2 Thess. 1:7-9.).

CONCLUSION:

1. Is there a hell?
 - a. Absolutely.
 - b. The Bible teaches it as clearly as it teaches there is a heaven as clearly as it teaches there is a God and there is a Christ.
 - c. Hell may be summarized as everlasting fire, everlasting punishment, everlasting destruction, outer darkness, damnation, hellfire, and a lake of fire.
2. If you believe the Bible, if you believe in Jesus Christ, if you believe in God, you must believe there is a hell.
 - a. And while perhaps hell is not the best motivation for loving God and living faithfully to him, it certainly is a valid justification, a valid scriptural motive for causing a person to consider how he or she is living their life, and if they are truly prepared to leave this world and stand before God.