

Hell – Why Is There One?

According to the Bible there is a heaven and a hell.

Today we will discuss why Hell exists.

First of all, all of us had no right to expect anything except eternal banishment from God's presence, and yet, through union with Christ, we are now accepted by God.

And the true definition of hell is the absence of the presence of the Lord.

I promise you that we will end this message with good news, and that there is a simple solution to avoiding this very real place.

Here's a story that gives us a good analogy:

Does Evil Exist?

Did God create everything that exists? Does evil exist? Did God create evil?

A University professor at a well known institution of higher learning challenged his students with this question. "Did God create everything that exists?" A student bravely replied, "Yes he did!"

"God created everything?" The professor asked.

"Yes sir, he certainly did," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything; then God created evil.

And, since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are, then we can assume God is evil."

The student became quiet and did not answer the professor's hypothetical definition. The professor, quite pleased with himself, boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "May I ask you a question, professor?"

"Of course", replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?"

"What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?" The other students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 F) is the total absence

of heat; and all matter becomes inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."

The student continued, "Professor, does darkness exist?"

The professor responded, "Of course it does."

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact, we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?"

Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course, as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily examples of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of

what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat, or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.

The young man's name - Albert Einstein

The place called Hell actually exists at the request of God's creatures.

Hell, or what the Bible calls the Lake of Fire, is a real place where suffering is described.

It is a place of *weeping and gnashing of teeth*.

It is a place where *the worm, or the conscience, never dies*.

It is a place of *fire and brimstone*.

It is called a place of *outer darkness*.

These are all ways that Jesus Christ personally described the Lake of Fire **in the 4 Gospels**.

It is a real place that fallen angels are destined for, and it has been expanded for members of the human race that also reject Christ.

In any Bible, Catholic or Protestant, Jesus talks about this place where creatures will suffer, as they will "*die in their sins*" do to unbelief. **Joh 8:24**

They have chosen to reject God. They have told God they don't want to be with Him for all eternity.

And God, in His fairness and justice, will honor their wishes.

God will not force anyone to believe in His Son.

He gives them every opportunity to be saved from their sins, for an entire lifetime on earth, but if someone wants to say "NO", God will honor their request to be without Him.

Human history began in a courtroom of sorts, the Garden of Eden, with the first two people being interrogated by Satan (called the serpent in **Gen 3**).

Human history ends in the last book of the Bible with mankind standing in another courtroom, the Supreme Court of Heaven, before the Great White Throne Judgment.

Here they are pleading their case before God.

Only unbelievers will be at this Great White Throne Judgment. **Rev 20:11-15**

They, in effect, have said during their lifetimes that they did not need God, and so God will honor their free will by letting them live forever without Him.

This is a horrible thought, as anything good comes from God! **Jam 1:16-18**

The letters to the Thessalonians describes this exact result; the destiny of all people who choose not to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to save them.

2 Thess 1:1-10

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; 4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

5 This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. 6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to

you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed.

2 Thess 2:8-10

*Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.***

To be saved, one must receive the love of the Truth!
(receive means "take hold of" in **Joh 1:12**)

One must repent towards God and trust in Christ to be saved! That's obeying the gospel!
(see **Mk 1:15, Act 20:21, Joh 3:36**)

John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Now consider this; if the Lake of Fire is a place without God, and if all good things come from God (which they do), then the Lake of Fire will be absent of anything that is good!

James 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

The Lake of Fire will especially be absent of anything that is God Himself!

Here are 7 examples of the absence of God, and therefore His goodness, in Hell...

1. The Bible says that God IS light. (1Jo 1:5)

When you see the wonderful light from the sun, you are seeing God's glory.

And since God is light, and since He won't be in Hell, there will be **no light** where the unbelievers will live forever.

2. The Bible also says that God IS love! It does not say that God HAS Love, it says God IS love. (1Jo 4:8,16)

So, everything that is love in this world; friendship love, parent/child love, romantic love, sexual intimacy in

marriage, they all would be non-existent without the presence of the Lord.

So, since God is love, and He won't be in Hell, there will be **no love** where unbelievers live forever.

That's hell. It will be a sad place, with no love at all, because love only comes from God.

3. Since God is holy, and He will not be in Hell, there will be no holiness there.

4. Since God is the source of grace and mercy, and God will not be in Hell, there will be no grace and mercy.

Unbelievers have rejected Him, having chosen **not** to receive the grace gift of salvation while on earth, and so there will be no more mercy offered to them after this life is over.

5. Since God is perfect happiness, and God won't be there, there can be no happiness in hell.

This is why Hell will be Hell. These people have chosen to reject Him and therefore reject His attributes and His goodness.

The fruit of His Spirit, which every man desires, will no longer be available to man in Hell. (**Gal 5:22-23**)

6. God also offers man peace, eternal peace, through being reconciled through His Son Jesus Christ.

And so there will be no peace in Hell, but instead, it is a place that the conscience never dies! (**Mk 9:48**)

Unbelievers will be in Hell constantly remembering this very message, this warning, and many other times they refused to receive the Person of Jesus Christ during their days on earth...

... unless they repent and believe in Him in this life.

7. Jesus, as the God-man (**Joh 1:1,14**), offers man *the water of life*, and if he drinks from Him, he will be granted eternal life. **Joh 4:14, Rev 22:17**

But when someone chooses NOT to drink from Him, the water of eternal life, then **he is left in a place without water**, and therefore we have a lake of fire, where there is not even a drop of water to wet the rich man's tongue. (**Lk 16:24**)

Again, whatever qualities God is or has, those qualities and benefits will not be in this place called "Hell", because the unbeliever has chosen to be without God.

And those unsaved people will realize all good things on earth WERE from God, because Hell will simply be absent of any good things.

Now is your chance to repent; to change your mind and turn around. Become a believer in Christ today!

Or you could die tonight and be face to face with the Lord at the Great White Throne Judgment in **Rev 20:11-15**, when it's too late to believe in Him.

1 Peter 4:17-18

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED,WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?

John 12:47-49

47 "If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 " He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

Again, these (unbelievers) will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, simply because they did not receive God's grace offering of eternal life through His precious Son...

2Thess 1:8-9

dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Satan's appeal trial in the courtroom of heaven probably followed this line of argument: "how can a loving God cast His creatures into hell?"

Human history provides the answer.

When Satan appealed his sentence, God convened an appeal trial which runs along with human history.

Consequently, man was created to resolve the angelic conflict and become part of that trial.

Before He created man, God anticipated man's fall and in His matchless grace designed a plan to save all mankind through faith in Jesus Christ.

This is not something an unfair, unjust, unloving God would do!

His love provided the way out of judgment, and that's why man can be saved by faith alone, in Christ alone!

Furthermore, God created fabulous assets, privileges, and opportunities for every believer so that he might enjoy fellowship with God. (**Eph 1:3**)

God's grace is freely available to every human being, but for anyone who refuses to believe in Jesus Christ, the only alternative is divine judgment.

God will honor their free will choice.

Human history displays God's magnificent character and gracious policy to Satan, to all the angels, and to mankind.

Lk 15:4-10

Both fallen and elect angels are observing how human history is turning out.

1 Peter 1:12

*It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — **things into which angels long to look.***

History also demonstrates that no one goes to the eternal Lake of Fire or hell but by his own negative volition.

John 3:16-18

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.** 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that **the world might be saved through Him.** 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Obey the gospel! I beg you!

Forget about your past, forget about your negative beliefs, choose today to accept Jesus Christ as your God and Savior.

Only He has paid for your sins and made you acceptable to God, but you have to accept Him to be saved; to accept the gift of eternal life **which He purchased for you with His own blood.**

Rom 5:8-9

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Eph 1:7-8

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us.

Rev 1:5c

To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.

You don't want to wake up in Hell, so wake up NOW!

Make the choice now!

It's between you and the Lord... you can ask God for forgiveness and place your trust in Jesus Christ.

He loves you, no matter what you've done.

He died for all your sins, and knowing it all He willingly went to the Cross for you.

2 Cor 5:20-21

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Hell is a real place, absent from all the goodness that is from God alone.

But salvation is between each person and the Lord!

2 Cor 6:1-2

*And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain — 2 for He says,
"AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU,
AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU."*

*Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is
"THE DAY OF SALVATION" —*

Acts 16:30b-31

he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

*31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,
you and your household."*