

Please Don't Go To Hell Part 1

“One day, while visiting his niece, an elderly man had a heart attack. So his niece drove wildly to get him to the emergency room. And after what seemed like a very long wait, the E.R. doctor appeared, wearing his scrubs and a long face.

And with a sad tone in his voice he said, ‘Ma’am, I’m afraid that your uncle’s brain is dead, but his heart is still beating.’

Well at this the woman clasped her hands to her face and cried out in utter shock, ‘Oh no! We’ve never had a Democrat in the family before!’”

Yes, sometimes life can be pretty shocking, can’t it folks? Life is full of surprises. But folks, did you know I’ve discovered something even more shocking than that? And can anybody guess what **shocking reality** that might be? Hey that’s right! It’s when Christians act like practical atheists.

Oh, we say we believe in God, but half the time, by our **lips** and by our **lives**, we act like He’s not there. And this not only keeps us from growing in our own walk with God, but it also keeps others from believing in God. Therefore, to avoid this irony of Christians living like practical atheists by not knowing **Who God Is**, we’re going to continue in our study from the Word of God on the Character of God entitled, “**Who Is God?**”

We’ve already seen that the very **first thing** we need to know about God is that **God Is Real**. The **second thing** we need to know is that **God Is Personal**. The **third thing** we need to know is that **God Is Wise**. The

fourth thing we need to know is that **God Is Powerful**. And in the last seven chapters we saw that the **fifth thing** we need to know about God is that **God Is Holy**. And there we've been seeing that if we want to know about the Holiness of God then some of the best ways is to simply look at the **Reaction of People**, the **Removal of People**, and the **Reminders for People** in the Tabernacle, and the last four times, the Ten Commandments. And there we saw the **ten commandments** God gave us to remind us that He is Holy and we are not, **don't worship other gods, don't worship idols, don't use God's Name in vain, keep the Sabbath, honor your parents, don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, and don't covet.**

But folks, did you know the **Reaction, Removal, and Reminders for People** are not the only ways to understand the Holiness of God? The **fourth way** to understand God's Holiness is in His **Retribution for People**. But hey, don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

Matthew 22:1-14 "Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Then he sent some more servants and said, Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.

But they paid no attention and went off – one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The

king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

Then he said to his servants, The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find. So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. Friend, he asked, how did you get in here without wedding clothes? The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Now according to our text here, we see one of the many parables by Jesus about the **Kingdom of Heaven**. And in it we see some good news and some bad news. The good news is that God has made a way through His Son for people to join Him in heaven, right? What did we read? God wants people to come to heaven and party with Him, right? **But** the bad news is what? **The response of the people**. What did the majority of them do? They shrug off God’s offer like it’s no big deal. It’s as if they say, “So what God if You’re Holy and I’m not! What’s the big deal? Besides, I don’t have time for that religion stuff.” Kind of sounds like today, doesn’t it? And people, that’s why **the retribution** or punishment for ignoring God’s gracious offer is still the same today! People, if we refuse to ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins, what did our text say? One day we’ll be tied hand and foot, thrown into

a dark place called hell full of weeping and gnashing of teeth. **Why?**

Because that's how Holy God is. **He does not** mess around with sin committed against Him and all sin is against Him.

Therefore, to make sure that none of us here have any doubts about God's retribution for people who sin against Him, we're going to take a quick look at everybody's favorite topic, **hell**. And folks, it's pretty simple.

The **first way** we see God's retribution for sin is in the **Necessity of Hell**.

Luke 16:22-24 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire."

Now according to our text here, I think it's pretty obvious that a place of eternal torment, or in other words, **hell** really does exist, right? And please keep in mind who it was that said this. It was **Jesus**, right? But herein lies our problem. Instead of listening to Jesus and taking heed of His warning about hell and getting saved, most people put forth **objections to hell** as to why **they say** it cannot be true.

For instance, the **first objection** to hell is called **Universalism**. And what universalism would have you and I believe is that everybody will **universally get saved** regardless of their actions or beliefs and thus nobody goes to hell because there's no need for one. But folks, if this were true then

why do we need to share the gospel? I mean, if everybody's going to heaven then why evangelize? But folks, the truth is, Jesus **did tell us to evangelize**, right? And furthermore, if universalism is true then wouldn't this mean that the devil himself will eventually go to heaven? Yet, the Bible says that Jesus came to **destroy** the works of the devil, not to save him. And besides, universalism denies the **clear teaching** as we've already read about **two** eternal places, heaven and hell, not just one.

Oh, but that's not all. The **second objection** to hell is that **If there is a hell, it's only temporary**. You see, some people think that those who end up in hell will **somehow someway** eventually be able to get out. They say it's just too harsh to be tormented forever. But folks, that's not what the Bible says.

Matthew 25:46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Now folks, you can't get anymore cut and dry than that. How long is eternal life? Forever, right? Therefore, in the exact same text there, how long is eternal punishment? Just as long isn't it? People, **hell is not temporary**. It's just as forever as heaven is forever.

Oh, but that's not all. The **third objection** to hell is called **Annihilationism**. And here is what people do. Since they can't deny the texts that clearly reveal that hell exists, they once again try to **soften the**

harshness of God's retribution by saying something like this. "Well, if hell does exist, then people who go there don't suffer endlessly. No! They simply cease to be or in other words they're annihilated." But folks, that's not what the Bible says.

Revelation 20:7,10 "When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Now according to our text, it's pretty obvious that the beast and the false prophet haven't been annihilated there in hell, have they? No! **They're still alive** suffering torment in hell after being there for 1,000 years! Besides folks, **annihilation would not be a punishment**. It would be a **release from punishment**. And since the Bible declares that hell is a place of punishment, annihilation can't be true.

Oh, but that's not all. The **fourth objection** to hell is this, "**Why doesn't God just reform people?**" And people, yes, this may sound logical but it totally misses the point. You see, the Bible **does teach** that God tries to reform people. It's just that the time for this reformation is called **right now**. And people, it's simple. If you don't want to experience God's forgiveness and if you don't want to experience His personal reformation right now in this life, then God will honor your decision. And that's why, in reality, people send themselves to hell!

Oh, but that's not all. The **fifth objection** to hell is this, "**Isn't eternal damnation a bit overkill?**" And I'd have to admit that this seems to make sense at least **from our point of view**. But think about it from God's point of view.

"Here stands God on the day of creation. He looks at stars and He says, 'All you stars move yourself to this place and start in this order and move in a circle and move exactly as I tell you until I give you another word.' And they all obey Him.

'Planets pick yourself up and whirl, make this formation at My command until I give you another word.' He looks at mountains and He says, 'Be lifted up' and they obey Him. He tells valleys, 'Be cast down' and they obey Him.

He looks at the sea and He says, 'You will come this far' and the sea obeys. And then He looks at you and says, 'Come' and you go, 'No!'"

And people, that's why hell cannot be just a long imprisonment. It's got to exist just as long as a Righteous God exists. **Why?** Because only eternal punishment can suffice for sins against an Eternal God. Besides folks, without eternal separation there could be no heaven. **Why?** Because evil cannot exist in heaven or it would cease to be heaven!

Oh, but that's not all. The **sixth objection** to hell is that **Hell has no redeeming value**. But people again, stop and think about it. **An awful punishment fits the nature of an awe-inspiring God**. Those who by choice refuse to give God glory in this life will be forced to give Him glory in the afterlife via torment. Besides, what have we been studying about for

the last seven times? God is Holy and all of us have committed unholy sins against Him! Therefore, hell satisfies the justice of God for sins committed against the Holiness of God. That's how great and fearful a standard His Holiness is. Besides folks, the Bible is clear. Hell's primary purpose or "value" if you will **was not for people**. It was for the devil and his demons.

Matthew 25:41 "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.'"

People, the Bible is clear, hell was originally created for the devil and his demons, not people. But since people have rebelled against God **just like the devil** then to hell you will go, like this man shares.

"Think a moment of what the devil has done. And if you could design a place to make him pay for what he's done in your life and the lives around you, what kind of place would you design?"

Well God, has designed just a place. It's called hell. And hell was originally designed by God to make the devil pay for bringing evil and rebellion into His creation. It was a place where God's anger, His rage, His wrath would go uncut, unbridled, and uncensored.

It was designed with the devil in mind, not people. But hell does not discriminate between a person and a demon. It's like a woodchipper that you throw big logs and branches into to grind them up into mulch.

And this is what hell is. It's God's divine woodchipper. Nobody cringes when they see a log ground up. But imagine if someone grabbed a log and as they through it in there, a piece of the limb grabs their pants and starts to pull them in. What would you?

Would you not grab them? Would you not pull them? Would you not scream, 'Turn it off! Turn the machine off!' Why? Because that chipper was

not designed for grinding humans, but that chipper doesn't care if it's a human or if it's a log or if it's a rock or a stone. It is designed to crush!

And so it is with hell. It doesn't care if it's a demon or a human. It was designed to crush and destroy and heap pain, suffering, and agony on rebellious angels that dared to rebel against God.

There is no escape. There is no turning back. They are doomed! And so it is with anyone who has the audacity to rebel against God, human or devil. The divine woodchipper is there to suck them in!"

People of God, even though hell was originally created for the devil and his demons, there is no discrimination! If you don't want to receive God's gracious offer of forgiveness through Jesus Christ, then to hell you will go! You'll get sucked in just like the demons!

Oh, but that's not all. The **seventh objection** to hell is that **Hell is life on earth. Besides, if there is a hell, I'll get to party with all my buddies.**

But people, anybody who makes this statement has obviously never read the Bible. They've obviously never studied what hell is like. And I personally like Dr. Mal Couch's study on hell.

"Picture a time that just continues to tumble on and on forever, never ending, never slowing down, the same years and decades of torment, regret, sorrow, pain, blanketed darkness, nights never ending, constant consciousness, lostness, aloneness, loneliness, rumblings from the pit, groans, torturing fire, choking smells, unending and unending, no letting-up, no relief, no comfort, never resting, never ceasing, never relenting, no end in sight, one hundred years rolling into another one hundred years, slowly turning over into a thousand years, painstakingly evolving into another thousand years, and finally into a million years, the same grinding pain, the continual bone-racking agony, screams upon screams, weeping upon weeping, echoing sighs upon sighs!"

Now folks, I don't know about you, but if that's your idea of a party, I'm not going. I don't care how many times you invite me. And people, the point is this. Those who end up in hell **will wish** it was only as bad as life on earth. And I guarantee you, there won't be any partying.

Oh, but that's not all. The **eighth objection** to hell is that **Only "rotten" people go to hell**. But people, this is actually one of the biggest lies from the pit of hell! You see, the Bible teaches that **all people** are currently headed for hell and that there is **no neutral position**.

John 8:42,44 "Jesus told them, If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does."

Now folks, the Bible is clear. We either belong to God or we belong to who? The devil, right? People **there is no "middle road."** We are all considered rotten because of our rotten sin! And folks, we only cease to become a child of the devil and become a child of God when we get saved. Not one second sooner, not one second later. And how ironic it is that those who think there's a "neutral" position out there, not only **still belong** to the devil, but they're **still on the way to hell**. And gee, I'd say that's a pretty good trick of the devil, how about you?

Oh, but that's not all. The **ninth objection** to hell is that **Hell is unfair. A good and loving God would never allow for such a place**. Now

folks, that sounds so wonderful but its absolutely unbiblical. You see, it's precisely **because God is good** that He **must** judge all. God must punish wickedness, otherwise He couldn't be loving or good. Would it be loving if God allowed people to get away with the murder, rape, torture, etc. that we all know never makes it to court or even gets found out. Would it be loving or good for God to allow Hitler or the 9-11 terrorists to enjoy eternal bliss in heaven without having to deal with their wicked deeds? How loving is that? And people, it's **precisely because** God is good and loving that He not only will judge all, but He's also provided a way of out of it. And remember, He didn't have to.

Therefore the point is this. Throw up any objection you want, but if you're going to be true to the Scripture you cannot deny **the necessity of a hell**. And if you deny hell, it only shows you don't understand the Holiness of God.

You see, what makes hell so horrible is not merely its necessity, but it's **nature as well**. It's the worst place you could ever dream of yet its not a dream. It's your worst nightmare! And no wonder Jesus spoke more about hell then He ever did about heaven. I mean, it only makes sense **that if God really loved us** He would warn us about such a place, right? And people, that's precisely what He did!

- **Matthew 5:22** “But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of HELL.”
- **Matthew 5:29** “If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into HELL.”
- **Mark 9:43** “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into HELL, where the fire never goes out.”
- **Mark 9:45** “And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into HELL.”
- **Matthew 10:28** “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in HELL.”
- **Matthew 23:15** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of HELL as you are.”
- **Matthew 23:33** “You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to HELL?”
- **Luke 12:5** “But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into HELL. Yes, I tell you, fear him.”

And people, here’s my point. If you’re going to believe Jesus when He talks about a heaven, then how much more should you listen to Him when He talks about a hell? And how sad it is that even though Jesus **out of love for you and I** clearly warned about the horrible **nature of a hell**, that

some people still ignore Him! But get this folks, what's even more shocking than that is that it's not only non-Christians who are refusing to believe in hell, but even so-called Christians are refusing to believe in hell! **And talk about the ultimate irony.** Those who've been saved from hell no longer believe in hell. And one of the ways they show this denial of hell is their refusal to evangelize. I mean, even an atheist knows better than that!

“An atheist said to a Christian one time, ‘If I believe what you Christians say you believe about a coming judgment, and that rejecters of Christ will be lost eternally in hell, then I would crawl on my bare knees on crushed glass all over the city, warning men, night and day, to flee from the coming day of God’s wrath!’”

People of God, how sad it is that Christians who've been entrusted with God's message of love and grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ **so as to escape hell** could actually give a rip about sharing that same message? Hell is not only one place you don't ever want to go to, but what makes it even more horrible is that once you get there, you are never ever getting out! And that's why I beg you, please, please don't go to hell!

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”
