

## Please Don't Go To Hell Part 2

Now folks, maybe it's just me, and maybe it's just that I'm getting older, but has anyone noticed how strange things are getting? I mean, just when you think you've seen or heard it all, **something even stranger comes along**. Have you noticed? And folks, I'm not just talking about the strange things in the world. I can understand that. People, I'm talking about the **strange things that go on in the American Church**. Let me show you what I mean.

1. Isn't it strange how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says?
2. Isn't it strange how we can be more worried about what other people think about us than what God thinks?
3. Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?
4. Isn't it strange how two hours seem so long when you're at a Church service and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?
5. Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read one hundred pages of a popular novel?
6. Isn't it strange how we need to be informed about a Church event two to three weeks in advance so we can see if it'll fit in our schedule yet we can adjust it at the last minute for other events?

7. Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God to share with others, but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?
8. Isn't it strange how someone can say "I believe in God" but still follow satan, who by the way, also "believes" in God?
9. Isn't it strange how someone can be so fired up for Christ on Sunday, but be an invisible Christian the rest of the week?
10. Isn't it strange how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, think, say, or do anything the Bible says?

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say that's some pretty strange behavior, how about you? But folks, believe it or not, I've discovered something **even stranger than that**. And can anyone guess what that might be? Hey, that's right! It's **when we 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 the last eight

times we saw that the **fifth thing** we need to know about God is that **God Is Holy**. And we've been seeing that if we want to know about the Holiness of God then just look at the **Reaction of People**, the **Removal of People**, the **Reminders for People** and last time, the **Retribution for People**. And there we saw how great and fearful a standard the Holiness of God is in seeing **The Nature and Necessity of Hell**.

But folks, believe it or not, did you know that's not the only thing we need to know about God if we're going to refrain from being practical atheists. The **sixth thing** we need to know about God is that **God Is Love**.

But hey, don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

**1 John 4:7-10** "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Now folks, according to our text here, the Bible is clear. God isn't just loving or lovable. He's what? **He is love itself**. And people, stop and think of what that means. That means that every single thing God has ever done or ever will do is a perfect act of love. **Why?** Because **God Is Love**. But **herein lies our problem**. We live in a society that has a warped view of what true love is. Most people, when you mention the word "love" think that it refers to doing something **sexual**. But people, God demonstrated what true

love is by doing something **sacrificial**. He sent His Son to die for our sins. Now that is love! But even here, we've become so numb to this amazing act of God's love, that we have lost any appreciation for it. Therefore, I think we better take a look at what the Bible says about **God Being Love**, how about you?

And folks, it's pretty simple. The **first way** the Bible reveals that **God Is Love** is that **God Gives Us Mercy**. People, the word "mercy" means, "to bring help to the afflicted or the wretched." Or in other words, "to show compassion by **withholding what we deserve**." And as we saw in the last chapter, what is it that we wretched creatures deserve for sinning against a Holy God? We deserve to go to hell. But **out of mercy** God sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can go to where? Not hell but heaven! **Now that's love**, is it not?

But once again, we **still** have a problem. You see, we live in a society that **no longer pleads for God's mercy**. No! They pout for justice. They think God owes them something! For instance we have people saying, "I deserve a raise, I deserve a new house, I deserve a new car, I deserve good health just like everybody else." And even McDonalds says, "You deserve a break today." But folks, if McDonald's were to be Biblical they wouldn't say "You deserve a break today," but "You deserve to go to hell today!" But

people, the point is this. Society thinks that God owes them something. They think they deserve a perfect life. And because of this, they no longer plead for God's mercy. No! They demand justice! But folks, if there's one thing you never want to do, it's to ask for the justice of God. **Why?** Because if we got what we justly deserve we'd all be killed on the spot!

Therefore, in order to appreciate the **love of God**, I think we'd better take a look at the **mercy of God**, how about you? And folks, it's pretty simple. The **first way** the Bible reveals the **Merciful Love of God** is that God gives His enemies a **Palace in Heaven instead of a Pit in Hell**.

**Romans 5:10** "For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. What were we considered in the eyes of God prior to getting saved? Was it His **buddies**? No! It was His enemies, right? And so if people refuse to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and instead remain His enemies, what do they **deserve** for that kind of behavior? People, the Bible is very clear. **The choice is theirs**. If they don't want to receive the mercy of God, then the **justice of God** declares that they just earned a **pit in hell**. And why anybody would choose that is beyond me. Who in their right mind would choose that kind of place?

1. Place of Thirst: (Luke 16)
2. Place of Worms: (Mark 9)
3. Place of No Return: (Luke 16)
4. Place of Remembrance: (Luke 16)
5. Place of the Wicked Dead: (Luke 10)
6. Place of the Wicked Demons: (2 Peter 2)
7. Place of a Bottomless Pit: (Luke 8)
8. Place of a Burning Waste Dump: (Matt. 23)
9. Place of Outer Darkness: (Matt. 8)
10. Place of Fire: (Rev. 20)
11. Place of the Lake of Fire: (Rev. 20)
12. Place of Eternal Fire: (Matt. 18)
13. Place of Unquenchable Fire: (Mark 9)
14. Place of Everlasting Punishment: (Matt. 25)
15. Place of Eternal Condemnation: (Mark 3)
16. Place of Eternal Judgment: (Heb. 6)
17. Place of Everlasting Destruction: (2 Thess. 1)
18. Place of Weeping & Gnashing of Teeth: (Matt. 13)
19. Place of Torment: (Luke 16)
20. Place of Eternal Torment: (Rev. 20)

Now folks, I don't know about you, but that doesn't seem to be a very fun place to be. I mean, who in their right mind would want to go to a place like that, **especially** when they didn't have to? **Why?** Because of the merciful love of God! People, get this. Talk about the love of God. We all deserve a **pit in hell** but through Jesus we can have a **palace in heaven**.

Let's check it out!

1. The Dwelling Place of God: (Psalm 2)
2. The Dwelling Place of Angels: (Matt. 18)
3. A Heavenly Country: (Heb. 11)
4. A Holy Place: (Isaiah 57)
5. An Eternal Paradise: (1 Cor. 12)
6. A Place with Streets of Gold: (Rev. 21)
7. A Place with Gates of Pearls: (Rev. 21)

8. A Place with Foundations of Precious Gems: (Rev. 21)
9. A Place of Eternal Rest: (Rev. 14)
10. A Place of Eternal Joy: (Rev. 7)
11. A Place Without Wickedness: (Rev. 22)
12. A Place Without Darkness: (Rev. 21)
13. A Place Without Sin: (Rev. 21)
14. A Place Without Tears: (Rev. 21)
15. A Place Without Mourning: (Rev. 21)
16. A Place Without Pain: (Rev. 21)
17. A Place Without Death: (Rev. 21)
18. A Place of Absolute Purity: (Rev. 21)
19. A Place Filled with the Glory of God: (Rev. 21)
20. An Everlasting Place: (2 Cor. 5)

Now folks, I don't know about you, but that's not a very hard choice to make here. I'd much rather have a **palace in heaven** than a **pit in hell**, how about you? And to think that it's not only free for the asking, but we don't deserve it! **Now that's what I call love!** R.A. Torrey said, "If you in any way abate the doctrine of hell, it will abate your zeal." **Why?** It's simple folks. Because when you understand that we all deserve a pit in hell yet **out of mercy** God will give us a palace in heaven, it's kind of hard to keep your mouth shut about it, you know what I mean? **Why?** Because that's what happens when you truly understand the **Merciful Love of God**.

Oh, but that's not all. The **second way** the Bible reveals the **Merciful Love of God** is that God gives His enemies a **Body of Perfection instead of Body of Pain**.

**Romans 5:6** "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. What were we considered in the eyes of God prior to getting saved? Was it the **godly ones**. No! It was the ungodly ones, right? And so if people refuse to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and instead remain ungodly, what do they **deserve** for that kind of behavior? People, the Bible is very clear. **The choice is theirs**. If they don't want to receive the mercy of God, then the **justice of God** declares that they just earned a **body of pain**. And why anybody would choose that is beyond me. Who in their right mind would choose a body like that? Dr. D.R. Baker gives a great description of the choice these people make.

“For a moment let us try to imagine what it would be like to die and go to hell. Try to imagine that for every single moment, throughout all eternity, a time with out end, every inch of your body will be in absolute pain.

It will be like having scalding, boiling water poured over your body every single second. You say to yourself, “Surely the pain will subside!”, but it never comes. Your body will have an eternity without rest or relief.

It is writhing in pain. You scream in horror as your feet and hands blister, and your hair catches fire. You gnaw at your tongue, trying desperately to relieve the torment and your throat becomes raw from all your screaming.

You go under the surface of molten lava gnashing your teeth. As you gasp for air the burning brimstone flows into your mouth. You are on fire inside and out. You try to focus your eyes in the endless, everlasting, permanent dwelling place of total torment but they burn with such pain as though they were melting in the sockets.



Through the smoke and flame, you finally focus on the worms that have begun to totally engulf your body. They are crawling all over you, and you realize in horror that they are feasting on you. You can feel them as they crawl in and out of you, but you are not consumed.

The horrid smell of blazing sulfur combined with the sickening odor of burning hair and scorching flesh linger in your nose and nausea overwhelms you. The roar of the flames and the piercing screams of the damned seem to tear at your eardrums. Oh, for just a moment of silence! But that silence never comes. You can't run away this time.

Your thoughts return to the time you were in a Bible-believing, preaching Church. You can still remember the time when the preacher was talking to you about this hopeless place of darkness and pain, but you didn't want to listen. For eternity you will scream those words again and again, over and over, but alas, they are not heard.

This isn't fantasy or imagination. No, this is reality, and your reality without Christ in hell.”

Now folks, I don't know about you. But that doesn't seem to be a very fun body to have. I mean, who in their right mind would want to have a body like that, **especially** when they didn't have to? **Why?** Because of the merciful love of God! People, get this. Talk about the love of God. We all deserve a **body of pain** but through Jesus we can have a **body of perfection**.

Let's check it out!

**1 Corinthians 15:42,44** “It is the same way for the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies, which die and decay, will be different when they are resurrected, for they will never die. They are natural human bodies now, but when they are raised, they will be spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, so also there are spiritual bodies.”

Now folks, according to our text there, when a person goes to heaven, they not only get a new home but a new body as well. And what a body it is. First of all, it will be **imperishable**. That means, it will never die, rot, decay, break down, or age. And that means, there will be no more back aches, no more broken bones, no more disease, and yes ladies, no more anti-aging creams. Our new bodies will never wear down and they'll never wear out! Then as if that wasn't cool enough, our new bodies will not only be imperishable, but they'll be **spiritual**. And that means that our body will be just like Jesus' body after He was raised from the dead. And if you study the characteristics of Jesus' resurrected body you see that He was **not affected by matter**. He could walk through doors. He **could travel instantly anywhere at anytime**. And that means in heaven, there'll be no traffic, no tollbooths and no more car taxes, praise God! And folks, I don't know about you, but that's not a very hard choice to make here. I'd much rather have a **body of perfection** than of a **body of pain**, how about you? And to think that it's not only free for the asking, but we don't deserve it!

**Now that's what I call love!** A.W. Tozer had this to say.

“The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consciences of millions.”

And why is his statement so true? Well, it's simple folks. Because when you understand that we all deserve a body of pain yet **out of mercy**

God will give us a body of perfection, it's kind of hard to not want to live for Him in return, you know what I mean? **Why?** Because that's what happens when you truly understand the **Merciful Love of God**.

Oh, but that's not all. The **third way** the Bible reveals the **Merciful Love of God** is that God gives His enemies a **Heavenly Greeting instead of Hellish Goodbye**.

**Romans 5:8** "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. What were we considered in the eyes of God prior to getting saved? Was it the **saintly ones**? No! It was the sinful ones, right? And so if people refuse to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and instead remain sinners, what do they **deserve** for that kind of behavior? People, the Bible is very clear. **The choice is theirs**. If they don't want to receive the mercy of God, then the **justice of God** declares they just earned a **hellish goodbye**. And why anybody would choose that is beyond me. Who in their right mind would choose a departure like that?

1. **Thomas Payne**: "I would give worlds, if I had them, if the Age of Reason had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! Stay with me! It is hell to be left alone!"
2. **Voltaire**: "I am abandoned by God and man! I shall go to hell! O' Jesus Christ!"

3. **David Hume**: The atheist died in utter despair with an awful scene crying out, “I am in the flames!”
4. **Karl Marx**: Was on his deathbed surrounded by candles burning to lucifer and screamed at his nurse who asked him if he had any last words, “Go on, get out! Last words are for fools who haven’t said enough.”
5. **Nietzsche**: Died insane, completely out of his mind.
6. **Sir Thomas Scott**: “Until now I thought there was no God or hell. Now I know there is both, and I am doomed.”
7. **Sir Francis Newport**: “Do not tell me there is no God for I know there is one, and that I am in his angry presence! You need not tell me there is no hell, for I already feel my soul slipping into its fires! I know that I am lost forever.”

Now folks, I don’t know about you. But that doesn’t seem to be a very fun way to go. I mean, who in their right mind would want to have a departure like that, **especially** when they didn’t have to? **Why?** Because of the merciful love of God! People, get this. Talk about the love of God. We all deserve a **hellish goodbye** but through Jesus we can have a **heavenly greeting**. Let’s check it out!

- The famous Christian, **Dwight Moody** awoke from sleep shortly before he died said: “Earth recedes. Heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go.” And Moody’s son said, “No, no, Father. You’re dreaming.” And Moody replied, “I am not dreaming. I have been within the gates. This is my triumph; this is my coronation day! It is glorious!”
- **Augustus Toplady**, preacher and author of the hymn, “Rock of Ages”:  
“The consolations of God to such an unworthy wretch are so abundant that

He leaves me nothing to pray for but a continuance of them. I enjoy heaven already in my soul.”

- **Lady Glenorchy:** “If this is dying, it is the pleasantest thing imaginable.”
- **John Pawson**, minister: “I know I am dying, but my deathbed is a bed of roses. I have no thorns planted upon my dying pillow. In Christ, heaven is already begun!”
- **Adoniram Judson**, American missionary to Burma: “I go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school. I feel so strong in Christ.”
- **John A. Lyth:** “Can this be death? Why, it is better than living! Tell them I die happy in Jesus!”
- **Martha McCrackin:** “How bright the room! How full of angels!”
- **Mary Frances:** “Oh, that I could tell you what joy I possess! The Lord does shine with such power upon my soul!”
- **Sir David Brewster**, scientist and inventor of the kaleidoscope: “I will see Jesus; I shall see Him as He is! I have had the light for many years. Oh how bright it is! I feel so safe and satisfied!”
- **A Moslem woman**, whose child had died at 16 years of age asked a Christian missionary, “What did you do to our daughter?” The missionary replied, “We did nothing,” But the mother persisted, “Oh, yes, you did! She died smiling. Our people do not die like that.” As it turned out, the girl had found Christ and believed on Him only a few months before. Fear of death had gone and hope and joy had taken its place.
- And finally a **Chinese communist**, through whom many Christians had been executed, said to a Pastor: “I have seen many of you die. The Christians die in a different way. What is your secret?”

Now folks, I don’t know about you, but that’s not a very hard choice to make here. I’d much rather have a **heavenly greeting** than a **hellish**

**goodbye**, how about you? And to think that it's not only free for the asking, but we don't deserve it! **Now that's what I call love!** And it's the same conclusion that John MacArthur made.

“The particular love of God for His own is overwhelming. It is powerful. If you don't stand in awe of it, then you don't really grasp its significance. We ought to be in awe, and like Israel, humiliated before such love. He does not owe it to us. Yet He condescends to love us nonetheless. If our hearts aren't stirred with love for God in return, then there's something terribly wrong with us.”

People of God, if you can't seem to appreciate the fact that through Jesus Christ, God will give His enemies a Palace in Heaven instead of a Pit in Hell, a Body of Perfection instead of a Body of Pain and a Heavenly Greeting instead of a Hellish Goodbye, then **something is terribly wrong with you!** If we had any idea of the depths of God's love we would not only fall on our knees in reverence and kiss the very feet of Christ but we'd get up on our feet and immediately run to tell everyone of their need of Christ! **Why?** Because that's what happens when you truly understand the **Merciful Love of God.**

And people, that's why I plead with you one last time. Heaven is real but so is hell. I beg you, please don't go to hell. Go to heaven. Receive the merciful love of God before it's too late.

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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.”

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