

Jesus said of a certain people, “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matthew 25:46). This indeed is a very sobering thought. Where will you and I be in eternity? The Savior warns us that many will go to that terrible place called Hell. **“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: ¹⁴Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”** (Matthew 7:13,14).

Knowing that only a “few” people will be saved and the majority of people will be lost, should cause every one of us to give more serious heed to spiritual things and what the Bible teaches. Not only will those who live in rebellion to God be lost, but many sincere and religious minded people will be lost as well. The Lord further said:

“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. ²²Many 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? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21-23).

It is clear from the reading that these were sincere religious people. **Why then were they lost?** Sincerity is not enough! There is more to salvation than that. Note what Jesus said just prior to this: **“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves”** (Matthew 7:15). Many people will be lost because they have been deceived by false teachers to believe and practice the wrong things!

Doctrine or the faith is very important! Again Jesus warned: **“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men”** (Matthew 15:9). Obviously, “doctrines of men” stand in opposition to the doctrine of God, or the system of faith from God. The new covenant, which all people everywhere are under today, is a system that must be followed. It is the faith! Note this verse concerning the faith as a system: “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). You will see more of this system of faith as we go along.

Only those who are obedient to this system of faith will be saved. “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7 cp. 16:5). Those who obey the faith are the only ones saved and thus are added to the Lord’s church or kingdom as in **Acts chapter two:**

- ✓ They heard the gospel preached (Acts 2:37).
- ✓ They believed the gospel (cp. Mark 16:15,16).
- ✓ They obeyed the gospel (Acts 2:41; Mark 16:15,16 cp. 2 Thessalonians 1:8).
- ✓ Then they were added to the Lord’s church: “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).

Who were the saved? “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41). Those who “gladly received his word [the Word of God] were baptized.” They obeyed the gospel, please note:

“And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”** (Mark 16:15,16).

Believeth what? The gospel. What is the result of believing the gospel? **Baptism:** Please consider that baptism is a part of that gospel that must be believed and obeyed. In every New Testament conversion this is seen to be true. As we have just seen in Acts 2 the gospel was preached; those who believed it were baptized for the remission of sins. Consider the next conversion accounts where detail is given: Acts 8. Philip “preached Christ” (Acts 8:5). Those who believed (had true faith) were baptized (v.12,13). One cannot honestly deny this.

Philip preached Jesus. The result was baptism (Acts 8:35-38). In both of these conversion accounts the gospel of Christ was preached and those who believed were baptized. Bible baptism is always “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38; 22:16). It is the very point in which God forgives man of his sins and adds him to His church (Acts 2:37-47).

All who do not obey this gospel will be lost in a devil’s hell forever and ever: “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:” (2 Thessalonians 1:8 cp. Mark 16:16).

There are many false teachers in the world today. See 1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Matthew 7:15; 15:9,13,14, etc. They seek to deceive and lead people away from the faith. Consider: “But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith” (Acts 13:8). Many were caught up in the deceptions of

the false teachers back then, and it has gotten worse through the ages (cp. 2 Timothy 3:13). It is obvious that those of Matthew 7:21-23 had never obeyed the gospel (the faith), being baptized for the remission of sins, and therefore had never been saved, and were never a part of Jesus and His kingdom. We can know this because Jesus will say to them, **“I never knew you.”** What an awful verdict to hear!

Please consider these facts of that place called Hell:

- It is eternal – “everlasting punishment” (Matthew 25:46).
- A place where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:44). The meaning is that the torments never cease!
- A place of no rest day or night (Revelation 14:11).
- A place of torment with fire and brimstone (Revelation 14:10).
- A place of outer darkness (Matthew 25:30).
- A place of weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:30).
- It is an eternal place; no hope; never ending; no relief day nor night forever and ever; no mercy extended there; no escape.
- It is described as a “lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15; 21:8).
- The majority will be there (Matthew 7:13,14,21-23). **THINK** and consider 2 Corinthians 13:5.

On the other hand there is Heaven where all are invited to come through obedience to the faith:

- A place of eternal security (Matthew 6:19-21).
- A place that is free of all sin. Only the pure in heart will see God (Matthew 5:8).
- A place of joy, comfort, rest.
- A place of eternal happiness, perfect bliss.

- A place of no evil; no fears; no wars; no sickness; no sorrow; no suffering; no need of doctors, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.
- Heaven is a place of no more sad goodbyes: “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

All men will give account of themselves to God. “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12). “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

It is certain that we shall receive a just reward: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7). But some reason incorrectly saying: “God is a God of love and He would not send anyone to Hell.” We can either believe man or believe God, but the fact is God tells us plainly that many will be lost (Matthew 7:13,14,21-23; 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9).

Who will go to that terrible place called Hell? The Bible is clear on the matter, all the following are choosing Hell for their eternal home:

- The wicked will be in the flames of torment forever (1 Corinthians 6:9,10).
- Many religious people will be there forever and ever: (a) the deceived (Matthew 7:21-23); (b) those who worship according to man’s doctrine (Matthew 15:9,13,14).
- Those who do not love the truth – God’s Word, and compromise it (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

- Those who do not obey the gospel of Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:8); by rejecting baptism for the remission of sins, which is an essential part of God’s system of salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
- Those who were once saved, but have fallen away (2 Peter 2:20-22).

But there is hope, mercy, and a way of escape from that terrible place NOW while we live. Do you love God? Do you want to live forever in glory? Then you must learn of Jesus and the only way of salvation (Matthew 11:28-30; John 14:6,15; 8:31,32). Only those who learn and obey the truth, and continue in the truth will be saved (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:8,9). **Consider this beautiful passage:**

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ²Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 John 3:1-3).

You can be pure by obeying that gospel from the heart (See Romans 6:16-18; 1 Peter 1:22,23; 3:21; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. If you are unprepared, Heaven will not be your home. Where will you be in eternity??? What will your answer be? “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (Revelation 14:13 cp. Matthew 25:1-13).

Because of our love for you we want you to know what the Bible teaches concerning what man must do in order to be saved. Please study these things in your own Bible, that way you can know with absolute certainty that this is God’s Word and know that it is exactly what the early believers did in order to be saved. We pray you will choose God’s way so Heaven will be your eternal home.

God’s Plan of Salvation

- ✓ **Hear** (Romans 10:17).
- ✓ **Believe** (Mark 16:16; John 8:24).
- ✓ **Repent** (Acts 2:38; 17:30).
- ✓ **Confess Christ** (Acts 8:37).
- ✓ **Be baptized for the remission of sins** (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38,41; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21).
- ✓ **Be faithful** (Hebrews 3:6; Revelation 2:10).

We value your soul greatly. If we may assist you in any way, please let us know. Did you know that every New Testament conversion account shows that they were baptized? **Please** send for articles and charts on baptism. All of this is **free** of charge. ♥

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Compliments of
“The churches of Christ”
(Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16)



Heaven

Are
Choosing



OR

Hell



By Perry Sexton

The word hell is often used lightly and flippantly by many people, but they do not want to think about Hell possibly being their eternal home. Friends, we all need to know the truth on this matter.