

## You Cannot Go To Hell

Many people make jokes about hell and how much fun they will have when they go there; such thinking is foolish at best because no one in his right mind would want to go there. Hell is a real place and in God's Word, the Bible, we have a brief description of what hell is like. We read about a rich man who, though wealthy in this life, died and went to hell. We read, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." {Luke 16:23-24} In Revelation 20:10 we read, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." And again in Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." These are just a few verses that describes hell, and who has gone or will go there; ALL of these are people who did not repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour. There is another group of people who will not and cannot go to hell. Who are these people? Please allow me to briefly explain.

The Bible tells us that we are all born with a sin nature that we inherited from Adam when he disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden {Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6; Romans 5:12}. Adam had been warned and yet he disobeyed God and so, sin came into the realm of humanity. As a result, all of mankind stands in need of salvation; that is, having our sin debt paid for. But the problem is, being sinners and alienated from God, we are in every sense spiritually bankrupt. In spite of our dreadful condition and seemingly hopeless situation, God's love for us is so great that He provided payment for our sin debt in the person of Jesus Christ. Consider, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8} "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} Jesus Christ who is God the Son left the glory of Heaven and, taking the body of man, did so with the explicit purpose of paying our sin debt on the Cross of Calvary. This He did by shedding His innocent blood and dying on our behalf. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:18-19} Jesus did not have to do this; He did it because, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." {2 Peter 3:9} In other words, it is NOT God's desire that any person should die and go to hell! Talk about an unfathomable love!!

People who repent of sin and by faith alone {no works of any kind will work; "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9} in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, trust Him as personal Saviour, are forgiven and eternally saved. This is God's promise to us! "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ... These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {1 John 5:11,13} God said it and that settles it; we just need to believe it!!!!!!

Humanly speaking, it is impossible to understand how God could love us so much, and yet He does. We have His love letter to us; we call it the Bible and in it He tells of His great love. Sadly though, He also gives warning to those who reject Him, those who refuse to repent and be saved and the dire consequences.

My friend, if you have repented of sin and trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour, you CANNOT go to hell, you CANNOT lose your salvation – it is impossible because God has said so.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/Nov. 2019

All Scripture references are KJV