

The Reality of Hell
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Introduction: There was a recent poll which indicated 90% of the people believed in the existence of God but only 10% believed in the existence of Satan.

- A. The only things we can know of the unseen which includes the hereafter can only be revealed by God!
 - 1. Jesus made this point in His ministry. **(John 3:11-13, 8:38, 42)**
 - 2. We too can see the unseen but only through the word of God! **(Heb 11:27)**
- B. The nature of true faith is seen in how we respond to these areas!
 - 1. It is easy to believe in things that we can see by sight.
 - 2. We are showing true faith when we rely on what God's word plainly teaches in spite of what our "background" may say. **(1 Peter 1:17-19)**
 - a. How do we pray? How do we worship?
 - b. Most religious people believe what they want to, not what they have sought to learn from the word of God.
 - c. How could someone believe in the Bible and not believe in hell?

I. Is there a Hell?

- A. There are many who boldly proclaim that there is no hell. **(2 Pet 3:4-7)**
 - 1. Ted Turner recently said: "I'm looking forward to dying and going to hell because that's where I'm headed." – A. P. 6-14-90
 - 2. Robert Ingersoll labeled hell the "scarecrow of religion." Then he announced: The idea of hell was born of revenge and brutality on the one side, and cowardice on the other. I have no respect for any man who preaches it. I dislike this doctrine, I hate it, I despise it, I defy this doctrine!
- B. Jesus taught that there was life after death for all men. **(Luke 16:19-31)**
 - 1. While this is not the final abode of the wicked, we learn that torment begins before one enters into hell. **(Rev 20:12-15)**
 - 2. It will be after the resurrection that men will receive their final condemnation. **(John 5:28-29)**
- C. Jesus taught there will be a place for all the wicked to abide in conscious existence for eternity. **(Mark 9:43-47)**
 - 1. The word for "hell" is from the Greek word Gehenna
 - 2. Hell could not mean simply dying! There is something worse.
- D. Jesus warned men not to go to hell. **(Matt 5:22,29-30, 10:28)**
 - 1. Jesus knew that most men will walk this path to destruction!
(Matt 7:13-14)
 - 2. Still Jesus was grieved over those who rejected Him. **(Matt 23:33-39)**
 - 3. Why would Jesus show such grief?

II. What is hell like?

- A. It is torment. **(Luke 16:28; Rev 14:11)**

1. What will it be like to taste the full wrath of God?
 2. We know that weeping and wailing will be within the souls of those in hell. **(Matt 13:40-42, 49-50)**
- B. It involves an eternal fire. **(Matt 5:32, 18:9, Mark 9:43, 45, 47)**
1. While hell is a place for a spiritual body, this is the closest description the Lord could give of this place.
 2. Even in the place before hell there is a “flame”. **(Luke 16:24)**
 3. Have you ever been burned? (Ex. Truck driver trapped in wreck)
- C. It involves an eternal darkness. **(2 Pet 2:4, 17; Mt 8:11-12; 22:13-14; 25:30)**
1. How dark is hell? Peter says it is “blackness of darkness”.
 2. Ex. An account of one man who visited a cave in the state of Kentucky.
- D. There will be no escape from hell.
1. No one could escape the torment before hell. **(Luke 16:26)**
 2. One is described as being in “chains”. **(2 Peter 2:4)**
- E. It is a place of regret.
1. Even the rich man was grieved over his not influencing his brothers for good! **(Luke 16:27-28)**
 2. Are there degrees of punishment? **(Luke 12:47-48)**
- F. It is a place of unspeakable wickedness. **(Matt 25:41)**

III. What should this knowledge do for me?

- A. It will change my view about what is important.
1. God’s salvation is the most important thing of all! **(Rom 1:16-18; 11:22)**
 2. Working for the cause of Christ becomes my passion. I will not let anything get in the way.
 3. One will not be sidetracked by “hypocrites in the church”.
- B. It will give me a deep hatred for sin. **(Heb 12:25-26)**
1. I will not remain comfortable in walking in sin.
 2. I will hasten to resolve and end problems with my brethren. **(Matt 5:23-26)**
- C. It will deepen my reverence for God. **(Heb 11:7; 12:28)**
1. You will see it in your attitude towards worship.
 2. When the Bible is quoted you will not “shrug it off”.
- D. It will make me urgent. **(2 Cor 5:10-11)**
1. You will not have to be begged to do the Lord’s work.
 2. Ex. The Midwest floods, everyone helped.

Conclusion: Will you believe in Hell now or later?

- A. Remember Robert Ingersoll?
1. His dying words: “O God, if there be a God! Save my soul, if I have a soul!”
 2. How many people today laugh at hell?
- B. What will judgment day be like for you? **(Mark 8:38)**