

Fil-Am Community Church

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“The Afterlife”

Today we will look at what the Bible says about the afterlife specifically Hell...

Some of the most frequently asked questions about Hell include

- Is Hell a real place
- Why was hell created
- Who will be in Hell
- (last but definitely not least) How can I be sure I will NOT go to Hell

1. Is Hell a Real Place

Jesus taught that Hell is a real place of Judgment; in fact there are more verses in which he taught about Hell than he did about Heaven

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

John 5:24, *“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”*

John 5: 28-29, *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”*

Hell appears in the New Testament as...

- A place of incineration,

- A place of unquenchable fire
- As the final abode of those assigned to eternal punishment at the last judgment
- A place of weeping or grinding of teeth
- A place of destruction of both body and soul (Mt 10:28)
- A place of torment

We can see endless words to describe the place called Hell; it is a place of misery. The New Testament teaching about Hell is meant to appall, and strike fear in our hearts. Just as Heaven will be far greater than we could ever imagine or dream of so too will Hell be far more worse that we can conceive.

Scripture sees Hell, as self-chosen, those in Hell will realize that they sentenced themselves to it by loving darkness rather than the light.

Choosing not to have their creator as their Lord, preferring self-indulgent sin to self-denying righteousness, and rejecting Jesus rather than coming to him.

All receive what they actually chose, either to be with God forever, worshipping him, or without him forever, worshipping themselves.

The Bible speaks of a time of Judgment that all Human beings will have to go through. It is referred to in several verses as being a time of separating or sorting the righteous from the unrighteous

- Matthew 13:47-51 (Dragnet of Fish)
- Matthew 25: 21-46 (Sorting Sheep & Goats)

Are you a sheep or a goat?

- Matthew 13:24-30 (Sorting Weeds & Wheat)

Who is the one who does the separating?

Acts 17:31, "For he has set a day for justly judging the world by the man he has appointed him out, by bringing him to life again."

Matthew 25:31-32, "When the son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he shall sit upon the throne of his glory."

We notice that it is the Son of Man, (Jesus) who is doing the separating, for it is he who can see into the heart of a man.

You see in the great separation there is no middle ground, there are no grey areas, either you are in or you are out.

- Friends will be separated
- Some husbands and wives will be separated
- Some parents and children will be separated

The divine separation of the righteous from the unrighteous is when Christ establishes his millennial kingdom on earth. Not only will it determine the ultimate, eternal destinies of everyone living at the end of the Tribulation but will also determine who will enter the kingdom of God.

2. Why was Hell created

It was created for Satan and his angels; it is the final destiny of the wicked.

Matthew 25:41, *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*

1/3 of the angels in heaven fell when Satan tried to rebel against God in heaven

Contrary to popular belief Satan is not confined to Hell but resided on earth.

4 times the gospels call Satan the Prince of this world.

John 12:31, *"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out."*

One day according to the book of Revelations, God is going to cast Satan, death and Hades into the Lake of Fire.

Revelations 20:10, "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 forever and ever."

3. Who will be in Hell

Dr. Carl Henry said in one of his street meetings, during his college years, a heckler kept shouting, *"Where did Cain get his wife from?"* When I could ignore the disturber no longer, I replied, *"When I get to heaven, I'll ask him!"* He replied, *"Suppose he is not in heaven?"* Then I replied, *"Then you ask him."*

Hell was created for Satan and his Demons but sadly will not be the only ones in Hell for eternity.

We all deserve Hell as we have all fallen short of Gods glory

Romans 3:23 (all sinned) *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Because we have all fallen short, those who trust in Jesus are rescued.

Hebrews 7:25, "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

Those who don't trust Jesus are not rescued

1 John 5:11-12, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

The word **Sheol**, occurred in the Old Testament 65 times. It is rendered “grave” 31 times. This is a place of the congregation of the dead.

The picture of Sheol generally represents is a tomb, where the bodies of the dead lie in silence, where Hades is represented as a place of torment for the wicked.

Sheol is the Hebrew word for the abode of the dead. It is very similar to the Greek word Hades.

Scholars believe that the place called Sheol in the Old Testament and Hades in the New Testament is different from Hell although the word has been used interchangeable in many versions. It is an intermediate holding area, the good or righteous in what is called Abrahams bosom, or paradise while the unrighteous it is considers a place of torment.

The Greek word **Hades** of the New Testament has the same scope of significance as Sheol in the Old Testament. It is a prison, with gates and bars and locks, and it is downward.

Gehenna, is most of the occurrences in the Greek New Testament, designates the place of the lost. (Mt 23:33) it originated from a valley outside Jerusalem where child sacrifices were offered to Molech (2 Ch 28:3) later it became a garbage dump where trash was burned continuously. Because of these associations with evil, torture and uncleanness, Gehenna became synonymous with Hell, as a place of eternal punishment.

The Parable of the rich man and Lazarus found in Luke 16:23, where the rich man is said to be in torment in Hades.

4. How can I be assured I will not Go to Hell

A drunkard husband, spending the evening with his drinking buddies at a car, was boasting to his friends that if he took the group of friends home with him at

midnight and asked his Christian wife to get up and cook supper for him, that she would do it without complaint.

The group of drinking buddies didn't believe him and made a wager, so they departed the bar a little after midnight and arrived at the man's house where he made the unreasonable demands to his wife.

She got up, dressed herself and came down stairs and proceeded to cook them a nice supper and served it just as cheerful as if she was expecting them.

After supper one of the men, a little more sober than the others, asked her how she could remain so kind and polite when he came home with this unreasonable demand. He reply was, "Sir when my husband and I were married, we were both sinners. It has pleased God to call me out of that dangerous condition however, my husband continues in it. I tremble for his future state, because were he to die as he is, he would be miserable forever. So I see it my duty to render his present existence as comfortable as possible.

The wise remarks made a drastic effect on the while company, not only did the husband change his ways and turn to God but so did he drinking buddies.

1 John 5:13, *"These things have I written to you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life..."*

If you believe in God, then you probably have a desire to go to Heaven when you die.

But can you know for sure? YES, you **ABSOLUTELY** can.

Just as we want our own children to be 100% sure of our Unconditional love and care, God wants you to have the same confidence and assurance. The simple explanation will be logical and strait forward. If nothing else, you will see the Love of God manifested for you, and how amazing that Love is.

Bad News: We have all sinned.

Romans 3:23, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*

If you and I die, it does no good to say, Hey, I got closer to Heaven than you did!

Short does not make it; Sin is what makes us fall short of Heaven. Even a single sin on your record means your short.

Doing good is wonderful, but never erases a sin. You cannot take a life, then save someone else's life and expect the police to just call it even, you will be held accountable.

It also is not an issue of who is better than someone else. If you attempt to jump a 20 foot ravine and succeed in jumping 15 feet, you wouldn't brag about how much better off you are than the guy who only jumped 10 feet. You are both at the bottom of the ravine. In this case it is not who is better or who gets closer, because if you didn't get all the way across you didn't make it. You must realize that one sin makes us just short of Heaven; therefore we cannot get there on our own.

This is why we need Jesus; he makes up the difference so we can go to heaven. If you could get to heaven on your own there would be no reason for a Savior. There would have been no reason for Jesus to die on the cross. But he did die, so we might have a way to get to Heaven.

More Bad News: There is a price on Sin

Romans 6:23, *"For the wages of sin is death."*

This death is Hell, no one makes you sin except you. So if anyone is sending you to Hell, it is you and not God.

Hell was not created for us, initially, it was created for Satan. However, it is the place that exists that can punish sin.

Knowing the price on sin, God sent his son Jesus Christ to die on a cross, to pay for our sins.

This teaches us a very important point, if you don't think that you are in need of saving, you will not seek to be saved.

If a drowning man does not believe he is drowning, he will still drown. He has to believe he is drowning before he will shout for help.

Until you believe that you are on your way to Hell, you will not do one thing necessary to be saved from Hell; therefore you will not call upon Jesus for salvation.

Jesus came to be our Savior, Which means he wishes to save us from something. He wants to save us from the consequences of our Sin-Hell.

But if you do not think you need to be saved, you will seek the savior, if you think you are good enough on your own, or that a church, or a person can get you to heaven, then you will not seek the savior.

Impressing the savior as to how good a person you are is not seeking him for salvation, until you believe that you are actually going to hell, you will not think of needing a savior.

The Good News: Jesus is Our Hope of Salvation

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

Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Salvation is a gift. It is not something that you work for; it is not something that you pay money for; it is simply something you receive and accept by faith.

You may already believe that Jesus died on the cross. You may already understand that God loves you, but until you personally accept the gift of eternal life, you do not have it.

Even the devils believe there is a God. But the understanding that God exists, or understanding that Jesus died for you, is not acceptance. To believe, Biblically, you must accept.

- It is not a matter of going to Church,

- Being a Good person,
- Loving your neighbor,
- Being Baptized,
- Praying, or
- Reading your bible.

All of these things are wonderful, but if they get you salvation Christ died in vain. Salvation is the free gift and the only way, Jesus is the only way!

Do not mistake a good life for acceptance; you must put all your trust in Jesus for Salvation.

Great News: You can be saved Right Now!

Romans 10:9, *“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

Romans 10:13, *“for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

When a drowning man realizes that he is about to drown, he starts calling out to the lifeguard to be saved. The same is true for our spiritual state.

We must call upon Jesus to be saved for Hell.

Jesus came to this earth to be our Savior; he is seeking to save us from the consequences of our sin-Hell. Just as the lifeguard’s job is to save people, so too Jesus means to save us from Hell.

The lifeguard does not judge the drowning man on his swimming skills, or determine if the man had followed all the rules, or if he had disregarded the lifeguard’s warnings.

His job is to save people from drowning, not determine if they are worthy of being saved.

Jesus is likewise not going to look at your life and determine if they are worthy to be saved either. No, he will simply save you and ask that you trust him!

At this point, there is still something that the drowning man must do to get saved. He must trust the lifeguard.

We've all heard stories of drowning people who panic and actually fight off their rescuers. Why?

Because they are still trying to save themselves. They are not willing to relax and trust the lifeguard. Going to Heaven is much like trusting the lifeguard, you must trust Jesus completely.

It all boils down to **trust** and **acceptance!**

This is the only way to be sure if you are going to heaven. If it were up to you, you will never be sure, you will never know if you did enough, or were good enough. However, you can be sure because it is not you, who is taking you to heaven, it is Christ Jesus.

- If this is you, and you want to make sure, of your Salvation
- Want to make sure that you do not end up in Hell

Simply pray this prayer; *Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and because I am a sinner do not deserve to go to Heaven, but Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save me from the penalty of sin. Jesus I trust you and only you. I want you to come into my life and my personal Lord and Savior! I realize that I cannot do it in and of myself, that it is only through you that I can lead a victorious life. Please save me from the penalty of sin. Amen!*

If you just prayed that prayer, we would love to hear from you, please fill out one of the contact cards, or see any of the director's right after service.