

## QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to examine the questions: “Is Hell real? Why did God create Hell? How does someone go to Hell?” These are important and serious questions of which we will answer from the Word of God the Bible.

Many believe Hell is just a scare tactic used by the church to get money from people, others say it is a metaphor, while some say it is a place where only “really” bad people will go.

First, “Is Hell real?” the answer is a resounding YES! The Bible describes Hell as a place of everlasting fire; eternal darkness and torment; where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth; where the worm never dies; the abode of the dead who rejected Jesus Christ; where after 10,000 years there will still be no hope of escape and the Lake of Fire to name but a few. It is definitely not a place you would ever want to go and the good news is that you don’t have to.

Jesus spoke more about Hell than Heaven. Let me cite a few references, Matthew 10:28, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matt 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matt 18:9 “And if your eye offend you, pluck it out, and cast it from you: it is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.” Matt 23:33 “Serpents (a name Jesus gave to the religious leaders of His day), brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?”

Second, “Why did God create Hell?” Again we will turn to the Word of God to answer this. Matthew 25:41 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand (all that disobey God), Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” 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 burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” 2 Peter 2:4 “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.” Revelation 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name.”

Finally, “How does someone keep from going to Hell?” Another way to ask this is: What does a person have to do to go to Hell? The answer is: Absolutely nothing! Because **“ALL”** of us are in the category listed in the above mentioned verse Rev. 21:8 “the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars” we automatically qualify to go to Hell for we have all lied, had unbelief, hated in our heart which God equates to murder. Our sin, all sin separates us from God in this life and the one to come.

Now this may seem like bad news and it is, it is terrifying! But there is also Good News and the Good News is that as is expressed in Romans 5:6-10 “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”

God so loved you and I, enemies of God that He gave His own Son to suffer and die (be punished with Hell while on the cross) to satisfy the justice of God so we could be forgiven of all our sin. What wonderful love God has for you. Do you know this love personally?

Drew Macintyre is associate pastor of Calvary Chapel of Alpine and can be reached at 619-445-2589, or [ccalpine@juno.com](mailto:ccalpine@juno.com)