

done, whether *it be* good or bad” (2 Cor. 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” (Gal. 6:7). But some reason incorrectly saying: “God is a God of love and He would not send anyone to Hell.” We can believe man or God, but God tells us plainly that many will be lost (Matt. 7:13,14,21-23; 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:8,9, etc.).

**Who will go to that terrible place called Hell?** The Bible is clear on the matter: (1) The wicked will be in the flames of torment forever (1 Cor. 6:9,10). (2) Many religious people will be there forever and ever: (a) the deceived (Matt. 7:21-23); (b) those who worship according to man’s doctrine (Matt. 15:9,13,14). (3) Those who do not love the truth – God’s Word and compromise it (2 Thess. 2:10-12). Those who do not obey the gospel of Christ, e.g., rejecting baptism for the remission of sins, etc. (2 Thess. 1:8).

**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 (Matt. 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 (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 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. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, 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. <sup>3</sup>And 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 (Rom. 6:16-18; 1 Peter 1:22,23; 3:21; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16, etc.

**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” (Rev. 14:13). ♥



## “Holding forth the word of life”

WOL

(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

WOL



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## Heaven or Hell! You Choose!

by Perry Sexton

**Many use the term hell lightly, but** do not want to think about it possibly being their eternal home. Friends, we all need to know the truth on the matter. Jesus said of a certain group, “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matt. 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: <sup>14</sup>Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matt. 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 blatantly live in rebellion to God be lost, but many sincere and religiously 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. <sup>22</sup>Many 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? <sup>23</sup>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Matt. 7:21-23).

It is clear from the reading that these were sincere and honest religious people. **Why then were they lost?** Sincerity and honesty 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” (Matt. 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” (Matt. 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 1:3). You will see more of this system of faith as we go along. Please note the next few verses.

**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 (v.37); those who believed, obeyed the gospel (v.41; Mark 16:15,16 cp. 2 Thess. 1:8, below); and 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). They obeyed the gospel, please note:

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15,16). Compare to: “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:” (2 Thess. 1:8).

**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 then and it has gotten even worse through the ages (cp. 2 Tim. 3:13). It is obvious that those of Matthew 7:21-23 (above) had never obeyed the gospel 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” (Matt. 25:46).
- A place where the 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 (Rev. 14:11).
- A place of torment with fire and brimstone (Rev. 14:10).
- A place of outer darkness (Matt. 25:30).
- A place of weeping and gnashing of teeth (ibid.).
- 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” (Rev. 20:15; 21:8).
- The majority will be there (Matt. 7:13,14,21-23).

**On the other hand there is Heaven:**

- A place of eternal security (Matt. 6:19-21).
- A place that is free of all sin, evil things. Only the pure in heart will see God (Matt. 5:8).
- A place of joy; comfort; rest.
- A place of eternal happiness, perfect bliss.
- A place of no fears; no wars; no sickness; no sorrow; no suffering; no evil; no need of doctors, hospitals, cemeteries.
- 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” (Rev. 21:4).

**All men will give account of themselves to God.** “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 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