

The Gospel of
MATTHEW
CHAPTER 25

Charlie Campbell January 8, 2023



Critics and skeptics of the Bible raise a variety of objections and questions regarding the existence of God, the truthfulness of the Bible, and so on.

HELL

Matthew 25:31–41

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He [Jesus] will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will



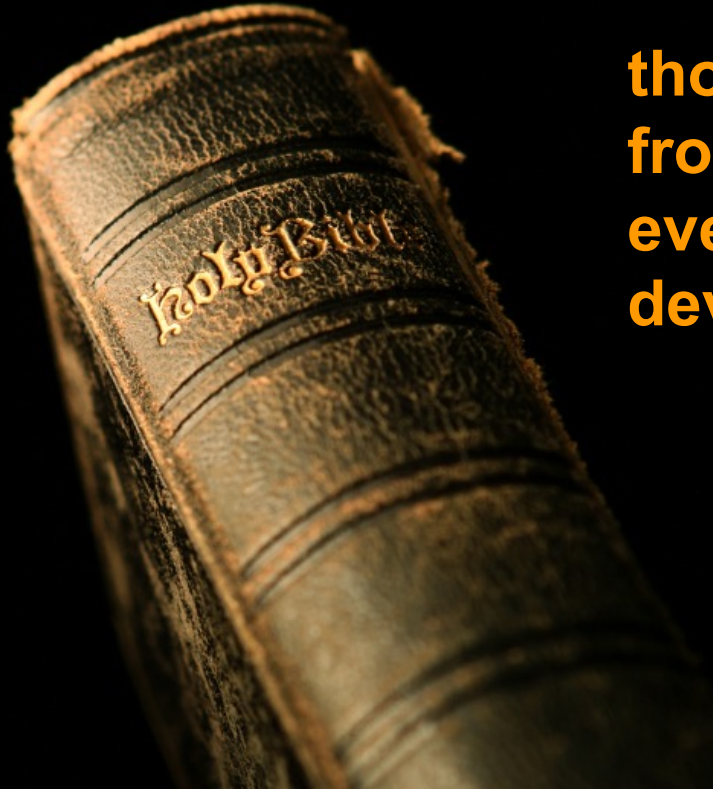
Matthew 25:31–41

set the sheep [a ref. to redeemed believers] **on His right hand, but the goats** [a ref. to the unsaved] **on the left.** ³⁴ **Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . . ’**




Matthew 25:31–41

41 **“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”**



- **outer darkness** (Matt. 25:30)
- **weeping** (Matt. 25:30, 8:12)
- **gnashing of teeth** (Matt. 25:30, 13:50)
- **everlasting punishment** (Matt. 25:46)
- **separation from God** (Mt. 25:46, 2 Th. 1:9)
- **wailing** (Matt. 13:42)
- **torment** (Luke 16:23)
- **flames** (Luke 16:24)



**“A God of love
would never send
anybody to a
place like that.”**

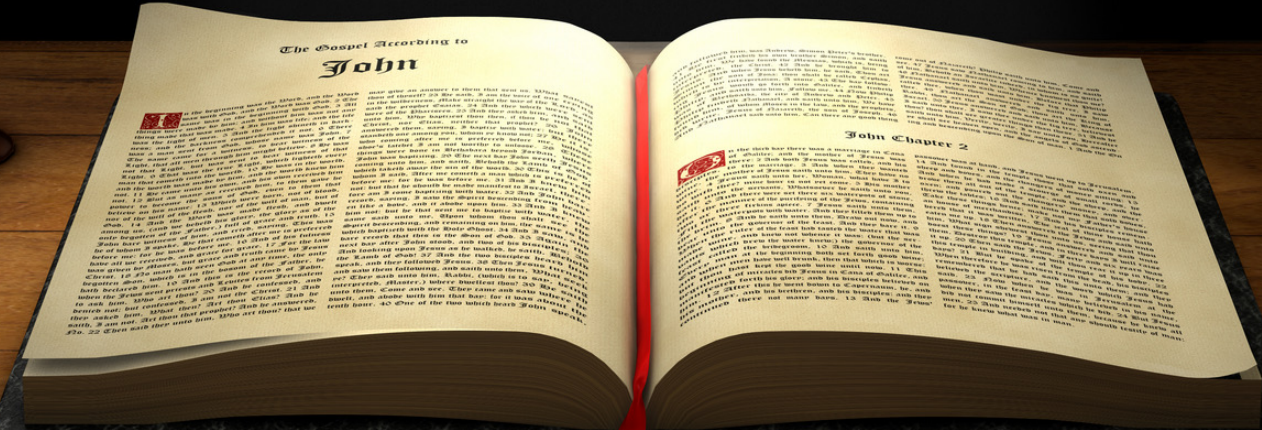
**Where do people get the idea
that God loves the whole world,
including sinners?**







The idea that God is a loving, merciful, forgiving God comes from the Bible. It is the Bible *alone*, amongst these books, that presents God as gracious, loving, merciful, and forgiving of sinners.





The same divinely
 inspired book that tells
 us God is LOVING also
 tells us that God is:

HOLY
 &
 JUST

24 "And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

19 "After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!"

2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

3 "Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

4 "And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

5 "Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

6 "And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

8 "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

9 "Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

10 "And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

11 "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war."

12 "His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself."

13 "He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God."

14 "And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses."

15 "Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

16 "And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS
 AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 "Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God."

18 "That you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

19 "And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army."

20 "Then the beast was captured, and with him the

shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

4 "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the witnesses to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 "But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

7 "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison.

8 "He will go out to deceive the nations who are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose names are in the sand of the sea.

9 "They went up on the breath of the earth, surrounded the camp of the saints and the holy city. And fire came down from heaven, and devoured them.

10 "The devil, who deceives the nations, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where he will be tormented night and forever and ever."

11

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|----|----------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| 7 | 3 | 7:31-50 | 10 | 10 |
| 4 | 8 | 1-25 | 11 | 1, 2, 3 |
| 5 | 8:26-56 | 12 | 1, 2, 3 | 1, 2, 3 |
| 6 | 9-1-17 | 13 | 4, 5, 6 | 4, 5, 6 |
| 7 | 9:18-36 | 14 | 7, 8 | 7, 8 |
| 8 | 9:37-52 | 10, 11, 12 | 9, 10, 11, 12 | 9, 10, 11, 12 |
| 9 | 10-1-24 | 13, 14 | 13, 14 | 13, 14 |
| 10 | 10:25-42 | 15, 16 | 15, 16 | 15, 16 |
| 11 | 11-1-28 | 17, 18 | 17, 18 | 17, 18 |
| 12 | 11:29-54 | 19, 20, 21 | 19, 20, 21 | 19, 20, 21 |
| 13 | 12-1-31 | 22, 23, 24 | 22, 23, 24 | 22, 23, 24 |
| 14 | 12:32-59 | 25, 26 | 25, 26 | 25, 26 |
| 15 | 13-1-22 | 27, 28, 29 | 27, 28, 29 | 27, 28, 29 |
| 16 | 13:23-35 | 30, 31 | 30, 31 | 30, 31 |

21 "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

2 "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.


3 "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God."

4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

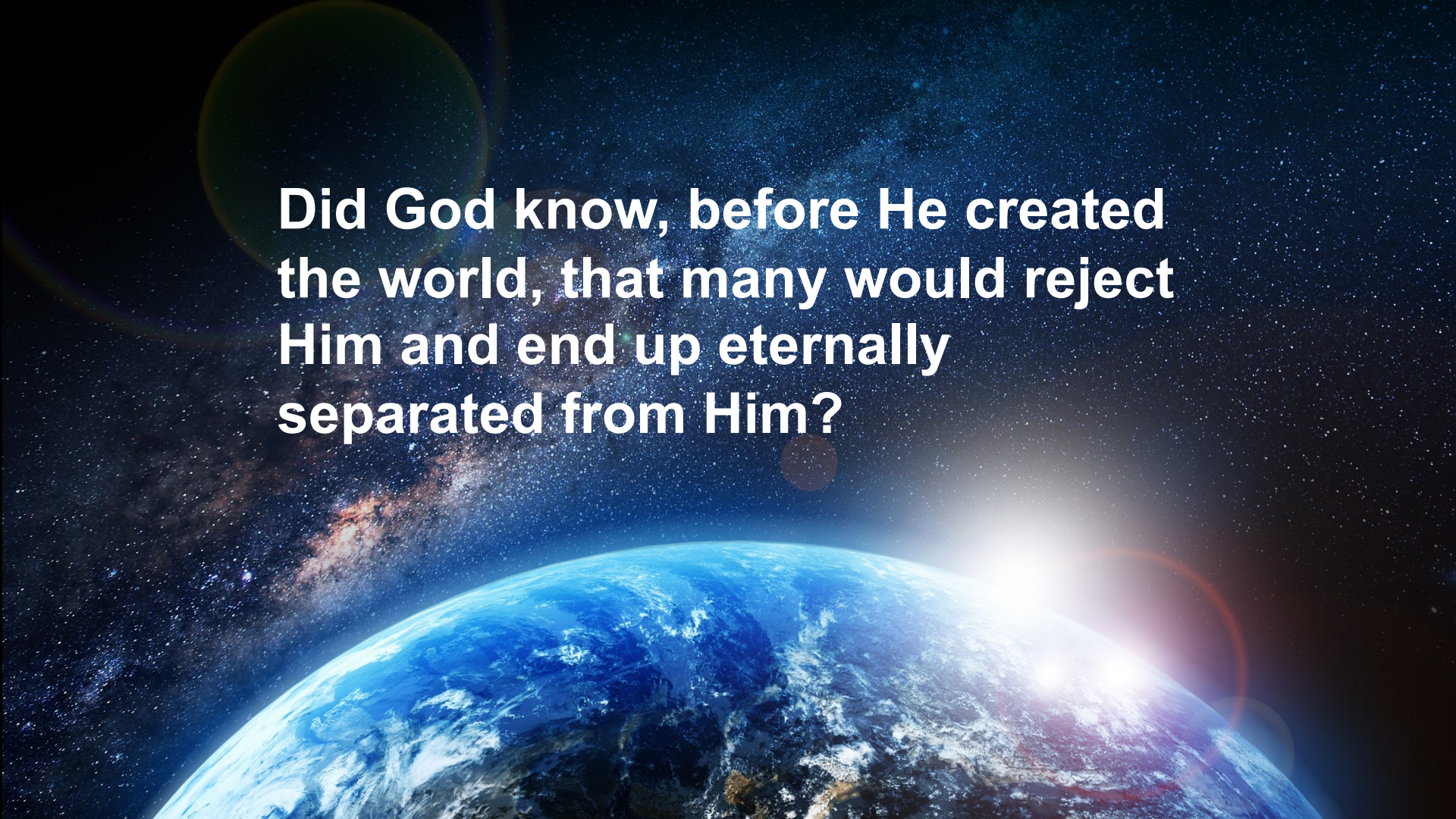
5 "Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I will make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

6 "And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will


***Those are the people who
deserve to end up in Hell—
sinners, people like you and
me (before we were forgiven).***

A close-up, profile view of a man with long, dark brown hair and a full beard. He is looking off to the right with a serious, contemplative expression. The lighting is dramatic, coming from the side, highlighting his features against a dark background. He is wearing a white collared shirt under a dark jacket.

**“Why would God
have created us if
He knew in advance
that so many people
would end up in
Hell?”**

A view of Earth from space, showing the blue oceans and white clouds of the planet. The Milky Way galaxy is visible in the background, and a bright sun is shining from the right side, creating a lens flare effect. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

**Did God know, before He created
the world, that many would reject
Him and end up eternally
separated from Him?**

A close-up, profile view of a man with long, dark brown hair and a full beard. He is looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and hair, and deep shadows in the background. He is wearing a white collared shirt under a dark jacket.

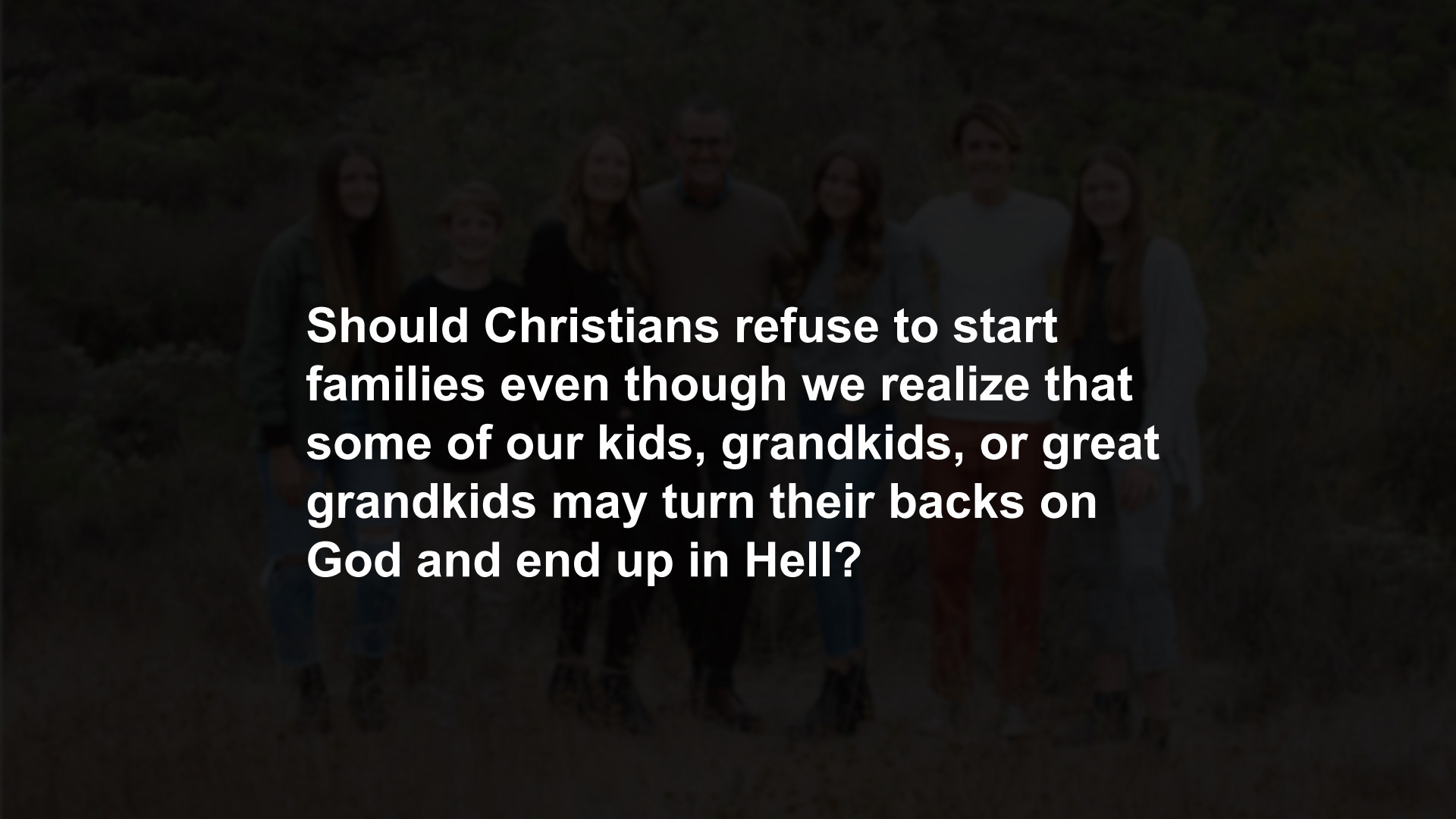
**“So then, why
did He create us,
even knowing in
advance that
many would be
lost?”**



Just as God knew many would reject Him, the opposite is also true; He knew that many would freely receive Him and enjoy eternity with Him.




**Should God
have refused to
create humans
just because
some would
refuse to have a
relationship with
Him?**



Should Christians refuse to start families even though we realize that some of our kids, grandkids, or great grandkids may turn their backs on God and end up in Hell?

By us giving birth to them, we are not in any way forcing any of them to go to Hell. They, like all people, will have the option to receive God's mercy and forgiveness.



A close-up, profile view of a man with long, dark brown hair and a full beard. He is looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and hair against a dark background.

**“Couldn’t God
have just created
a world in which
no one would end
up in Hell?”**

Sure.

**He certainly could
have. But it would
not have been a
world with
humans; it would
have been a world
of androids.**



Sure.

**He certainly could
have. But it would
not have been a
world with
humans; it would
have been a world
of androids.**





“Why’s that?”

Well, it would
have to be a world
in which sin never
takes place.

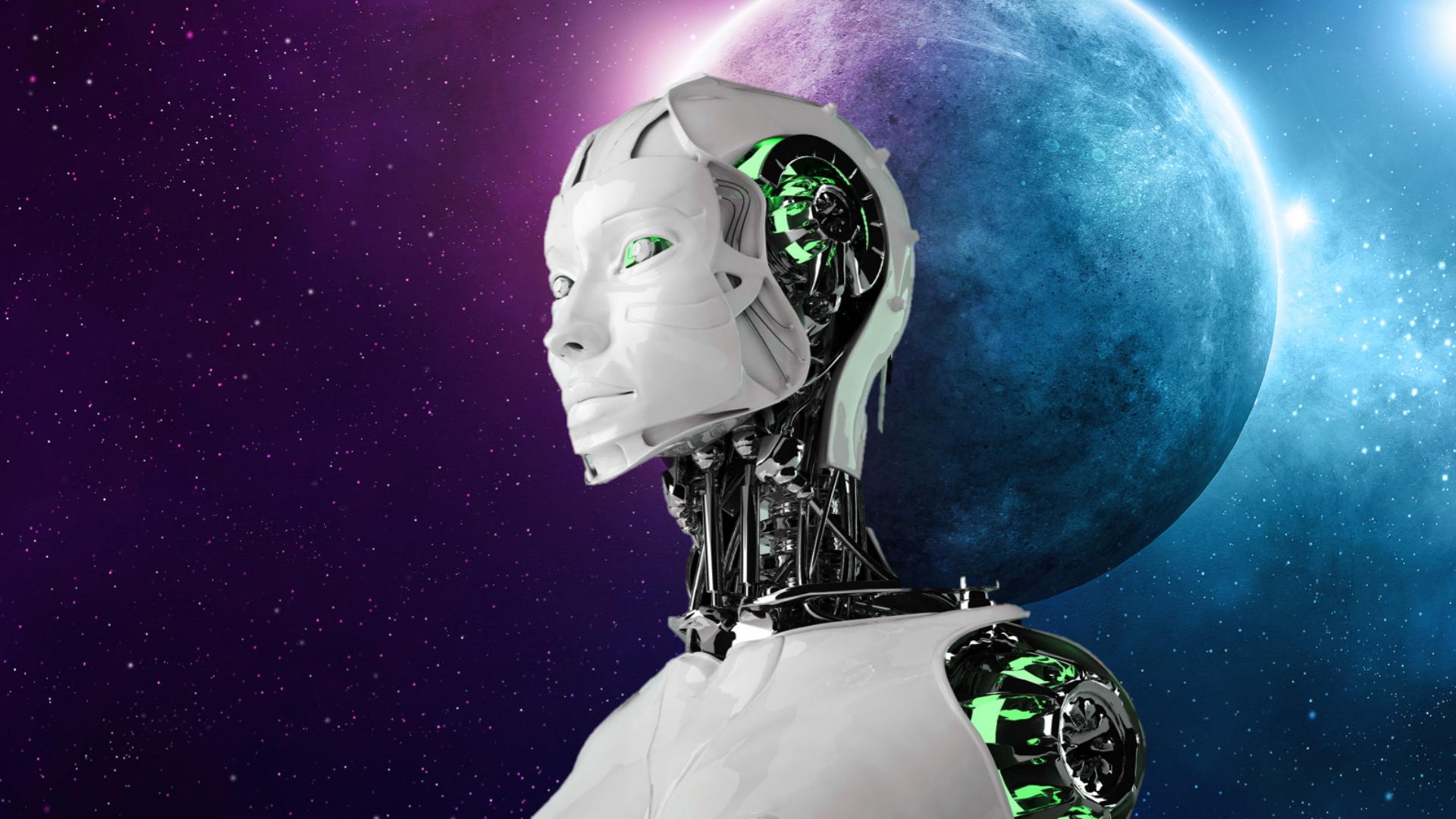


In a universe created by a holy and just God, sin requires judgment and punishment (Hell). So, to prevent creatures from going to Hell, God would have to prevent them from sinning. To do that, God would have to make creatures without free will (i.e., without the freedom to sin).



The creatures would have to be creatures that God pre-programmed to always do what God wanted them to do.








For meaningful, genuine, loving relationships to exist between God and people, people must be free—free to love Him or free to hate Him.

“Would you like God to force you to live your life in accord with all His holy commandments 24 hours a day with no freedom to do otherwise?”



A view of Earth from space, showing the blue oceans and white clouds of the planet. The Milky Way galaxy is visible in the background, and a bright sun is shining from the right side, creating a lens flare effect. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

So, in this respect, God created the very kind of world people actually *want* to live in, a world in which true freedom exists.

A close-up, profile view of a man with long, brown hair and a beard. He is looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his face against a dark background.

**“What about those
who have never
heard of Jesus? Will
they be condemned
to Hell?”**

A wide-angle photograph of a beach at sunset. The sky is a vibrant mix of orange, yellow, and light blue, with soft clouds. The ocean waves are visible in the distance, and the wet sand reflects the warm light. In the far distance, two people are walking along the shoreline, their silhouettes clearly visible against the bright background. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

People will end up in Hell because they have lived their lives ignoring or even retreating from the truth that God has revealed to them.

A close-up, profile view of a man with long, brown hair and a beard. He is looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. The lighting is dramatic, with one side of his face in shadow. He is wearing a white collared shirt under a dark jacket.

**“But some people
have never even
heard of God.”**



1. Revelation of:
CREATION



Romans 1:19–20

“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made [creation], so that they are without excuse.”

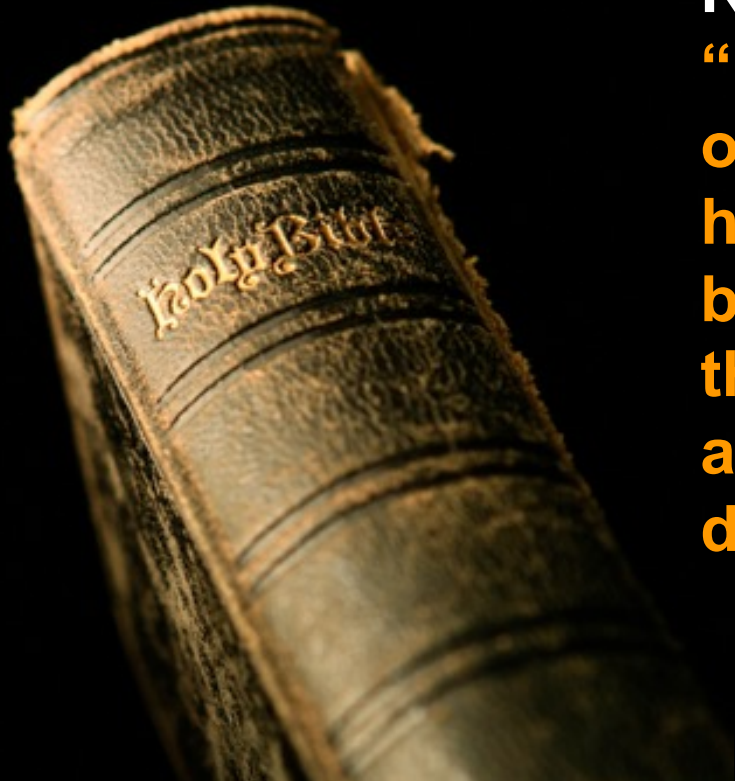


Psalm 19:1–4

“The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display His marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make Him known. They speak without a sound or a word; their voice is silent in the skies; yet their message has gone out to all the Earth, and their words to all the world.” (New Living Translation)



2. Revelation of:
CONSCIENCE

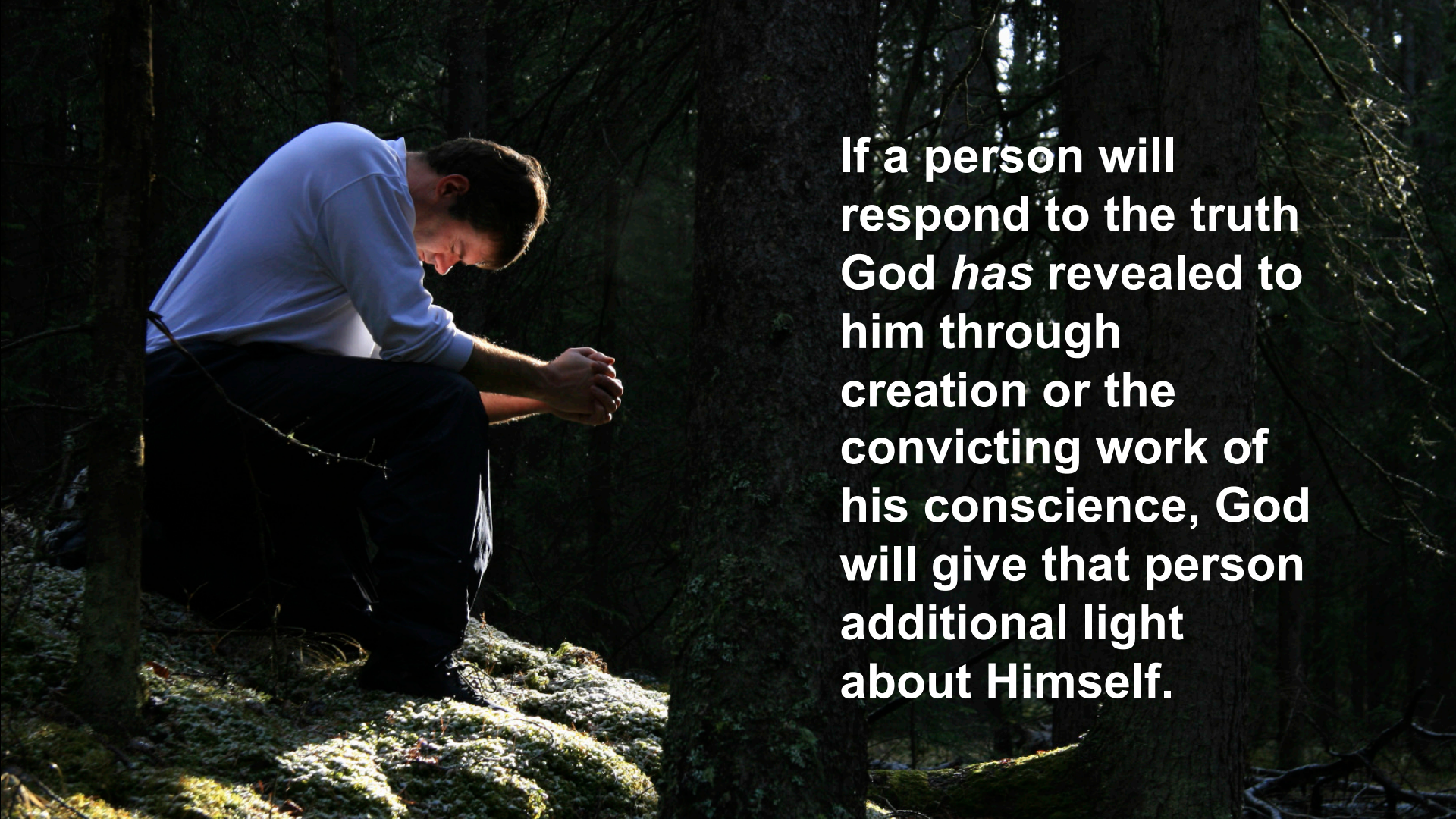


Romans 2:15

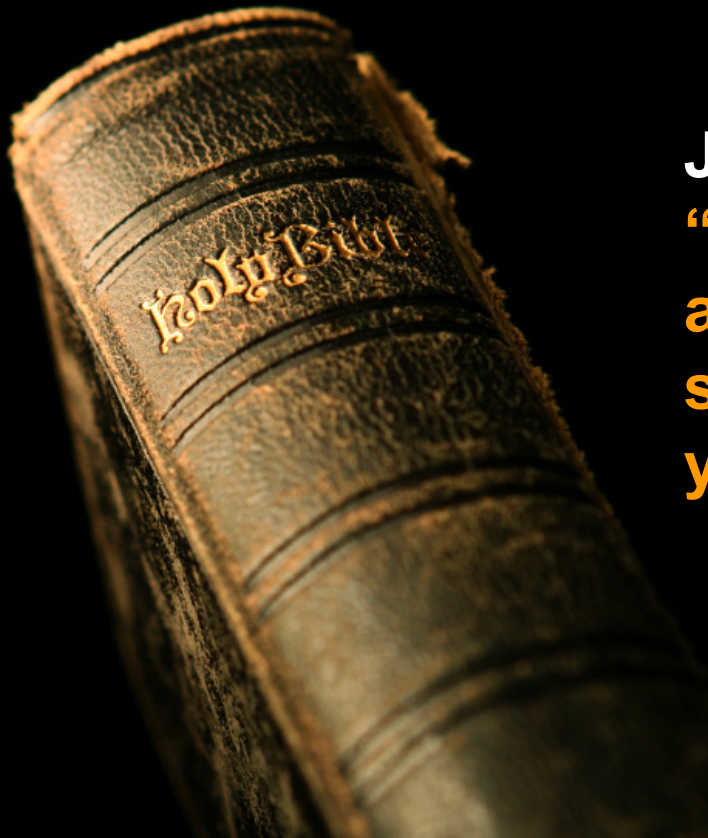
“ . . . show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them . . . ”



Every person can know through an examination of creation and their conscience that God *exists* and that he has *failed* to live up to God's laws written in their hearts.



If a person will respond to the truth God *has* revealed to him through creation or the convicting work of his conscience, God will give that person additional light about Himself.



Jeremiah 29:13

**“ . . . you will seek Me
and find Me, when you
search for Me with all
your heart.”**



Jeremiah 29:13

**“ . . . you will seek Me
and find Me, when you
search for Me with all
your heart.”**

1 Chronicles 28:9

**“If you seek Him, He
will let you find Him . . . ”**

Jeremiah 29:13

“ . . . you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

1 Chronicles 28:9

“If you seek Him, He will let you find Him”

Hebrews 11:6

“ . . . He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

God might send them...

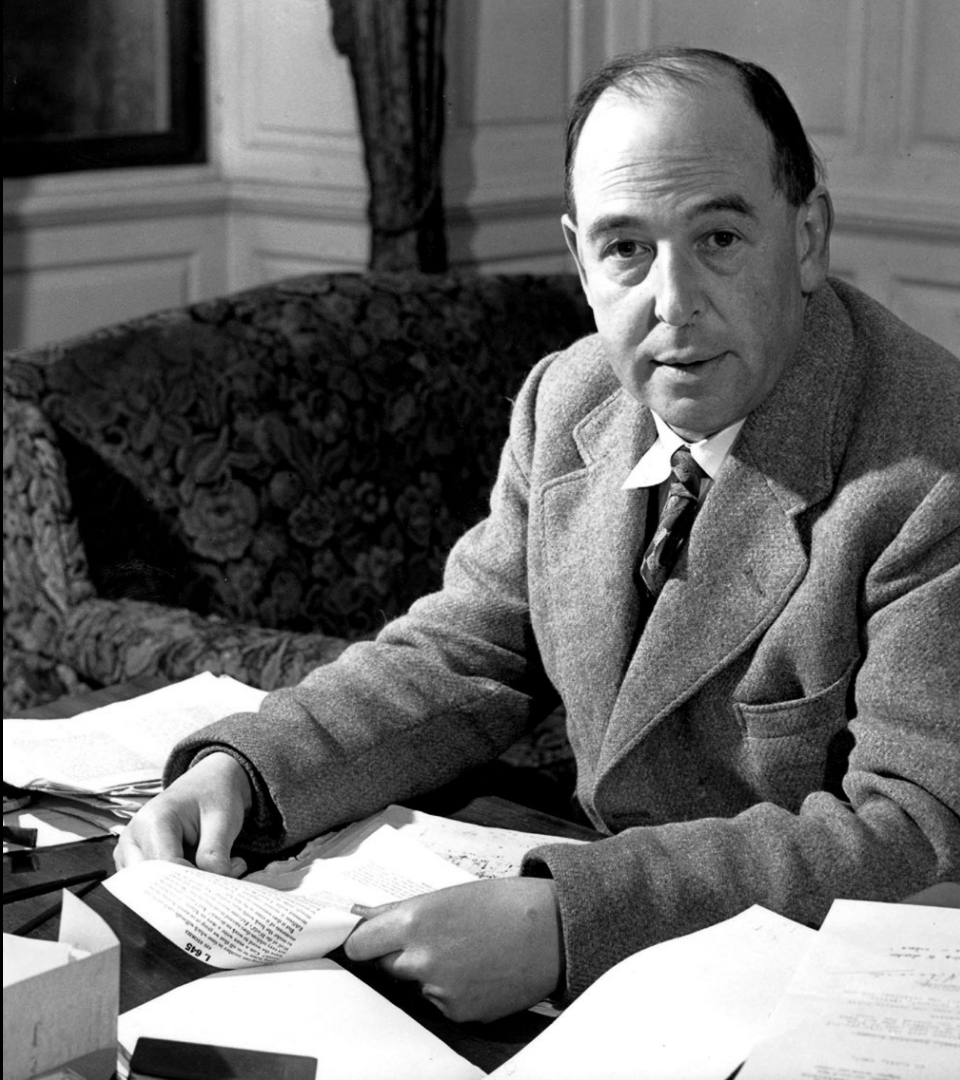
- **a missionary**
- **a radio signal**
- **a social media post**
- **a gospel tract**
- **an angel**
- **a dream or vision**



In the end, all will receive what they chose in this life, either to be with God or to be without Him.



If a person constantly ignores God, constantly mocks Him by the way he chooses to live, saying, “I couldn’t care less about what You put me here to do, Your values, or Your Son’s death for me. Leave me alone! I want to live my life without You!” God will honor that decision and, in the end, that person will have his preference.



“There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, in the end, ‘Thy will be done.’”

~ C.S. Lewis



Separation from God is not simply a sentence that is handed down out of the blue on judgment day.

It is the end of a path that is chosen, to some degree, in this life right here and now, day by day.




“I believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful rebels to the end; that the doors of Hell are locked on the inside.”

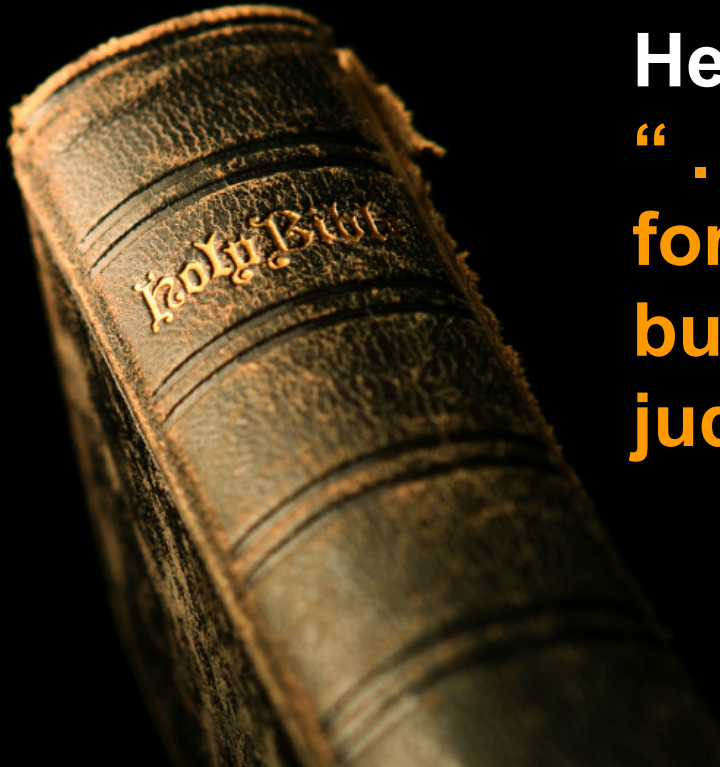
~ C.S. Lewis



**“Why doesn’t God
give people a second
chance to be saved
after death?”**




**Every hour that
passes is an
opportunity for a
person to cry out to
God and be a
recipient of His
mercy and grace.**



Hebrews 9:27


“ . . . it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

A close-up, profile view of a man with long, dark brown hair and a full beard. He is looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and hair, and deep shadows in the background.

**“Why doesn’t God
seek to reform
(change) sinners
in some form of
temporary
purgatory?”**

Purgatory, according to the Catholic Church, is a place of torment where people go for a time of suffering in order to be prepared for Heaven.




A close-up, profile view of a man with long, dark brown hair and a full beard. He is looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and hair, and deep shadows in the background. He is wearing a white collared shirt under a dark jacket.

**“But why doesn’t
God try something
like this in order to
reform people?”**

LIFE

- **Strives** with him
(Genesis 6:3)
- **Convicts** him of his sin
(John 16:8)
- **Reminds** him of God's righteousness
(John 16:8)
- **Warns** him of coming judgment
(Acts 24:25)
- **Testifies** to him through creation
(Romans 1:20)
- **Sends** him messengers with the good news of salvation (Romans 10:15)

A close-up, profile view of a man with long, dark brown hair and a full beard. He is looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and hair against a dark background.

**“It seems unfair that
God would give out the
same punishment to
everyone who ends up
in Hell. Some people
seem to be so much
more guilty of terrible
crimes than others.”**



Some critics of Christianity believe Hell is unjust because they believe the Bible indicates that “decent” human beings who “simply reject Jesus” are going to get the same punishment as people like Adolph Hitler or Joseph Stalin.

**God is not going to indiscriminately
(i.e., randomly without careful judgment)
send the unrepentant to Hell to suffer
the exact same judgment.**



Revelation 20:11–15 says every unsaved person is going to be resurrected to stand before God at a “**great white throne**” to be judged for every one of their deeds *before* they are sentenced.



Ecclesiastes 12:14 assures us that:

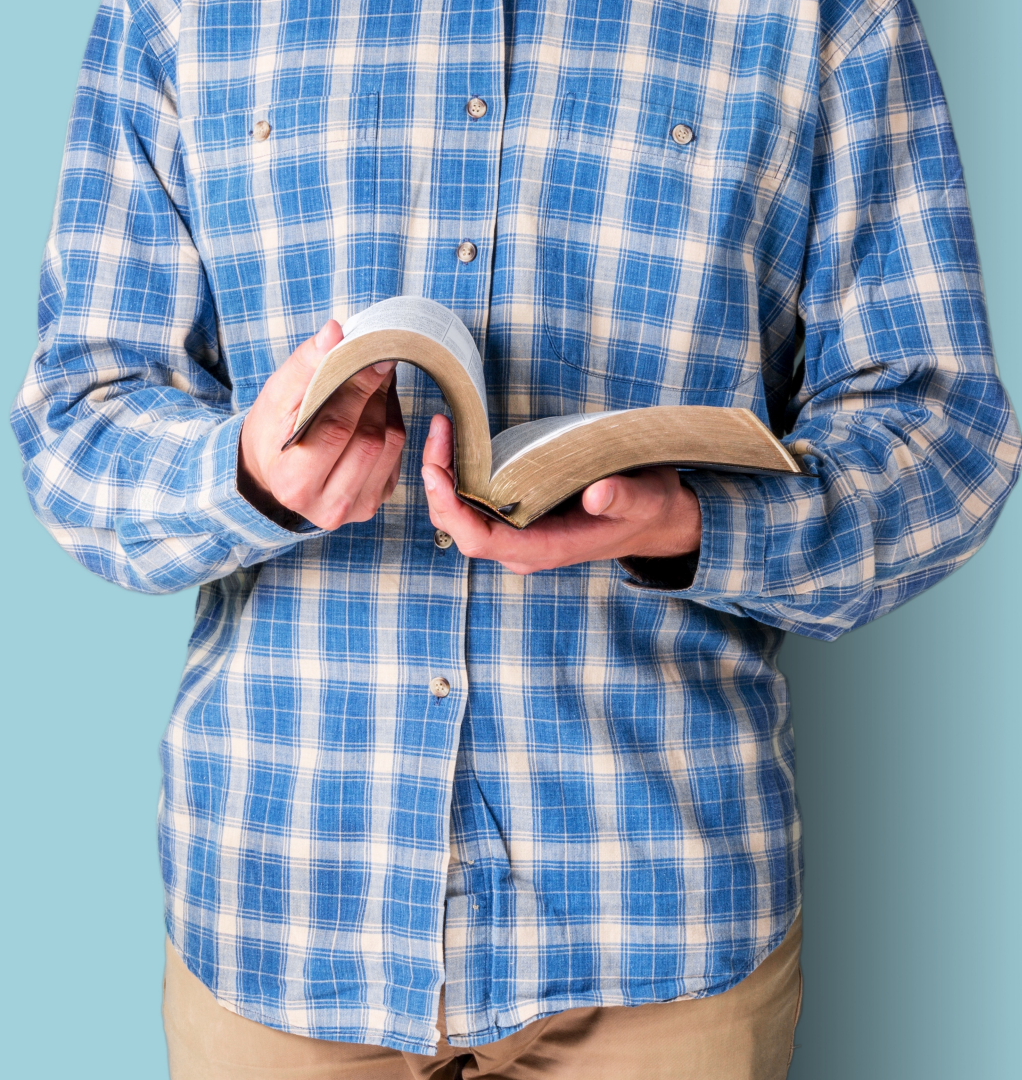
“God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”

Jesus said in Matthew 12:36:

“I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.”



And this lines up precisely with what Jesus said in Mark 12:40, when He stated that the scribes of His day would “**receive greater condemnation**” than others.



“Hold on a second here Charlie. I read the Bible. Are you saying that some sins are more serious than others? I thought sin was sin.”





John 19:11

**Jesus answered,
“You would have no
authority over Me,
unless it had been
given you from above;
for this reason he who
delivered Me up to you
has the greater sin.”**



Jesus told the people of Capernaum that the judgment coming to the people of Sodom would be **“more tolerable”** than their judgment (Matthew 11:24), because the people of Capernaum were guilty of greater sin.



What will a “**greater condemnation**” (Mk. 12:40) result in?

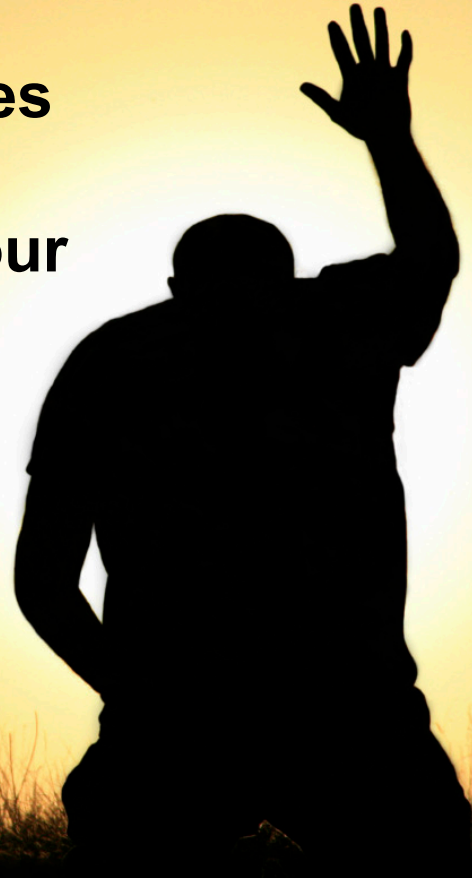
We don't know for sure. Perhaps some will suffer a greater degree of separation, isolation, emptiness, and regret.



**“Why would God create
Hell to be so horrible?
I mean, come on!
Gnashing of teeth?
Darkness? Flames? Only
a crazed ogre would
create that kind of place!”**

**People who are still blinded to
how atrocious their sins are
(Ephesians 4:18) think Hell is
too severe of a punishment
for a lifetime of wicked deeds.**

Repentant people, whose eyes have been opened to how offensive their sins were to our Creator, tend to think that Hell is *precisely* what they deserved.



**God is absolutely just
and perfectly fair.**

**God is absolutely just
and perfectly fair.**

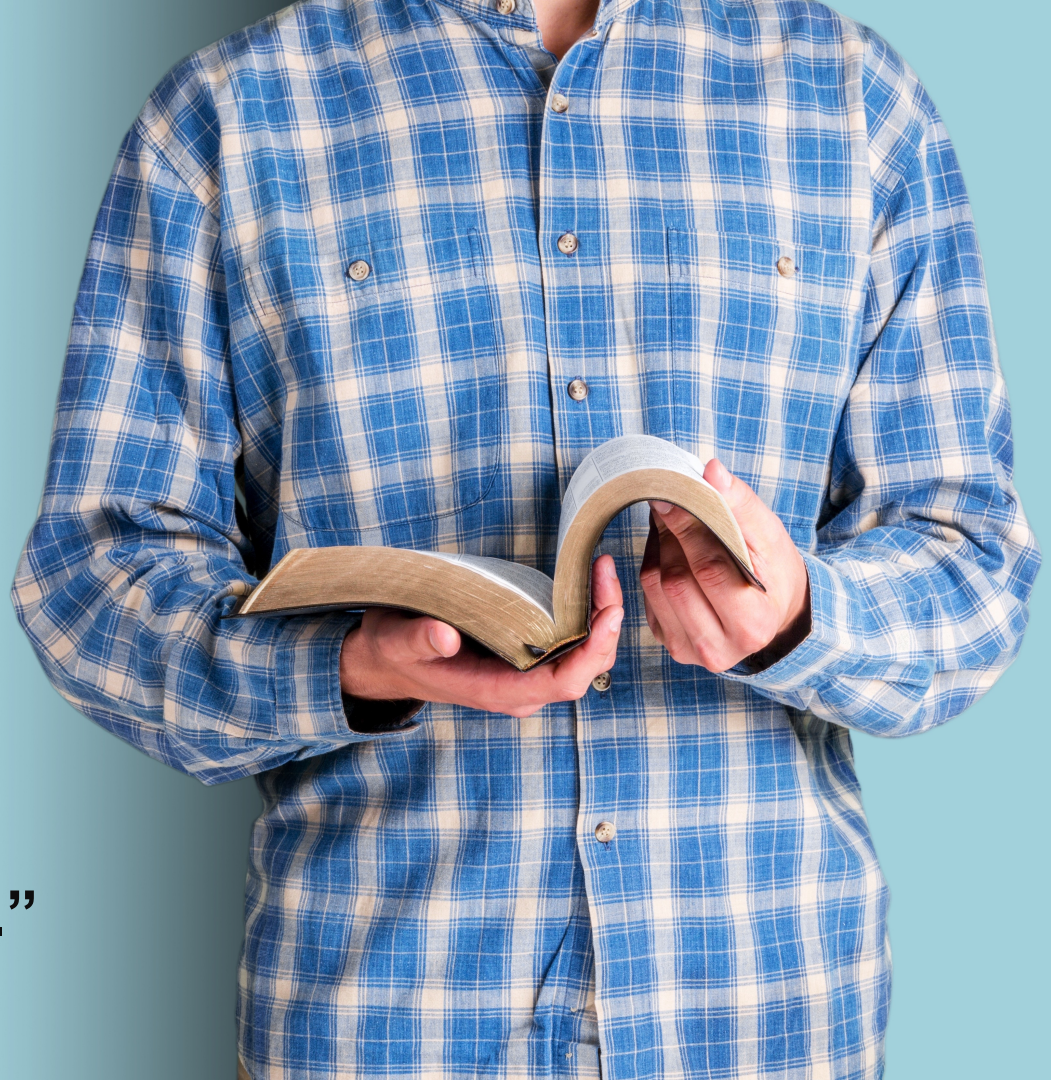
**And everything God does is in harmony
with who He is.**

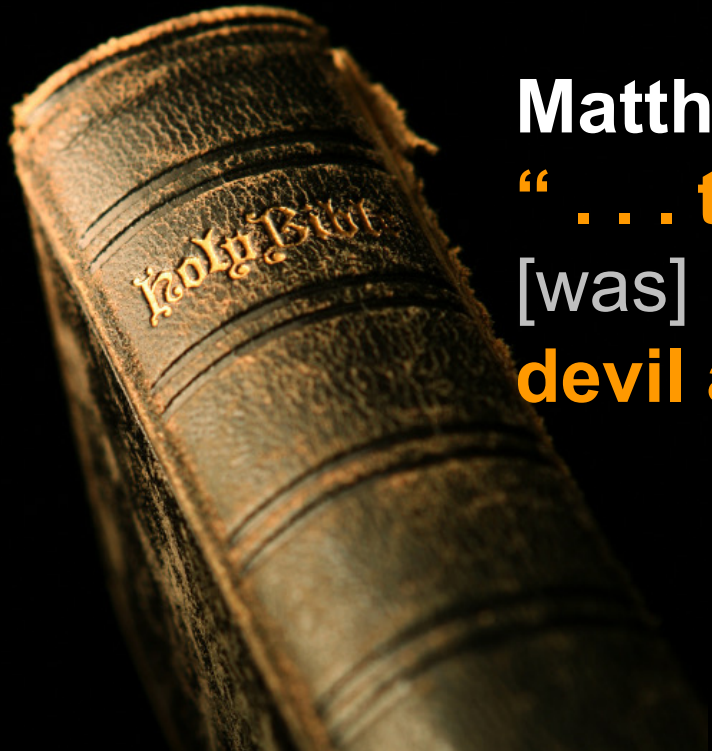
**God is absolutely just
and perfectly fair.**

**And everything God does is in harmony
with who He is.**

**So, we must conclude that Hell is the
way it is because that is precisely what the
unrepentant deserve, and no more.**

“No. Hell is the way it is because it was originally prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). *That's why Hell is so awful! God never intended for humans to go there.*”





Matthew 25:41

“ . . . the everlasting fire
[was] prepared for the
devil and his angels.”



2 Thessalonians 1:9

“**And these** [who reject God] **will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from** [what?] **the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”**



James 1:17

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”



If a person separates himself from the One who provides all those things, he's going to find himself in a dark, miserable place.




**“That doesn’t
sound like
too severe a
punishment
to you?”**

**LIFE APART
FROM GOD.**



**“Hell’s punishment
[separation from God]
fits sin’s crime. . . .
The punishment fits
the crime because
the punishment *is*
the crime. Saying no
to God means
no God.”**

~Peter Kreeft

A close-up, profile view of a man with long, dark brown hair and a full beard. He is looking off to the right with a serious, contemplative expression. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and hair, and deep shadows on the right side of his face and the background. He is wearing a white collared shirt under a dark jacket.

**“All right, maybe
Hell *does* exist,
but I could never
be happy in
Heaven knowing
my loved ones
are in Hell.”**

A dramatic sky scene featuring a bright sunburst breaking through dark, heavy clouds. The sun is positioned centrally, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the surrounding clouds with a golden glow. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a lighter, hazy blue near the horizon. The bottom of the image shows a shimmering, reflective surface, possibly water or a polished floor, that mirrors the light from the sun and the colors of the sky. The overall atmosphere is one of hope, brightness, and divine light.

**In Heaven, our joy will
be absolutely full.**



Psalm 16:11

“In Thy presence is fullness of joy; in Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore.”

Psalm 16:11

“In Thy presence is
fullness of joy; in Thy right
hand there are pleasures
forevermore.”

Revelation 21:4

“ . . . **He** [God] **shall wipe away**
every tear from their eyes; and
there shall no longer be any death;
there shall no longer be any
mourning, or crying, or pain; the
first things have passed away.”





“If you are concerned about your loved ones that won’t be in Heaven, the most irrational thing you could do if you are truly concerned about those on the outside is to remain outside yourself.”

~C.S. Lewis

**Christian, do you have a loved
one on their way to Hell?**



“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies; and if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees . . . Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for.”

~C.H. Spurgeon

**Would you like to make sure
you won't end up in Hell?**



Jesus, God in the flesh, died on a cruel wooden cross.

Because of His great **LOVE** for you, He died there in *your* place, to suffer the judgment you deserve for your sins, so that you could be forgiven, rescued from spending eternity in Hell, and be brought back into a right relationship with Him.



He rose from the grave three days later,
and today He offers all humanity:

- **“the forgiveness of sins”**
(Acts 26:18)
- **“peace with God”** (Romans 5:1)
- the **“free gift”** of **“everlasting life”**
(Romans 6:23; John 3:16)

**“Whosoever believes in
Him will not perish but have
everlasting life.” –JESUS
(John 3:16)**





God, thank You for loving me. Please forgive me for my sins. I trust in Jesus Christ to save me! Come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.



God, thank You for loving me. Please forgive me for my sins. I trust in Jesus Christ to save me! Come into my life and be my Lord and Savior.

Romans 10:13

“Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”