

# What Can We Know About The Destiny of the Condemned?

## *What Happens After We Die? (4)*

**Scripture Reading:** *Matthew 25:31-46*

### **Introduction:**

- A. Remember our prayer for this study: “O LORD, make me know my end...” (*Psa. 39:4*).
- B. Death is not the end of our existence; our spirits will return to God (*Ecclesiastes 12:1-7*).
- C. After the great day of judgment, what can we know about the eternal destiny of the condemned?

### **I. The Eternal End of the Road for the Condemned**

- A. Jesus spoke of a time when the condemned will be told to “depart” (*Matt. 7:21-23; 25:41-46*).
  - 1. Those who have walked in darkness will have no inheritance with Christ (*Eph. 5:3-5*).
  - 2. Nothing unclean will ever enter the holy city of God (*Rev 21:27; 22:14-15*).
- B. This eternal destination is referred to in the Bible as “hell.”
  - 1. In Greek, *gehenna*—a term associated with the Valley of Hinnom outside Jerusalem.
    - a. It was defiled by Josiah (*2 Kings 23:10*) as a place to burn the city trash.
    - b. Jesus used the term vividly (*Matt. 5:21-22, 29-30; 10:26-28; 18:7-9; Mark 9:42-48*).
  - 2. It’s important to realize whom this place was prepared for (*Matt. 25:41*).
  - 3. “The lake of fire that burns with sulfur” (*Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15; 21:7-8*).

### **II. The Eternal Experience of the Wicked**

- A. We all experience a degree of God’s presence (*Psalms 139; Acts 17:27-28; Matt 5:45*).
- B. If physical death is the separation of our bodies from our spirits, the “second” death is eternal separation of souls from God—eternal destruction (*2 Thess. 1:5-10; Phil 3:17-19*).
- C. Hell will be a realm of “outer darkness” (*Matt. 25:30; 2 Pet. 2:17; Jude 5-13*).
- D. The adversaries of God will eventually be consumed in a fury of fire (*Heb. 10:26-27*).

### **Conclusion:**

- A. How desperately we need to hear and heed Paul’s warning in *Romans 2:1-11*.
- B. Who is going to inherit this horrific eternal end?
  - 1. The “many” who pass through the “wide” gate and travel the “easy” way (*Matt. 7:13-14*).
  - 2. Those who “saw” and did nothing (*Matt. 25:41-46*).
  - 3. “Those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel” (*2 Thess. 1:8-9*).