

Seven Fundamental Facts About Hell

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Some consider the subject of *hell* to be unpopular. The fact that very few preachers in our "wise" society ever discuss *hell* suggests its unpopularity, as does the false belief on the part of many that *hell* does not really exist. Many people in our society, because of their immoral conduct and ungodliness, believe that *hell* does not exist, and they are willing to deny that they or anyone else will go there. Yet, in a rage or fit of anger, they do not hesitate to tell someone to "*go to hell!*" How many people have you heard admit that they believe a relative, a loved one, or they themselves are going to *hell*? Please consider with me *Seven Fundamental Facts About Hell*:

First, hell is a real place. The same Bible that speaks of heaven also teaches that there is a place called *hell*. If the Bible says it is a *real* place, doesn't that settle any questions regarding its existence? Since God's "*word is Truth*" (John 17:17), and God "*cannot lie*" (Titus 1:2), and Jesus warned His disciples about this place, without a doubt, there must be such a place. "*And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him Who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him.*" (Luke 12:4,5)

Second, hell is a horrible place. More than it uses any other figure of speech; the Bible describes *hell* as "*fire*." It is described as "*everlasting fire*" (Matthew 25:41); "*the fire that shall never be quenched*" (Mark 9:43); "*a lake of fire*" (Revelation 20:15); a place of "*everlasting punishment*" (Matthew 25:46). It is not surprising that in speaking of the place described as *hell*, the Bible says: "*And will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*" (Matthew 13:42)

Third, hell is a place where anyone can go. There are many places I cannot go. Neither you nor I can go into a Mormon temple, because we are not Mormons. But, anyone can go to the place called *hell*. Because God is a God of *love*, many refuse to believe that He will allow anyone to go to *hell* (1 John 4:8). But, God is a God of *wrath*, as well as a God of *love*. Paul taught, "*Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.*" (Romans 11:22)

God will deal severely with those who disobey him (Romans 11:20). Listen to Paul's words, "*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.*" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) The disobedient will all go there.

Fourth, hell is a place that will last forever. It has no end. In *hell*, time stands still. It is difficult for man to fathom eternity. Why? In this life, everything has an end. Just as heaven is never-ending, so is *hell*--it is eternal. "*As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*" (Jude 7) Also read Mark 3:29 and Hebrews 6:2.

Fifth, great classes of people, even angels, abide in hell. The immoral will be there:

- "*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionists will inherit the kingdom of God.*" (1 Corinthians 6:9,10)



- *"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)*
- God's children (unfaithful brethren) who *"again become entangled"* in the *"pollutions of the world"* will be there (2 Peter 2:20-22; Hebrews 6:1-6; 10:23-31).
- The *"devil and his angels"* and all sinners will be there (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 21:8).

Will you or I be there? We choose whether to be with God or Satan.

Sixth, hell is a place from which one cannot escape. In this life, prisoners often escape from prisons and end up back in the outside world. But in *hell*, there is no place of escape; the world and all things therein will be burned (2 Peter 3:9-12). There will be no way to cross *"the great fixed gulf."* (Luke 16:26) Remember, it is the place of *"everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power."* (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

Seventh, hell is a place to be avoided. God is rich in mercy and grace; He sent His Son to die on the cross for those who were lost in sin. Where does this place all men?

- *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)*
- *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8)*

Therefore, to avoid this terrible place, all men must believe the saving gospel of Christ.

- *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." (Romans 1:16)*

The Hebrew writer expressed it well when he wrote,

- *"Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." (Hebrews 5:8,9)*

We must avoid, at all costs, this place. God left us the information we need to warn us and teach us how to make sure that we don't end up in the terrible place called *hell*. Men must choose where they wish to spend eternity.