

# Bible Extra Extra

**Believing in hell without  
being a sadist**

**Part 1**

“There is no doctrine that I would more willingly remove from Christianity than this...But it has the full support of Scripture, especially of our Lord’s own words; it has always been held by Christendom; and it has the support of reason. However, this doctrine is one of the chief grounds on which Christianity is attacked as barbarous and the goodness of God impugned. We are told that it is a detestable doctrine.”

C.S. Lewis

# Hell in the New Testament

## Revelation

*"The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire."*

Rev 20:13-15

# Hell in the New Testament

## Paul

*He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might .*

2 Thess 1:8-9

# Hell in the New Testament

## Jesus' direct teaching

*If your hand causes you to sin cut it off. It is better to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell where the fire never goes out... It is better to enter the Kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where "their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched."*

Mk 9:43-49

# Hell in the New Testament

## Jesus' direct teaching

*Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'*

*"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'*

*"There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.*

Luke 13:22-30

# Hell in the New Testament

## Jesus' Parables

Rich man & Lazarus

Sheep & Goats

Ten Virgins

Talents

Wedding Banquet

Net

Weeds

# Jesus summary

Rejection/exclusion

Anguish and torment

Destruction

Just punishment

Loss

Wrath & condemnation

**A place at all costs to be avoided**



# THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

## 1. God is love

*For God so loved the world...* Jn 3:16

*God is love* 1 Jn 4:8

# THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

## 2. **God is both holy and just**

*He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and all his ways are just.*

*A faithful God who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he.*

Dt 32:4

*Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?*

*Who may stand in his holy place?*

Psa 24:3

# THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

**3. Judgment is real but will be fair and is  
*“according to what we have done”***

*“people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment”* Heb 9:27

*“God will repay each person according to what they have done.”* Rom 2:6

*“The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”* Rev 20:12

# THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

## 4. The problem is that we haven't done very well

*“There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

Rom 3:23

*As it is written: “There is no-one righteous, not even one.”*

Rom 3:10

*“Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.”*

Eph 2:3

# THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

**5. Christ has died to take away our sins and reconcile us to God, so that we might not perish, but have everlasting life.**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* Jn 3:16

*“whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”* Jn 5:24

# THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

5. Christ has died to take away our sins and reconcile us to God, so that we might not perish, but have everlasting life.

*“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.” Jn 3:36*

# THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

6. We are therefore **EITHER** saved by faith in Christ and will find ourselves in heaven on account of HIS righteousness.

**OR** we are judged and condemned and will find ourselves in hell on account of our sins.

*“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*

1 Jn 5:15

# THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

## 7. Judgment is proportionate

*“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.”*

Luke 12:47-48



## In a nutshell

*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*

Mt 7:13-14

# What happens when I die?

1. The Christian is immediately in the presence of God (Phil 1:21-23, Lk 23:43, 2 Cor 5:8), but this is an “intermediate state”.
2. Resurrection comes at the last trumpet (1 Cor 15:50-53, 1 Thess 4:13-18)
3. There is no threat of hell or condemnation to fear (Rom 8:1, Jn 5:24), but there is an accounting to give (2 Cor 5:10, 1 Cor 3:12-15) and a testing of our lives.

# So to answer WHY is there a hell?

1. God is holy and we are not. We are simply not fit to go to heaven in our current condition. As sinners we deserve punishment and as rebels we face banishment.
2. The laws of sowing and reaping cannot be arbitrarily repealed. There cannot be a sudden discontinuity between this life and the next. Our choices here really do matter.

# So to answer WHY is there a hell?

3. The unrepentant man cannot be allowed to have the last laugh on God. There is no justice in a universe if sin and evil are not finally exposed and dealt with.
4. Every possible thing has already been mercifully done on God's part to remove the possibility of hell. What he did, cost him everything, and there is no more God can do.

# So to answer WHY is there a hell?

5. Relationship cannot be forced. To request heaven for the person who has resisted God is to ask for something meaningless.
6. You could say God “sends” no-one to hell. God simply grants us what we demanded: freedom, independence, autonomy and self-absorption. That is hell!

# So to answer WHY is there a hell?

7. Heaven, for the unsaved, would actually be an impossibility at every level – logically, judicially, relationally and experientially. It would be as nonsensical as discovering that a person who only ate burgers and never exercised had just turned up and won the Olympic 100 metres. Our eternity is intimately connected to the life we lived here. God cannot conjure up discontinuities at the moment of our death.

# Summary so far

- The NT teaching on hell is hard to escape
- There are also rational and reasonable arguments for the existence of hell,
- But the details are hotly debated