

Outline for Hell:

Is hell a real place?

(Matt. 25:46 - *"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."* John 5:24 - *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*)

Why was hell created?

Hell was not created originally for any human being, but for Satan (Matt. 25:41 - *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*)

One day God is going to cast Satan into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10 – *"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."*)

Who will be in hell? Even though hell was created for Satan and his demons, unfortunately they won't be the only ones there. The facts of life and eternity we must all face are:

*We were all headed for an eternity without God in hell (Rom. 3:23 – *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*)

*The punishment for our sin is death (Rom. 6:23 – *"For the wages of sin is death"*)

*Jesus came to rescue us from this certainty of separation from God (1 Thes. 1:10 – *"And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment."*) Only Jesus can rescue us because only he can offer us forgiveness for the sin that is the reason we would spend eternity in hell.

*Those who trust Jesus are rescued (Heb. 7:25 – *"Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf."*)

*Those who do not trust Jesus are not rescued from hell & separation from God (1 John 5:11-12 – *"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."*)

What happens to people in hell? The Bible clearly teaches that hell is a place of never-ending torment, torture and anguish. (Emotional/relational torment - Matt. 8:12 – *"But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*; Matt 10:28 – *"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell"* ; Physical torment - Mark 9:43-48 – *"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you 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"*; Spiritual torment – 2 Thes. 1:9 – *"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power"*)

Hell is a place of eternal darkness (Rev. 21:23-24 – *"The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it."*)

Luke 16:19-31 gives us 3 final hard to hear truths about hell:

*There is no rest from torment

*There are no second chances

*You're fully aware of the reality of heaven

Outline for Heaven:

God has created men and women with a sense that this life is not all there is. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, *“He has also set eternity in the hearts of men.”*)

Where is heaven? UP! Psalm 123:1 – *“I lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven.”*

In the OT, heaven is spoken of figuratively in terms of layers of sky. The heavens are where the birds fly, trees breathe, and rain falls. This was referred to as the first heaven. The heavens are also where the moon and the stars move in orbits. This was referred to as the second heaven. The third heaven or highest heaven, was said to be where God dwells in a special way.

Heaven is home. Heaven is God’s dwelling place and the final dwelling place of all believers. (Rev. 21:3 – *“I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, ‘Look, the home of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.’”*) One of the names given to heaven is the heavenly city. (Hebrews 11:16 – *“But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a heavenly city for them.”*)

Who will be in heaven? Hebrews 12:22-23 – *“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands of angels gathered together with joy. You have come to the meeting of God’s firstborn children whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all people, and to the spirits of good people who have been made perfect.”*

This passage tells us that in heaven will be: angels, God, the church (believers) and Old Testament believers (those who have died). Romans 10:9 – *“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

What will heaven be like?

Six truths about heaven that will be sure to bring you joy:

1. Holiness – (Jude 1:24 – *“Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.”* And 1 John 3:2)

2. Glorified body – (2 Corinthians 5:1-4 – *“For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it’s not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life.”*)

3. Immortality – (Revelation 21:4 – *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”* And 1 Corinthians 15:53)

4. Satisfaction of all needs – (Revelation 7:16 – *“They will never again be hungry or thirsty; they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun.”*)

5. Sharing of Christ’s glory – (Romans 8:17 – *“And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.”*)

6. Intimate fellowship with God and other believers – (1 Corinthians 13:12 – *“Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.”*)

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the students in your school think about life after death?
2. When did the belief in heaven and life after death take on a personal meaning in your life?
3. If a friend asked you how you could be sure of a life after death, what would you say?
4. On a scale of 1 (none) to 10 (a whole lot), how much does your belief that there is life after death affect the way you live your life right now?
5. How do you feel about discussing life and death issues with your friends outside of church?
6. What's one of the most beautiful places you've ever been? What impressed you about it?
7. Imagine a movie made about your life, with everything you've ever done recorded in it and shown. How would you feel?
8. What do you find comforting in Revelation 20:11-21:8?
9. What won't there be in heaven (Rev. 21:4)?
10. Who is heaven reserved for (Rev. 21:7)? Who is hell reserved for (Rev. 21:8)?
11. What must one do to overcome and share in God's eternal inheritance (see 1 John 5:5, 11-12)?
12. What do you say when your non-Christian friends ask you about the existence of another life after death?
13. Who is someone you would like to share the Good News of Christ and hope of heaven with this week?