

HELL IS FOR REAL JULY 18, 2021

LUKE 16:19-31

Jesus reveals the destinations of two men. Both lived on earth, both died, but they ended up in two different places after their deaths: Abraham's bosom, and hell. Jesus described hell as an awful place of tremendous horror. Before exploring it further, here are some views on the subject of hell: **MATTHEW 10:28**

- Universalism – An awful place but no one goes there. God would never inflict perpetual torture on any creature.
- Inclusivism – All will be saved by believing in a higher power.
- Pluralism – All religions are equal; all will be saved from hell.
- Postmortem evangelism – Unbelievers get a second chance.
- Annihilationism – Those without Jesus will cease to exist.
- Christian Science – Heaven and hell are states of thought.
- Mormonism – Endless suffering is unscriptural.
- Jehovah's Witnesses – The wicked are annihilated.

BIBLICAL TEACHING

- **ISAIAH 66:22-24** – A picture of perpetual suffering.
- Jesus described hell as: eternal, unquenchable fire (**MATTHEW 5:22, 25:41, MARK 9:43**); outer darkness (**MATTHEW 8:12, 25:30**); torment (**LUKE 16:23-24**); God's wrath (**JOHN 3:36**); damnation (**JOHN 5:29**); weeping and gnashing of teeth (**MATTHEW 13:50**).
- Paul described hell as: eternal destruction (**2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-10 (NLT)**).
- Hebrews writer: eternal judgment (**HEBREWS 6:2**).
- Peter: chains of darkness (**2 PETER 2:4**).
- Jude: eternal fire (**JUDE 1:7**).
- Revelation: wrath of God (**REVELATION 14:9-11**); lake of fire (**REVELATION 20:14**); second death **REVELATION 21:8**).

QUESTION

How could a good God sentence someone to eternal torment in hell? How could a good judge sentence a serial killer to the electric chair? Answer – the judge is not responsible for him going to the electric chair, his own choices are.

THREE "M's" OF LUKE 16:19-31

1. A place of misery. **V23-24** The man was tormented and experienced a thirst that would never be satisfied to this day. He still hasn't received a drop of water that he longed for the moment he died.
2. A place of memory. **V25** "Son remember" reveals an aspect of hell that will eternally haunt those who are there. "Remember in your life time" when you had opportunities to come to God. Remember Lazarus who only wanted a crumb from your table. The rich man couldn't take his money, but he did take his memory.
 - His destination is eternally set. There's no hope of escape or relief. There's no parole, no pardon or release. Hell is forever and inescapable. It's too late to change your fate.
3. A place of mourning. **V27-31** He's not fellowshiping with his friends, he doesn't want his brothers to join him. Ted Turner thinks he and his buddies can make hell better. A woman thought she would play poker with the devil. The truth is, people need to be warned about what hell is really like, and the dangers of it.

CONCLUSION:

The dead are still alive, they retain their personalities, they can see, hear, feel, recognize, remember, speak, reflect, plead, suffer and think. Hell is real and once in; you can't get out. No one has to go there if they don't want to.