



INTRODUCTION

The Bible says everyone has an appointment with death, and after death is God's judgment.

Most people are hoping that God is a good and loving Judge. However, in their flawed thinking they say, "If God is a good judge, then He will let me off my crimes against Him... right?"

It seems clear that the thing people are hoping for in God as Judge is the very thing that is going to shock them most when they die.

If God is good, then He must (by definition) demand just punishment for the crimes committed.

So, what is just and reasonable punishment for crimes against a holy God?

Genesis 18:25 – ... Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

1. The Verdict of God's Judgment is GUILTY.

Romans 3:19 – *"Now we know that **what things soever the law saith...** that every mouth may be stopped, and ALL THE WORLD may become guilty before God."*

Most people believe this: "I am not perfect, but I am basically good."

The Bible says this: "There is none righteous, no, not one."

The Law Have you ever told a lie? Always obeyed parents? Ever looked with lust? The purpose of the Law is not information – it is true understanding of SIN.

The Question "If God judges you based on the Ten Commandments, would you be innocent of guilty?"

The Doctor Do you trust a doctor who prescribes medicine before doing a diagnosis? The Law diagnoses the sin problem. The Gospel cures the disease! People often *reject* the diagnosis. They do not like to ADMIT the *problem*.

Comparing Scriptures

Romans 3:23 – *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*

James 2:10 – *"For whosoever... keep... law...yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."*

2. The Sentence is JUST.

Hebrews 10:31 – *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

People often think: "The idea of Hell proves God is cruel and unloving... the Bible is harmful."

The Bible says that Hell proves God is holy and righteous and just – and that God is love!

HELL IS REASONABLE

Good Judge Imagine murderers, rapists, traffickers, abusers standing before a judge. If the judge says: “I am loving. Therefore, everyone goes free.” Is the judge loving? No. He would be corrupt and evil. A good judge punishes evil. Amen. God is the good and righteous Judge!

HELL IS DESERVED

Serious Crime The seriousness of a crime is determined by WHO is offended. A paper clip? A tree? A child? The owner? The President? Holy God? David said, “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned...” **Psalm 51:4** Every sin is against infinite Holiness, Authority, Goodness – God Himself. We minimize sin because we compare ourselves to sinners – not God.

HELL IS REAL

Conscious In **Luke 16**, the rich man could: think, remember, **feel**, and speak.

Eternal In **Mt 25:46**, the word used for **eternal** life is used for **eternal** punishment.

Torment In **Mk 9:43-48**, Jesus spoke repeatedly of **fire**, weeping, gnashing of teeth. No one in Scripture speaks more about Hell than Jesus.

Separation “**Punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord.**” The Bible describes... No hope. No relief. No escape. Forever. **2Ths 1:9**

The Flood People mocked Noah – then God’s judgment came. **Genesis 6-9** The issue was never whether they believed in God’s judgment. The issue was whether God’s judgment was **TRUE**.

Key Truths

- Many skip Hell because it is uncomfortable. Jesus spoke more of Hell than Heaven!
- People must understand what they are being saved FROM to appreciate Jesus Christ.

3. The Warning is God’s MERCY.

Ezekiel 33:11 – “Say unto them... I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked...”

The Bridge If a bridge is out ahead, the loving thing is not silence – it is a **WARNING**. The warning may offend, but it may save a life.

Noah For over a century, Noah preached righteousness and judgment to come. The ark itself was a visible invitation. God warned before He judged.

The Courtroom Are people guilty? Is God just? Then what hope do they have? If God is just and sinners are guilty, then **someone** must pay for their crimes!

This week... Pray daily for lost people. Ask God for boldness. Carry Gospel tracts everywhere. Start one spiritual conversation with someone. Begin living intentionally for Christ.

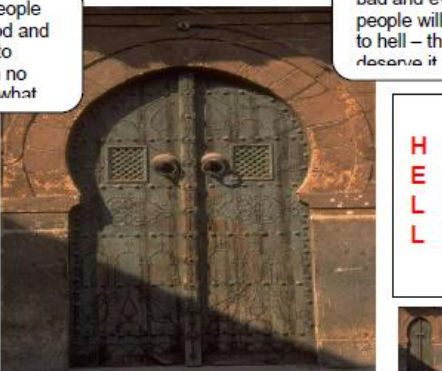
Consider this – Why do we think that our sins are not so bad? We have bad thinking...

Most people think this...

HEAVEN

Most people are good and will go to heaven no matter what

Only really bad and evil people will go to hell – they deserve it



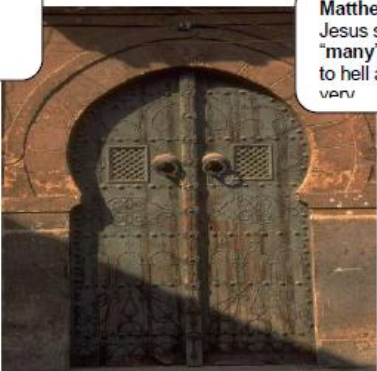
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God says this...

HELL

John 10:9 Jesus said, "I am the Door" and few find

Matthew 7:13 Jesus said, "many" will go to hell and be very



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Matthew 7:13-14 – Enter ye in at the *strait gate*:

for *wide* is the gate, and *broad* is the way, *that leadeth to destruction*, and *many there be which go in thereat*:


Because *strait* is the gate, and *narrow* is the way, *which leadeth unto life*, and *few there be that find it*.

Matthew 7:21-23 – Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. *Many* will say to me *in that day*, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Most people think this...

HEAVEN

I am a good person and my god does not "do" hell.




I deserve heaven – considering my own righteousness...

God says this...

HELL

The demands of justice must be met for law breakers.



Quick test... Say this out loud... "I really deserve hell."

I deserve hell – considering my unrighteousness...

- John, **by your own admission**, you are a **lying, thieving, blaspheming, adulterer** at heart (and we have only looked at 4 of the Ten Commandments) and you are going to have to face God on Judgment Day.
- John, **when YOU** face God on Judgment day and He judges **YOU** based on the Ten Commandments, will **YOU** be **INNOCENT** or **GUILTY** of breaking God's Law?
- **ANSWER: Guilty**

NOTE There are only 2 options for this most important question. If they say, "Innocent" then you know with certainty now that they have not seen their crimes before a holy God. At that point I will say, "Why is that? Because you think God is good and will overlook your sin?" To this they normally say, "Yes, that's it." If so, take them to the courtroom and see how that works in a court of law in our city. Does a "good" judge overlook the crimes of a man accused of rape and murder because he says he is sorry and asks the judge to forgive him? No. If the judge is good, he must punish the guilty criminal for his crimes. How much more the God and Judge of the universe for crimes against Him!!

CONTINUED...

- ✓ So, will you go to Heaven or hell?
- ✓ **ANSWER: Hell**

NOTE If they say, "Heaven" then see the previous note because although they have admitted to their guilty sentence (having no doubt been reproved by the Holy Spirit and having their conscience bear witness to their guilt), they are thinking that their own righteousness can somehow get them into Heaven. Not so, **unless you have God's righteousness on that Day**, you will be found wanting and will end up like those in Matthew 7:21-23 who thought that they were saved and were cast into hell.

- ✓ Does that concern you?
- ✓ **ANSWER: Yes**

NOTE If they say, "No" then tell them that it sure ought to. Remind them that it does not matter what you believe. What matters is what is true! Tell them you will pray for them and be sure to leave them with at least a tract or something to consider.

- ✓ Do you know what God did for you so that you would not have to take the punishment you deserve on Judgment Day and be cast into hell and then the lake of fire for all eternity?

NEXT WEEK: The most **Amazing Grace** that ever did come to planet earth!!!