

The Afterlife

I'm Curious About...the afterlife. Great! You have the right piece of paper in your hands. We have taken the time to put this together so you can understand what the Bible says about Heaven and Hell, one of two places everyone will spend in eternity after they die. You'll also have a chance to dig into the Bible for yourself!

What do Christians believe about the afterlife?

The Bible teaches that humans were created to exist forever, but because of sin we die, but that is not the end of us. A person will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or with God through repentance, grace, forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally with Him is Heaven. Heaven and hell are literal physical places of eternal existence, both of which God created. People will spend eternity in one of these two places when they die. The Bible teaches that people in relationship with God the Father, through the Son, Jesus Christ, will go to Heaven and those who have willingly rejected Jesus, God's Son, have in turn rejected the Father and the Spirit as well, and they will go to Hell.

What is Heaven?

Heaven is where God, His angels, and people in relationship with Him celebrate and live. Heaven is a literal place. God is not only found in Heaven, He is everywhere. But Heaven is where His desires and wishes are best shown and where perfection exists. In Heaven, there is no pain and no tears. Isaiah 25:8 says, "The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears." In Heaven people are without sin and are free from the consequences of sin. In Heaven people will experience what God intended from the beginning of time for humans. There will be no fear of death or pain there will be no shame or rejection, no guilt or regret. It is truly a perfect place. Eventually, at the end of time, Jesus will come back to Earth and He will make His home on a recreated Earth with those who had a relationship with Him. Along with a recreated Earth we will have 'resurrected' bodies (new bodies) and will enjoy each other and worship God in perfect harmony for eternity. Heaven is described as a wedding banquet and there will be a massive party for everyone there. God desires every person to spend eternity in Heaven but He will not force anyone to be with Him. He allows them to make their own choice.

What is Hell?

Hell is the place where people experience eternal separation from God. This place is also where Satan and his demons will spend eternity. Since it is separated from God, Hell is lacking all things that are good. Jesus describes it as a place where there is extreme pain and torment. He states "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." It is not a pleasant place but some people will choose to go there because they do not want to have a relationship with God. God does not desire for people to spend eternity in Hell but he allows them the freedom to make the choice. The only choice that will prevent someone from entering Heaven and cause them to go to Hell is rejecting a relationship with Jesus.

What Happens When I Die?

The Bible teaches that we will be taken to one of the two places when we die. There is NO in between place, like a purgatory or something. Paul when speaking of Christians in 2 Corinthians 5:8 writes "we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord." And Jesus taught in a parable about life after death that "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side." Luke 16:22.

Going Deeper

Read Luke 16:19-31 and Revelation 21:1-7 and reflect on the difference between Heaven and Hell as described by these two passages.

We are here to help you connect with God. Talk to a leader if there's anything we can do to help you grow in your faith. Talk to someone on the so we can be praying for you and help you get connected, you can talk to us during one of our services, Wednesdays @ 6-7pm and Sundays @ 10:30 or you can contact the church office @ 940-458-7416