

## Romans 6:23: The T Intersection on the Romans Road

*“For the wages of sin is death...”*

*“...but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

*What's Next for Me? (Personal Eschatology)*

### Clarification:

Sheol (OT) and Hades (NT) are both terms for the place of the dead, or departed souls. In the OT this was the place where everyone who died went (Redeemed on one side—Abraham's bosom/side Luke 16:22—and the unredeemed on the other side...a place of torment (Luke 16:28), separated by a large chasm Luke (16:26)).

For those who have believed God's promises and trusted in the coming Christ for salvation this place was called “Paradise” (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 12:4; Rev. 2:7 – cf. “Garden” – Gen. 1-3).

However, once Jesus descended to Sheol/Hades and proclaimed victory to the captives (that is, that death no longer had rule over them and sin's consequence was paid), Sheol/Hades is now only the dwelling place of the Unredeemed dead. The saved who die are separated from the body and their soul abides in Heaven with Jesus.

Thus, Jesus did not descend to Hell as some ancient creeds read, but He did suffer the wrath of God on the cross and descend to Sheol/Hades to proclaim release to the righteous—not those who have a righteousness of their own (for there are none), but those who have received it from their Savior who is called, “The Lord our Righteousness” (Jer. 23:6).

Therefore, today, all who are saved will go immediately to Heaven (aka – “home” 2 Cor. 5:8) to be with their Lord. We will remain there until the day when we receive our resurrected and glorified bodies (1 Cor. 15:50-58), to “appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (2 Cor. 5:10)

Hades is not as bad as it could be or will be, but it is enough to be called the foretaste of Hell. So, even though it is often referred to as “Hell” by people, it is technically the place where those who have not obeyed the gospel go to suffer and await their resurrection into new bodies unto the judgement that will send them to Hell, which will be thrown into the eternal lake of fire (Rev. 20:13-14)—this is the second death of those not saved in Christ Jesus.

## What Happens When You Die: Death vs Eternal Life

### ETERNAL LIFE / HEAVEN / HOME / PARADISE

#### Definition of Heaven:

*The permanent dwelling of the redeemed and departed soul in the blessed presence of God.*

#### Biblical Descriptions of Heaven:

1. A place being personally prepared by Jesus Christ (John 14:2-3)
2. For those who have been born again (John 3:3)
3. It hosts a myriad of angels, but has room for every redeemed soul (Rev. 5:11)
4. A place where Jesus' glory is clearly seen and known (John 17:24; Rev. 22:4)
5. A place where greater glory is continually revealed (Rom 8:18)
6. Even His holiness (Rev. 21:27), beauty (Ps. 50:2), and perfection (1 Cor. 13:10)
7. The place where God's authority and power are established (Eph. 1:10)
8. And we will serve Him with purity of heart and freedom from guilt (Rev. 7:15; 22:3)
9. We will sing His praises forever (Rev. 14:3, 15:3)
10. There is full peace (Is. 57:1-2) and unity amongst the citizens of this kingdom (Eph. 1:10)
11. A place where sickness, suffering, hunger, mourning, crying, and pain end (Rev. 21:4)
12. Tears will be wiped away by Jesus (Isaiah 25:8; Rev. 21:4)
13. Death is a forgotten fear and an enemy defeated (Is. 25:8; 1 Cor. 15:26; Rev. 21:4)
14. There will be fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11; Is. 35:10)...  
because it is in the presence of your Creator and Savior! (Phil. 1:23)
15. Even the Father (Matt. 6:9), the Son (Acts 1:11), and the Holy Spirit (Rev. 22:17)
16. A place where you will never feel forgotten, out of place, lost, neglected, or without identity and purpose – for God's promise of abiding will be realized (Rev. 21:3)
17. And more than the mind can imagine or fathom (1 Cor. 2:9; Is. 64:4)

"THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." – 1 Cor. 2:9 (cf. Is. 64:4)

1. Do you know for sure that if you were to die tonight you would go to heaven?
2. If you were to die tonight and stand before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" What would you say?

***"Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."***

Romans 10:13 (cf. Joel 2:32)

## DEATH / HADES / HELL unto the LAKE OF FIRE

### Definition of Hell:

*The permanent dwelling of the departed soul in the punitive presence of God.*

### Biblical Descriptions of Hell:

1. A place prepared by God for the accursed ones, the devil, and his angels (Mt. 25:41)
2. Where the unbelieving dead suffer the second death and eternal fire (Rev. 20:14)
3. And those who are there are conscious, with memory and remorse (Lk. 16:19-31)
4. A place of separation, isolation, and darkness (Mt. 8:12; Luke 16:26; Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 15; Jude 13) – The unbeliever no longer enjoys the common grace of God’s goodness.
5. A place of physical and moral filth (Rev. 22:11)
6. Where the furnace and lake of fire (Mt. 13:50; Rev. 19:20; 21:8) is a bottomless black pit (Rev. 9:1-11) that is unquenchable (Mt. 3:12; 13:41-42; Mark 9:43; Luke 3:17)
7. A place where there is a burning as it rains coals of fire (Psalm 11:6)
8. They experience perpetual burning (Isaiah 33:14) and unsatisfied thirst (Luke 16:24)
9. It is a place of misery and pain (Rev. 14:10-11), trembling and fear (Isaiah 33:14) agony and “torment” (Luke 16:24, 28; etc. - 29x in NT), frustration and anger (Matt. 13:42; 24:51), weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 8:12; 13:50; 22:13; 24:51)
10. It is without rest (Rev. 14:10-11), without escape (Luke 16:26), and the suffering will be without end (Daniel 12:2; Isaiah 66:24; Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:42-48; 2 Thess. 1:9; Jude 7)
11. There are no second chances to hope for, only the second death (Rev. 20:14)
12. And more than the mind can imagine and fathom!

There is great regret, but no relief and no repentance (Matt. 12:32) because you have committed the unpardonable sin—to die having defied God, denied the truth, and disobeyed the gospel.

Four items on which the condemned will dwell on and be tormented by for eternity:

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| 1. The reality and detail of their own sin and guilt     | guilt        |
| 2. The validity of the wrath and pain they are suffering | shame        |
| 3. The inability to achieve any pleasure or satisfaction | sadness      |
| 4. The eternality of their condition                     | hopelessness |