

What happens when you die?



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE, PART 4: WELCOME TO HELL

Very few people take Hell seriously anymore. These days, Hell has been reduced to a joke, a swear word, a cartoon, or a reality only mean-spirited people believe in. If that's the case, why did Jesus appear to take Hell so seriously? Hell isn't actually an Old Testament concept. While the Old Testament barely mentions Hell, the New Testament, Jesus and others talk about it a lot. What's going on? Is Hell real? And if so, what should you do about it?

BIG IDEA: Hell is not God's decision to live without you; it's your decision to live without God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were to bring up the subject of "Hell" to friends or co-workers who are not Christ followers, what kinds of reactions might you experience?
2. What surprised you in this message? What confirmed what you already suspected or knew?
3. C.S. Lewis wrote that, "The doors of Hell are locked from the inside." What do you think of the idea that Hell is your decision to live without God, not God's decision to live without you?
4. To what extent have you seen God appear to honor (i.e. not intervene with) poor decisions you've made here on earth, and bad decisions others have made here on earth?
5. Why do you think God would let us make bad decisions?
6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Revelation 20:7-15 and Romans 3:23-26.* Both speak of the final judgment, as Chris mentioned in the message. According to those passages, how has Jesus provided a way out of eternal separation from him? Why does that matter?

⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them. ¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. ¹² I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:7-15 (NLT)



²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Romans 3:23-26 (NLT)

7. If you're not a Christian, what is keeping you from making a decision to reconcile your life with God by trusting Jesus with your life?
8. The vast majority of Christians never share their faith. If you're a Christian, how are you sharing your faith with other people to help them reconcile with God? (Yes, we know that's an awkward question, which is exactly why Chris is asking it)
9. All of us can live without God in varying degrees. Identify some aspects of your life in which you could draw closer to God. What will you do about them?

MOVING FORWARD

This week, spend some time praying for friends who are on the verge of rejecting Jesus, or who have rejected Jesus. Ask God to help you share Jesus' love with them, and to maybe even invite them to a service this month.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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Romans 3:25-26 (NLT)



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