

Selected Scripture

Good Question Series

Everyone wonders about heaven, hell, and the afterlife. What happens when this life ends? Over the next few weeks we will examine some often-asked questions as well as dismantle some wild ideas that are not biblically sound.

Good Question! 05: Will we sin in eternity?

Some mistakes we make once and never again. But sin is different. We can follow Jesus, really want to obey Him, and find ourselves returning to things we ask Him to help us overcome. God is preparing a perfect eternity for us, but what keeps us from repeating what happened in Eden?

❑ **Big Idea: God won't just give us a perfect place. He will finish making us perfect people.**

- 1. The struggle is real, but God has already begun changing us (Galatians 5:16–17; 2 Corinthians 5:17).** The flesh and the Spirit are in conflict. When we place our faith in Christ, God makes us new, but we still struggle against sin. That struggle does not mean God is not working in us. It means His work is not finished yet.
- 2. God will complete our transformation (Philippians 3:20–21).** Christ will transform our bodies to be like Him. God is not just fixing things that hurt; He is fixing what is broken. In eternity, we will no longer experience the conflict between knowing right while desiring wrong. We will still make choices, but sin will no longer have a place in our lives.
- 3. Our freedom from sin will last FOREVER (Revelation 22:3–5).** The curse will be gone, and God's people will live in His presence forever. The things that pull us toward sin in this life will no longer stand against us. Our confidence is not that we will finally become strong enough to resist every temptation. It is that Jesus will finish what He started in us.

For the Road: One day, we will be free from the consequences of sin and free from the STRUGGLE with sin—FOREVER.

Good Question 06: Is Hell for real?

Here's something I've noticed; people generally like Jesus. Even people who aren't particularly religious tend to have a positive opinion of Him. Jesus loved people. He forgave sinners. And all of that is true! But...

- 1. Jesus said hell is real (Luke 12:4-5).** Jesus talked about judgment. He talked about accountability and justice. He warned people about hell. In fact, some of the strongest warnings about hell in the whole Bible came from Jesus Himself. In fact, Jesus spoke about hell more than any other biblical author.
 - ❑ **This is BIG!** Jesus didn't see a contradiction between loving people and warning them about judgment.
- 2. God's love does not eliminate His justice (Romans 3:23 and 5:8).** It's not as though God has to choose whether He is going to be loving or just. God is perfectly loving and perfectly just. He doesn't stop being loving when He judges sin. And He doesn't stop being just when He forgives sinners.
 - ❑ **This is BIG!** Jesus, who is perfectly loving and perfectly just will judge sin.
- 3. The cross is where God's love and justice meet (Romans 3:25-26).** The cross tells us two very important things: first, our sin is more serious than we think, and second, God's love is greater than we can imagine. If sin wasn't serious, why did Jesus have to die? Why the cross?
 - ❑ **This is BIG!** God is both JUST (righteous) and at the same time the One who JUSTIFIES sinners (loving).

Family Night – Read Romans 3:21-26

Elementary School – Ask, “What is a ‘sin’? Has God ever sinned? Have you ever sinned? Who has sinned (v.23)? Who can make us righteous (v.24)? Who did God present as a sacrifice for our sins (v.25)?”

Middle/High School – Ask, “What troubles you most about the reality of hell? Do you want God to abandon justice? Why is God just when He judges? How is God both just and loving according to vv.23-24? Same question for vv.25-26.”

Prayer: “Father, Thank You for warning us about our sin and the judgment of hell. Thank You Jesus rescued us. Amen.”

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: This Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30.

Gravity: Gravity today in both services.

Today's Songs

The Lord's PrayerMatt Maher
Worship Medley.....Tauren Wells
Praise the Lord.....Phil Wickham

Work Day

We need 20 men on Saturday, October 10 to help put together shelves and move into the new shelter in the back. Let Pastor Mike or Tyler know if you can help.

Boo Bash

Our annual fall celebration is October 25th. Pancake Supper, Trunk or Treat, Costume Contest, and Fun and Games. Participation and Donation sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Desk. Come join the party!

Order a T-Shirt

T-shirt worn by the staff last Baptism Sunday is available to order online. Go to gracestatesboro.com and click on the “Events” page.

The Chosen Adventure for Kids

Showing every Wednesday in October from 6-7pm.