

# Heaven & Hell

## Small Group Series & Study Guide

### **Small Group Guide: Heaven & Hell, Week 9**

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Hell (Hades) is temporary**; the Lake of Fire (Gehenna) is eternal.
2. **The Bosom of Abraham** was where Old Testament believers went until Christ paid for their sins.
3. **Today, believers go immediately to heaven** when they die because Jesus has already paid for our sins.
4. **Jesus died for everyone, but not everyone will be saved** - salvation requires personal faith.
5. **There are no second chances after death** - our eternal destiny is sealed at the moment we die.
6. **Only those whose names are in the Book of Life** will escape the Lake of Fire.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. **Looking at the timeline presented** (Old Testament → Cross → Church Age → Rapture → Tribulation → Millennium → Great White Throne Judgment → Eternity), which part was most surprising or clarifying for you?
2. **Why do you think it matters that believers went to a different place before Christ's resurrection than they do now?**
3. **Read Luke 16:19-31 (the story of the rich man and Lazarus).** How does this passage support what we learned about Sheol/Hades having two compartments separated by a chasm?
4. **Pastor Allen addressed three scriptures universalists use:** John 1:29, 1 Timothy 2:6, and 1 John 2:2. Why do you think these verses are misunderstood? What's the difference between Jesus dying "for all" and "all being saved"?
5. **Read Mark 16:15-16 and John 3:16-18 together.** How do these passages make it clear that belief/faith is necessary for salvation?
6. **Why do you think the idea that "everyone will be saved" is appealing to some people?** What dangers does this belief pose?
7. **Discuss Hebrews 9:27: "It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment."** How does this verse eliminate the possibility of second chances after death?
8. **The sermon emphasized that our eternal destiny is sealed at the moment of death.** How should this truth affect:

- a. How we live today?
- b. How we share the gospel with others?
- c. Our sense of urgency about evangelism?

### **Practical Application:**

1. **Scripture Memory:** Memorize John 3:16-18 (all three verses, not just verse 16) to have a complete gospel presentation ready.
2. **Conversation Starter:** Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus and pray daily for an opportunity to share the gospel with them this week.
3. **Gratitude Journal:** Each day this week, write down one reason you're grateful that Jesus paid for your sins and secured your eternal destiny.

### **Closing Prayer:**

1. **Clarity and boldness to share the gospel.**
2. **Specific unsaved friends and family members.**
3. **Gratitude for the salvation we have in Christ.**
4. **Wisdom to answer questions people have about heaven and hell.**

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# **5-Day Devotion: Understanding Eternity and Our Choice**

## **Day 1: The Reality of Eternal Destinations**

**Reading:** Revelation 20:11-15

**Devotional:** The Great White Throne Judgment reveals a sobering truth: eternity is real, and our choices matter. This passage shows us that God keeps perfect records—both the books of works and

the Book of Life. While this may seem frightening, it actually demonstrates God's perfect justice and mercy.

Every person will stand before God, and every decision will be accounted for. But here's the good news: through Jesus Christ, we can have our names written in the Book of Life. Today, reflect on the seriousness of eternity. Don't let the busyness of life distract you from what matters most. Have you secured your eternal destiny through faith in Jesus?

## **Day 2: The Gift Offered to All**

**Reading:** John 3:16-18; 1 John 2:1-2

**Devotional:** Jesus didn't die for just a select few—He died for the sins of the whole world. This is the beautiful truth of God's universal love. Christ's sacrifice was sufficient for every person who has ever lived. However, sufficiency doesn't equal automatic salvation. God's gift must be received.

Notice in John 3:18 that condemnation comes not from God's desire to punish, but from our refusal to believe. The gift is offered freely, but it requires acceptance. Today, thank God for His incredible love that extends to all humanity. If you've already believed, rejoice in your salvation. If you haven't, remember that God's offer still stands—today is the day of salvation.

## **Day 3: The Urgency of Now**

**Reading:** Hebrews 9:27-28; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

**Devotional:** "It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment." These words eliminate any notion of second chances after death. Our eternal destiny is determined in this life, not the next. There is no purgatory, no opportunity to repent in hell, no reincarnation for another try. This life is it. While this truth is sobering, it should motivate us to urgency—both in securing our own salvation and in sharing the gospel with others.

Don't procrastinate with eternity. Don't assume you have tomorrow. Paul reminds us that "now is the day of salvation." What decisions have you been putting off? Who needs to hear about Jesus from you today?

## **Day 4: Believe and Be Saved**

**Reading:** Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:9-13

**Devotional:** The gospel is beautifully simple: believe and be saved. God doesn't require you to earn salvation through good works, religious rituals, or moral perfection. He requires faith—trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The contrast is stark: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Your eternal destiny hinges on this single choice. Have you genuinely believed in your heart and confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord? If so, you have the assurance of salvation. If not, today is your opportunity. Don't let pride, doubt, or delay keep you from eternal life. Simply believe.

## **Day 5: Secured Forever in Christ**

**Reading:** 1 John 5:11-13; John 10:27-30

**Devotional:** "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." Christianity is not primarily about religion, rules, or rituals—it's about relationship with Jesus Christ. When you have Jesus, you have everything: forgiveness, purpose, hope, and eternal life. Jesus promises that no one can snatch His sheep from His hand.

Your salvation is secure in Him. If you're a believer, rest in this assurance today. Let it fill you with gratitude and boldness. If you're unsure whether you have the Son, settle it today. Invite Jesus into your life. Confess Him as Lord. The promise is certain: those who have the Son have life—eternal, abundant, and secure.