

HEAVEN OR HELL:
WHAT DO I REALLY BELIEVE ABOUT
ETERNITY?

Matt. 7:13-14

Two critical questions
I must answer:

- **IN ETERNITY IS IT REALLY EITHER HEAVEN OR HELL?**
- **WHO QUALIFIES TO GO TO HEAVEN?**

Student name _____

For FGBI ½ hour credit listen the audio teaching, read these notes, read all the Scriptures mentioned, and complete the study questions (see p.12). Go to www.doctrinepastor.com for the audio

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**THE FIRST QUESTION:
WHAT IS YOUR SOURCE OF AUTHORITY?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS TRUTH?**

Questions to ask first:

- Is truth what each person says is truth? Is what is right and what is wrong simply what I personally think it is? What is my source of authority? My thinking? My feelings? Am I my own source of authority? On what do I base my decision that something is true or false, right or wrong?
- During WWII Hitler thought and felt he was *absolutely right* in killing some six million Jews along with causing, either directly or indirectly, the deaths of millions of others. Was he right or wrong? If each person is their own source of authority, who are you to say he was wrong? Or are **you** the source of all authority on truth? Do you determine right and wrong so if anyone in the world disagrees with you then they are absolutely wrong? What if another person thinks and feels that they are the source of authority but they disagree with you? Are both equally right? What if they think they should kill your family? Are you going to let them? If not, how dare you pass judgment and say they are wrong! If they do kill them, they should not be arrested or tried by a court – the law is simply another person's opinion isn't it?
- Is society the source of truth, the source of determining right from wrong? The German society almost fully supported Hitler in the deaths of so many people. Once again, Hitler could not be judged as wrong and we would have to say murder was alright if you simply get enough people to agree about it.
- Or do we think that only in matters pertaining to eternity it does not really matter what you believe – in this area there is no absolute truth. In this area is it correct to say that each person is their own source of authority?
- The Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated He was God and that He was both right and good. The real question: is He Lord, liar, or lunatic?

He claimed to **be Truth: John 14:6**

He claimed His words were **Truth: John 8:45-46**

John 1:17 (NASB) For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

He claimed the Bible is God's words and are **Truth: John 17:17**

Either Jesus was a lunatic – He was crazy; or He was a liar and a fraud; or He is the Lord God and the source of Truth. What decision have you made? What you believe about eternity, about heaven and hell, and about eternal life depends on this!

■ IN ETERNITY IS IT REALLY EITHER HEAVEN OR HELL?

Here is a shocking truth: Jesus believed in hell!

The Lord Jesus Christ taught the truth about hell in multiple places:

Luke 16:19-21

- Hell is an actual place
- Hell is a place of terrible, conscious suffering (no parties, no friends)
- Those in hell do not want those they love to come there

Some of us have family members who have died. Where are they today? Either heaven or hell, says the Lord Jesus Christ. If they are in hell they, like the rich man, do not want you to go to the same place!

“While nearly 60 percent of Americans believe in some kind of hell, only 4 percent believe *they* are going there” (Hell? Yes! Robert Jeffress, p. 72).

- Jesus taught that hell would go on forever without end:

Matthew 25:46

The same truth is taught in:

Revelation 20:10

NOTE: The same word translated “forever and ever” here is the same word used to describe the length of time heaven will last in Revelation 22:5

Revelation 20:11-15

■ WHO QUALIFIES TO GO TO HEAVEN?

The options many hold to (but some blend them):

1. **Extinctionism No Qualification** – there is no after life, when you die you die. This is all there is. There is nothing to qualify for or to be afraid of, no heaven or hell.

2. **Partial Extinctionism Qualification** – some go to heaven forever for whatever the reason, the rest just cease to exist – no hell or lake of fire.
3. **Universalism Qualification** – everybody gets to go to heaven when they die no matter what.
4. **Eventual Universalism Qualification** – everybody gets to go to heaven eventually through reincarnation (keep working until you qualify), purgatory (some take longer than others to clean up, but everybody gets out of this eventually and makes it to heaven), or some other methodology that makes all eventually qualify.
5. **Good People Universalism Qualification** – the “good” people go to heaven, the bad people go to hell.
6. **Good People Believe in God Qualification** – You have to be good **and** believe in God whatever you conceive Him (or it) to be.
7. **Good People Be Spiritual Qualification** – You have to be good and be spiritual in some way however you want to define that.
8. **Good People Believe in God Religious Qualification** – You have to be good, **and** believe in God (whatever you conceive Him or it to be) **and** be religious in some way.
9. **Good People Religious Be Sincere Qualification** – You have to be good **and** believe in God (whatever you conceive Him or it to be) **and** be religious **and** be sincere in whatever you believe about whatever you believe.
10. **Good People Christian Qualification** – You have to be good **and** believe in God **and** in some way identify with Jesus.
11. **Good People Christian Be Sincere Go to Church Qualification** – You have to be good **and** believe in God **and** in some way identify with Jesus **and** be sincere in whatever you believe about whatever you believe **and** be a church-going person.
12. **Good People Christian Be Sincere Go to a Specific Church Qualification** – need I say more?
13. **Who Knows? Qualification** – It is anyone’s guess, so don’t worry about it. Whatever will be will be. No one can really know for sure. Everybody has an opinion. **Let’s just be nice to each other and not worry about it!**

This is the worst idea of all – it is the cop-out for the mentally lazy who refuse to think about the serious issues involved. If Jesus told the Truth than you must decide!

Except for biblical Christianity **ALL RELIGIONS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD OR HAVE EVER BEEN IN THE WORLD ARE BASED ON HUMAN EFFORT (WORK) IN SOME WAY TO QUALIFY FOR A POSITIVE OUTCOME AFTER DEATH.**

This is nothing more than human arrogance and is based on the desire to follow the original lie of Satan: “You will be as gods.” God alone determines Truth and when we decide to ignore the His Truth and substitute our ideas, we are claiming to be “as God” because we claim to determine Truth.

NOTE: all of the above are based on a source of authority other than the Bible. **ALL** have their source in the ideas and religious creations of human beings. The Bible and the Bible **ALONE** has been demonstrated to contain nothing but truth in every way.



What is the Truth?

Can I know it?

These few Scriptures will answer all of the above ideas:

Romans 3:10; 3:12

Isaiah 64:6 (NASB) For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment

How do we qualify for eternal life?

Titus 3:5

Mercy: not giving you what you deserve (the negative).

“Washing”: used of the cleansing that comes from hearing and responding to the Word of God - **Ephesians 5:25-26 (NASB)** ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the **washing of water with the word,**

“Renewing by the Holy Spirit”: the means of the reception of eternal life – it is something God does

How does He save us? Not because of anything we have done including all our “deeds” “done in righteousness.”

This is not any man’s interpretation, beloved. What says the Scripture? How do you qualify for salvation – **YOU CAN’T!**

Can any of the above 13 possible qualifications be true? **If any are then the Bible is not truth and Jesus Christ is a liar.** These are the only two choices. What do you believe?

Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace: Freely giving you what you do not deserve (the positive).

Faith: means the same thing as believe – it is to receive the testimony of God, it is the inward conviction that something is true. It is the channel through which we receive God’s free grace gift of salvation.

What must we believe?

- Salvation (eternal life) is absolutely free – “the gift of God” – not a trade!
 - Salvation is “not of works” – I cannot qualify to earn it
 - The Lord Jesus Christ is the One Who offers the gift and it comes through no other: **John 3:16; John 14:6**
 - I must be convinced it is true (believe) that Jesus alone is qualified to give me the free gift of eternal life: **John 6:47**
- Jesus only offers one kind of life: unconditional eternal life that cannot be lost or taken away for any reason. I must know this is true (believe it). **John 11:25-26.**
- To fail to believe this truth is to be under the wrath of God: **John 3:36**
 - To fail to believe means one does not receive eternal life and is sent to the eternal lake of fire forever: **Revelation 20:15**
 - Where are those today – no matter how much we love them, no matter how good they were, no matter how religious they were, no matter how nice they were – if they did not believe in Jesus Christ alone to receive the free gift of eternal life, where are they today and forever?



KEY

“The greatest evidence for the horrible reality of hell is what Jesus *did* to keep people from going there.” Dan Coggins, Northside Bible Church, Lutz, Florida

Do not let those you know and love go into a lost eternity without sharing the Gospel – they are without God and without hope of heaven!

The saddest words in all Scripture:

Ephesians 2:12b "without God and without hope."

Please change the way you think and recognize your need to share the Truth of the Gospel to all. **If this is not the Truth – why did Jesus die?**

Mark 16:15 (NASB) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

If it was not important, why did Jesus give this command?

How do I deal with the emotions
of knowing my loved ones may be
in hell and the lake of fire
forever?

First: we none of us know for sure who is and who is not in hell specifically. It is possible for a person to believe even moments before they die, receive eternal life as promised, and thus be in heaven forever. We can say for sure that if a person dies without believing in Jesus alone for their salvation – faith alone in Christ alone by grace alone – that they do go into an eternity in hell. God would not have told us all He has told us only to make another way – Jesus said clearly that no other way is possible (John 14:6). We will not know *for sure* who is in heaven until we get there.

Second: Romans 1-3 tells us clearly that everyone has both an opportunity to hear the truth and a responsibility to respond to the truth.

Romans 1:20 (NASB) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Romans 3:19 (NKJV) Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Third: If people respond to the truth we know God will insure they receive more truth. This is seen in the story of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:25-39. There the man was reading the Scriptures and seeking to understand eternal life and God sent a missionary by the name of Philip to give him the truth of the gospel.

Fourth: God has made His Word available through not only the printed medium but also on the radio, television, missionaries, individual believers who are witnessing, as well as multiple gospel preaching churches. God holds each and every person

responsible to know the Truth and they are able to know the Truth. It is people who are *unwilling* to respond (see Matthew 23:37)

Fifth: God made salvation so simple that a child can understand it. It is not complicated. If people complicate it the fault is theirs, not God's.

Sixth: If you are trusting in the character of God – that He is right and just in all He does – then we ultimately must rely on Him for this and everything. God always does the right thing.

Seventh: God did not violate their free will. They made their own choices. God did everything possible to reach them and it is never His will that people go to hell.

Eight: Don't dwell on those now gone. Give the Truth to those still alive!

Simplicity Of Salvation (by Gene Cunnigham)

The greatest stumbling block to men entering eternal life is the simplicity of salvation. Men want to "do" something to earn salvation, but God says it is a gift, because Jesus Christ paid the price on the cross. He bought eternal life for every man. However, the gift must be received by faith. The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" To which they answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved." ([ACTS 16:30-31](#))

SALVATION'S SIMPLICITY

As simple as coming when called. "Come to me all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." ([MAT 11:28](#))

As simple as drinking water. "But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." ([JOHN 4:14](#)) "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scripture said, 'from his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water...'" ([JOHN 7:37-38](#))

As simple as eating bread. "I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.... I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." ([JOHN 6:35](#), [JOHN 6:51](#))

As simple as entering a door. "I am the door, if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved." ([JOHN 10:9a](#))

As simple as receiving a gift. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." ([ROM 6:23](#))



As simple as the trust of a child. "And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, 'truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.'" ([MAT 18:2-3](#))

As simple as believing in Jesus Christ. "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes (in Me) has eternal life."

([JOHN 6:47](#)) "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ([JOHN 11:25-26](#))

Each of the examples and illustrations is designed to show the simplicity of faith. The scripture says. "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." ([ROM 10:17](#)) Faith is trusting what the word of God says. In the final analysis, it all comes down to the question in the above passage, "Do you believe this?" Your response will determine your eternal destiny; either heaven or hell. Don't stumble over the simplicity of the Gospel! (www.basictraining.org)

believe
What must I ~~do~~ to be saved?

Jesus Christ said, "He who believes in Me has everlasting life" (John 6:47). He also said, "He who lives and believes in Me will never die." Eternal life is eternal.

Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the whole world (John 1:29). He has removed the sin barrier which separated us from God. However, we still lack spiritual life, eternal life. To get that life, we must simply believe in Jesus for it.

There are no strings attached. Our eternal salvation is "not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Eph 2:9).



Simply believe in Jesus and He guarantees you will never die spiritually. You will go to heaven when you die, and spend eternity in God's kingdom. It really is that simple. That's why it's called *Good News*.

By Robert Wilkin, www.faithalone.org

John 3:17 (NASB) "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Hell, Gehenna, the lake of fire, and the second death - these all refer to...

- a place of fire- Matthew 3:12; 25:41; Mark 9:43, 48; Revelation 21:8; 19:20; 20:10, 14-15
- a place that endures- Matthew 25:41, 46; Mark 9:48; Revelation 14:11
- a place of isolation and separation- Matthew 7:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:9. Norman Geisler says, "Hell is the opposite direction from God."
- a place of darkness- Jude 13
- a place of anguish and regret- Matthew 13:50; 24:51; Luke 16:24ff

Geisler further says, "Nowhere does the Bible describe Hell as a 'torture chamber'. Unlike torture...inflicted from without...*torment* is self-inflicted. Torment is living with the consequences of our own bad choices."

God doesn't threaten us with torture, but warns us of eternal torment. (See 2 Peter 3:9)

Matthew 11:23, Mark 12:40, Luke 10:13-14 and 12:47-48 speak to the issue of the probability of differing degrees of suffering. We can trust this to a just God who judges rightly.

Our Responsibility

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 (NASB) ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB) ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (see **Mark 16:15**)

In a day and age when people are so very confused about the issue of the afterlife, we who know the truth of the Message of Life must be willing to share the truth: indeed, the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded us to go and make disciples. Before there is any discipleship the person must be convinced of the truth of the offer of unconditional eternal life by Jesus. Yet, how can they hear of we do not go to them and tell them?

Romans 10:15-17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Will you go and tell?

Teacher's Name: Pastor-teacher David Pearson

Class Title: "Heaven or Hell: What Do I Really Believe about Eternity?"

Instructions: Please fill out each question and provide a Scripture reference whenever possible. Turn in the completed answers for FGBI credit.

1. If someone says something is right, does anyone else have the right to tell them they're wrong? _____

2. Who told Hitler it was right to kill six million Jewish people & millions of others? _____

3. If most people think something is wrong, does that make it wrong?

4. The majority (most people) of German Society:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Almost fully supported Hitler | c) Would never condone Hitler's killings |
| b) Did not want Hitler as their leader | d) Didn't know Hitler's name |

5. Jesus demonstrated Himself to be _____. Scripture: _____

6. Circle True or False: Jesus never believed in hell. Scripture: _____

7. Circle all that are **True**:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| a) Hell is not real | c) Hell is a place of terrible, conscious suffering |
| b) Hell is an actual place | d) Those in hell do not want those they love to come there |

8. Most of us have loved ones in hell. Cross out all that is NOT TRUE about them:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| a) They want us to suffer | c) They don't want us to know about or |
|----------------------------------|---|

there too
b) They **don't** want us to talk
about hell

believe in hell
d) They **want** us to talk about, know
about, and avoid hell

9. What did Jesus teach about hell ending? _____

Scripture: _____

10. What is the significance of comparing Revelation 20:10 with 22:5 for understanding the eternity of the Lake of Fire? _____

11. Write the #'s of the qualifications for heaven that you used to believe (ex: 5. If you believed Extinctionism, No Qualification & Partial Extinctionism Qualification, you would write: 1 & 2):

12. Why is it dangerous not to worry about who goes where? _____

13. On what do all other religions in the world base their qualification: h_____
e_____

14. How many of us are "unclean" according to Isaiah 64:6? _____

15. What are like "filthy garments"? _____

16. What is "mercy"? _____

17. How do we experience spiritual "washing"? _____

Scripture: _____

18. "The washing of water with the _____." Scripture: _____

19. What is the means of the reception of eternal life? _____

_____ Scripture: _____

20. What is the KEY thing that must be believed to receive eternal life?

Give at least two Scriptures that support this statement 1) _____

2) _____

21. What are "the saddest words in Scripture?"

What is the Scripture reference? _____

22. What is "grace"? _____

23. Define the word "faith": _____

24. Define the word "believe": _____

25. If someone said to a two year old, "here is a free gift but you have to sit perfectly still for five hours", is it really a free gift? ___ If the gift were really free, what should the 2 year old have to do? _____

26. Who offers us the free gift of eternal life? _____

Scripture: _____

27. If God is not a liar and His gift of eternal life is truly free, what should we have to do to get it? _____

28. If we don't share the message of life with our unbelieving loved ones, and they go into a lost eternity . . . they are without G__ & without h__ of h____ Scripture:

_____ (Pg. 7)

29. Why did Jesus die? (see pages 7 & 10) _____

30. Why did He command us to give everyone the message of life?

31. Can we know *for sure* who is and who isn't in hell? _____

32. Why did you give this answer in 31? _____

33. In which scripture does God promise that He gives everyone an opportunity to hear the truth? _____

34. If people begin to respond to truth, what does God do? _____

Scripture: _____

35. Does God make the truth available to each & every person? ___ So, if someone does NOT accept the truth and instead chooses hell, is it God's fault? _____

Scripture: _____

36. God made the way to receive eternal life easy enough for children to understand. If people make it complicated, it is NOT G__ fault.

37. What does this phrase mean: "God always does the right thing"? _____

38. Can you trust Him with your loved ones? _____

39. Does God ever want people to go to hell? (Read or quote John 3:16) _____

40. If we have loved ones in hell (which we CANNOT be sure of), would they: a) want us to stay mad and keep our mouths shut b) keep as many people out of hell as possible by spreading the truth C) come and be with them? _____

41. "Men want to ' _____ ' something to earn salvation, but God says it is a _____."

(Pg. 9)

42. What did Paul and Silas tell the jailor to "do" to be saved? _____

43. Believing in Jesus Christ is as simple as: (pick your favorite illustration from pgs. 9-10): _____

Scripture: _____

44. Instead of asking, "What must I 'do' to be saved?", we should ask, "What must I _____ to be saved? Scripture: _____

45. Who removes the sin barrier that separated us from God? A) Me B) You

C) Jesus – write your answer here _____

46. Circle the phrases that describe the lake of fire below and cross out the ones that don't:

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) A place of fire | d) A place you can be with all your friends |
| b) A place you can eventually get out of if you or someone else prays enough | e) A place of isolation and separation |
| c) A place that endures | f) A place you can party |
| | g) A place of darkness |
| | h) A place of anguish & regret |

47. Hell is a place demons and others torture you – True or False?

48. It is a place ____ torture yourself. Scripture: _____

49. After reading the scriptures at the bottom of page 11 to the top of page 12, what is our responsibility?

50. How can we deal with the emotions of knowing our loved ones may be in hell & the lake of fire forever?

51. Look back at question #1, the correct answer is "yes" – Explain why: _____

52. Look back at question #3, the correct answer is "no" – Explain why: _____

53. Think through all you have learned from this class, review your answers above.

Write an answer to the following question and review it often because once God teaches you something, you can be sure you will be asked to teach it to others: *Is there really no other option besides heaven or hell? & Who qualifies to go to heaven?*

54. Give a basic presentation to an unbeliever that will help them come to the place to believe in Jesus alone for what He offers: unconditional eternal life.

55. What are the two most important things you have learned from this study?

A.

B.

By signing the line below, I testify that I have read all the notes, the Scriptures, and listened to all of the audio required for this class and have read every scripture listed:
