

What Happens after Death?

The Bible says in Hebrews 9:27, "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" This is an appointment that you must keep.

However, the burning question is "What happens after death?" After death is the judgment. The results of the judgment are based on only one criterion: your response to Jesus Christ. Jesus described two roads in life which lead to two different destinations at the end of life. One road leads to life, and one leads to destruction. One leads to Heaven, and one leads to Hell. What does the Bible say about each?

1. Heaven

Revelation 21-22 has much to say about what Heaven will be like.

- It is the place of God's physical presence.
- It is the place of no more tears.
- It is the place of no more death.
- It is the place of no more pain.
- Walls are made of precious stones.
- Gates are made of pearl.
- There is a river of life coming from God's throne.
- There is the tree of life.
- The curse of sin is lifted.
- There is no more night.
- God lights all of Heaven.

2. Hell

Surprisingly, the Bible says more about Hell than it does about Heaven. It speaks of Hell as a literal place, just as real as Heaven. Perhaps the most graphic description of Hell comes from Luke 16:22-31. Some have debated whether this is a parable. It seems that it is not a parable. In all the rest of Jesus' parables, He never used a person's name. In this account Jesus talked about Lazarus, giving strong evidence that this is a true story, not a parable.

- It is a place of fire. (Luke 16:24)
- It is a place of torment. (Luke 16:24, 25, 28)
- It is a place of perfect memory. (Luke 16:25)
- It is a place of no return. (Luke 16:26)
- It is a place of hopeless desperation. (Luke 16:24, 27-31)
- It is a place of eternal, never-ending punishment. (Revelation 14:11)

Some might say that a loving God would never send someone to Hell. He doesn't. In fact I Timothy 2:4 says that God "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." He has made a way for all people to get to Heaven. Probably, the most well-known verse in the entire Bible is John 3:16. There Jesus Himself said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have

everlasting life.” Belief in the finished work of Jesus Christ will save you from eternity in Hell and assure you an eternal home in Heaven. Anyone who chooses not to believe in Jesus Christ chooses for himself to spend eternity in Hell. Later in John 3, the Bible says, “...he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” The choice is up to you.