

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Does God Send People to Hell?

Introduction

Sometimes folks ask, “Why would God send good people to hell?” At times the queries would be, “I can understand people like Hitler being sent to Hell, but good church-going people?”, or “Since God is love, He would never send people to Hell”. The truth is, spending eternity in Hell under the righteous judgment of God is a decision made while one was alive on this earth, a decision of the individual based on attitude and obedience to God.

The Roman epistle states two principles for a life in fellowship with God. It is permanently and unchangeably written, “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord” (Rom. 12:10-11). The two truths are, love for people and love for the principles of God. In love, God did not make us robots but gave every individual the blessing of free will. It is seen that since the individual has free will then the individual must accept the consequences made by their choice. In life, everyone wants to go to Heaven, no one wants to go to Hell, but where an individual spends eternity depends on their decision.

God does not choose people to send them to Hell for He has it written, paraphrased, “it is not the will of God that any should perish (be banished in Hell), but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). The scriptures inform its readers that Hell was made for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). To prevent every human being from going to that place of unspeakable grief, God has done all that could be done. In love, He sent His Son with a major work to do, that being, “Provide salvation so that none need perish” (Jn. 3:16). On the cross of Calvary, Christ the Son of God became a substitute for those who put their trust and dependence on Him exclusively for salvation.

In love, God devised a way for sinners to be made morally suitable to dwell with Him for all eternity. In the hours of darkness the Lord Jesus bore the full execution of the wrath of God for the individual. There was executed on Him the righteous judgment of divine wrath. He was forsaken by God, He was bearing my deserved eternal abandonment for me. If an individual rejects God’s way of salvation, is He to be criticized or judged for accepting their decision?

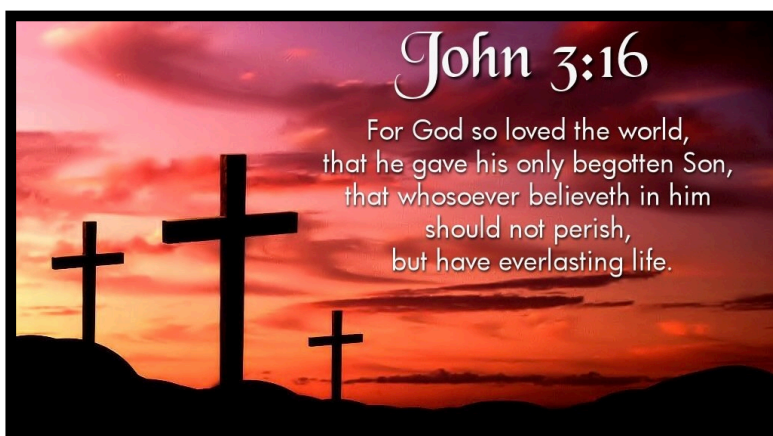
Man is given a choice, accept God’s way for entrance into His eternal dwelling place or reject it. The full entrance price has been paid, and the door of salvation is wide open. The choice is the individuals. Each individual can accept God’s offer of His priceless gift of salvation procured by Christ, or the individual can decide, “I am not interested in it, when I am older I will think about it, there are other things more important to me”. There is no one forcing anyone to accept salvation or reject it, the decision is that of the individual.

A person banished to hell is simply God accepting their decision. No one in hell is grateful they rejected Christ. The Lord pulled back the curtain into life beyond death and unveiled the horror of hell. It ought to make the most stubborn, foolish individual tremble as they hear of that where they are going to and the horror of that place.

“And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments . . . and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame” (Lk. 16:23-24).

“Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence” (Lk. 16:26).

. . . *Rowan Jennings*



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