

The Bible tells us that everyone will spend eternity in one of two places—with God or apart from God. Many people give little thought to this fact. They wrongly assume that, if they have been a reasonably good person, they will spend eternity with God. They hold the view of a balanced life—one in which the good deeds balance the bad ones. In their thinking, those whose bad deeds significantly outweigh the good deeds are bound for Hell. They assume that, if there is only a slight imbalance, a loving God will simply overlook the deficiency. According to them, only Satan and really bad people will go to Hell, if there is such a place; and whether or not they spend eternity there depends upon their willingness to reform.

We tend to think that Hell is a place where God punishes His enemies. For a few moments, let's consider another point

of view. What if Hell is a place that God prepares for those who want to do their own thing—those who reject God's claim on their life. What if Hell is a place where everyone can do exactly as they like—without any interference from God? Is that a place where you would like to spend eternity? It may sound good—to start with. If we think of Hell as a place where God has removed all restraint, a place where nobody is accountable to God, a place where divine justice, truth, and love have no influence, what do you think will happen there?

There may be sentimentality, but no divine love. People may be bothered by hateful acts, but they will make no effort to show compassion and mercy. Can you imagine living without love and mercy? The fact is, there are no friends in Hell. There may be schemers, collaborators, and charlatans in Hell, but no friends.

There may be truth, relative truth (what you consider true other people may not and what they consider true you may not), but no such thing as absolute truth. The lie will be the norm. Deception will reign. Deceit will permeate everyone's motives. No one can be trusted—not even you.

There will be no absolute justice. Fairness will be in the eyes of the beholder. Justice will be the caprice of those who assert themselves. Selfishness will raise its head in every activity, and there will be no neutral arbitrators.

Choose a hundred people that you would like to accompany you in Hell—the best people you know—the best of the best. How long do you suppose it will take before you would rather not be with them? What happens when some of those “good” people decide to assert their rights—at the expense of yours? What

happens when, for some reason unknown to you, you offend someone? One thing leads to another. Insults turn to threats which turn to attacks. There is no more death, but you will suffer. Reconciliation is out of the question. Retaliation will be the norm.

These are the very things that foment turmoil and war in our world today. What makes you think Hell will be any different? A Hell of “good” people will not exist very long before it becomes exactly what is described in the Bible as a place of “waiting and gnashing of teeth?” (Matthew 13:42)

In addition to your “friends,” of course, Hell will be populated with your enemies—some enemies that you did not even know existed.

Is Hell with your “friends” beginning to look a little less desirable? As described in the Bible, Hell seems



I recognize that I am a sinner, lost and bound for Hell. Forgive me my sin. I accept your offer of eternal life and give my life to you. Use it however you like.”



to go to Hell—we are all sinners (Romans 3:10, 23). The consequences of our sin is eternal death (Romans 6:23).

The Bible describes us as lost and without hope. But the Bible also offers a solution to our problem—Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, making Him qualified to pay the debt of our sin (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus Christ died on a cross to do just that (I Peter 2:24; Hebrews 9:28). Jesus Christ also arose from the grave on the third day to offer us victory over death (I Corinthians 15:57).

You will not experience eternal death if you turn from your sin and accept Christ's offer. (Acts 16:31) When you accept Christ's offer, your name will be written in the Book of Life. Revelation 20:15 tells us, “if anyone's name was not written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Will you accept Christ's offer?
Are you willing to say, “Lord Jesus,

to be a temporary holding place; because we read in the book of Revelation that “death and hell were cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14). It is the Lake of Fire that seems to be the eternal abode of all who reject God's free offer of salvation through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. This same verse refers to the Lake of Fire as “the second death.”

The Bible tells us very little about the Lake of Fire, but it is clear that anyone who gives it serious thought will not want to go there.

So, how does one avoid spending eternity in the Lake of Fire?

Actually, it is very simple. Simple because God, through His Son Jesus Christ, has done everything necessary to rescue us from this fate—almost everything.

God offers us a way out, but it is up to us to accept it.

The Bible says that all of us deserve