

A Time of Realization

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. Prov 25:2

Genesis 18:27-32

Then Abraham spoke up again. He said, "I have been very bold to speak to the Lord. After all, I'm only dust and ashes. What if the number of godly people is five less than 50? Will you destroy the whole city because of five people?"

"If I find 45 there," he said, "I will not destroy it."

Once again Abraham spoke to him. He asked, "What if only 40 are found there?" He said, "If there are 40, I will not do it."

Then Abraham said, "Lord, don't let your anger burn against me. Let me speak. What if only 30 can be found there?" He answered, "If there are 30, I will not do it."

Abraham said, "I have been very bold to speak to the Lord. What if only 20 are found there?" He said, "If there are 20, I will not destroy it."

Then he said, "Lord, don't let your anger burn against me. Let me speak just one more time. What if only ten are found there?" He answered, "If there are ten, I will not destroy it."

GOD'S PLAN FOR RECONCILIATION

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 6:23***

The doctrine of eternal torment for most of mankind is a doctrine of defeat, as well as one which makes much of the scriptures incomprehensible and our Sovereign God of Love a monstrous failure.

Reconciliation of an adversary is true victory. The modern Church has fallen into the same error as the Israelites, and even the disciples. They, too, expected the Christ to impose His kingdom by force upon unwilling but overpowered enemies. God's plan is for reconciliation.

*He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. **Col 1:18-20***

If this is true, why haven't we seen it before?

Because the time was not yet. God Himself has concealed much of the truth from His people, because we have walked as little children rather than as Sons of God, and because we have been satisfied with the traditions of men rather than pressing in to learn from the Father!

*Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time **1 Tim 2:6** He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations **Isaiah 25:7** It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter. **Prov 25:2***

As we begin to walk in Sonship, we will be able to say with Jonathan,

*My father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? **1 Sam 20:2***

*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **1 John 3:2***

God is appearing to His people in a way that has never been seen before!

1-GOD'S INTENTION

The scriptures tell us that ALL THINGS will be reconciled to God, that EVERY knee will bow and EVERY tongue will confess righteousness and strength in the Lord, that God is the Savior of ALL men especially those who believe, that Jesus tasted death for EVERY man, that He is a ransom for ALL, that Jesus is the propitiation for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD, that God is not willing that ANY should perish, that He will have ALL men to be saved, that His WILL be done, that Jesus will draw ALL men to Himself, that ALL we like sheep have gone astray and God has laid on Him the iniquity of us ALL, that God will NOT cast off forever nor be angry forever, that Jesus will defeat and DESTROY DEATH and the works of the devil so that THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH nor sorrow, that we WERE reconciled to God by the death of His Son while we were yet sinners and enemies, that God has bound us ALL in stubbornness that He might have mercy upon ALL, that He is the Lord of both the living AND THE DEAD, that EVERY creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and everything in them will say "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb", and that as in Adam ALL die, even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive, THAT GOD MIGHT BE ALL IN ALL!

So, why have we been taught that MOST will suffer eternal torment?

2-THE CONFUSION

is caused by the translation of the words "ETERNAL", "HELL", and "TORMENT."

ETERNAL: And the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day; just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

(Jude 1: 6) But "eternal" cannot mean "eternal", because God says, "I will **restore** their fortunes, both the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and the fortunes of Samaria and her daughters." (Ezek 16: 53)

The Greek word is AION, which translates "eon", or "age", or "era." The King James Bible translates this word, and its adjective "aionios" as AGE, BEGINNING OF THE WORLD, COURSE, ETERNAL, EVER, FOR EVER, FOR EVER AND EVER, FOR EVER MORE, NEVER, WORLD, WORLD BEGAN, WORLD WITHOUT END, WHILE THE WORLD STANDETH. Eternity isn't spoken of much in the scriptures. The story of the bible is the story of God's dealings with mankind on earth and in time.

Here is more on the difference between time and eternity which examines the mistranslation in detail: <http://www.mercifultruth.com/eternity.htm>

HELL: Several words are translated "hell" in the KJV:

Sheol - Literally "the unseen" - Hebrew equivalent of Hades. David says that God is there, and Job longs to hide there from God's wrath (King James Bible > "GRAVE," "HELL," "PIT"). We must note that the translators often used the word "hell" when speaking of the wicked, and "pit" or "grave" when referring to the righteous. This completely unjustified editing has caused many to draw conclusions which the writers never intended.

Hades (or the root "hadees") - Literally "Unseen" - place of dead, where Jesus went, He has the key. (King James Bible > "GRAVE," "HELL") Isn't it interesting that hell and grave were interchangeable words to those who translated the holy scripture in 1611?

Tartarus - in Greek mythology, a place to restrain angels held there, awaiting judgment (King James Bible > "HELL") Peter refers to this place.

Gehenna - Literally "Valley of Hinnom" - Jerusalem's garbage dump (King James Bible > "HELL," "FIRE") Gehenna is the only word which indicates fire. King Josiah, in his days, desecrated this place by tearing down all the idols, crushing or burning them, and burning human bones on them (probably those of the priests who presided over these rituals).

A Jew was not allowed to touch anything that touched a dead human being. Please note, it was God's own people who were doing the burning, not God, and He said such a thing never entered His mind (Jeremiah 19:2-6). Also note, not one single time in the entire Old Testament was this word "Gehinnom" translated "hell."

The Valley of Hinnom was a literal place that Jesus used as a symbol in his parables to represent spiritual destruction, or the destruction of sin. Jesus told his disciples to cut out their eyes if they offend them and throw them into the Valley of Hinnom. This is a spiritual application of a physical place. To find out more about the role of the Valley of Hinnom and the Lake of Fire in God's plan of salvation for the whole world please read this two part paper called *The Judgment of the World by the Cross* at <http://mercifultruth.com/links-savedbygrace.html>

Look at what the scripture has to say about Hinna's Ravine:

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom (in Greek=Gehenna), but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place. Jer 7:32

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury. Thus will I do unto this place, saith the LORD, and to the inhabitants thereof, and even make this city as Tophet Jer 19:11,12

Now, watch what happens!

And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever. Jer. 31:38-40

Halleluja! Even Gehenna will be holy to the Lord!

TORMENT:

Basanos (Noun)- a touchstone to test purity of gold or silver

Basanizo (Verb)- to test for purity or chasen by scourging or torture KJV = PAIN, TOIL, TORMENT, TOSS, VEX

This is no fun, of course, but is hardly eternal, either. Jesus uses this word when He tells the story of the uncompassionate servant:

"Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." Matt 18:32-35

Here the Tormentors had charge of the servant only till the debt was paid. We read in Hebrews 12:11 that *"no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."*

Again, punishment is not eternal, and is for our good.

Ra (Hebrew) - Same as **Basanizo**: (Strong's #7451). The word "ra" appears 665 times in 622 verses of the Scripture. The following are some English words used to translate it: adversity, affliction, bad, calamity, displeasure, distress, evil, misery. Still other words used to translate it are grief, harm, hurt, noisome, sore, sorrow, trouble, vex, wickedness, wretchedness, and wrong. The word "ra" comes from a primary root "**raa**," which properly means "**to spoil**" (**literally by breaking to pieces**). These are the words which have created so much confusion. Now let's look at what the scriptures have to say about God, and about His intentions.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN (the final authority)

I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: ... I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil (ra): I the LORD do all these things. Isa 45:5-7

What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Rom 9:14-17

There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength Isa 45: 21-24

GOD IS A LOVING FATHER TO ALL

read these next 5 together...

Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Rev. 4:11
The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Psa 24:1

Behold, all souls are *mine*, saith the Lord. Ezek. 18:4

God is the Father of all men. Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us? Mal. 2:10

If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel. 1Tim 5:8

God is love. 1 John 4:8.

Love worketh no ill. Rom. 13:10.

There is...one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. Eph 4:5,6

or God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. John 3:16

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust Matt. 5:44, 45 (He shines a light on evil, and sends rain onto both the just and unjust. Rain cleanses. God loves his enemies.)

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. *Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.* Luke 6:35, 36

(*Loving our enemies and blessing our cursors is being like God our Father. He does exactly what he calls us to do. Every command comes from His own heart and reveals his intentions for all.*)

WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN?

And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast...

And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD *will wipe away tears from off all faces*; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. Isa 25:6-8

In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Gen. 12:3 (Abraham)

In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. Gen. 22:18

and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. Gen.26:3,4 (Isaac)

and in thee, and in thy seed, shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Gen. 28:14 (Jacob)

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, in thee shall all nations be blessed. Gal. 3:8

And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you, whom the heaven must receive **until the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets, since the world began. Acts 3:20,21

For if their rejection [i.e., the Jewish rejection of Christ] be the **reconciliation of the world**, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? Rom 11:15

For God has shut up **all** in disobedience that He might show mercy to **all**. Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! Rom 11:32,33 (Amen)

For as it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God. Rom 14:11 (Wow everyone will praise Him. That's awesome power)

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?

What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? Thus it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish. Mt 18:12,14

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather

together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will** Eph 1:9-11

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. 1Tim. 2:1-6

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fulness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all. Eph 1:9,10,22,23

CAN HE DO IT?

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall **not** return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:11 (The Father sent Jesus to save the world, do you believe that Jesus accomplished what the Father sent him to do? God does nothing that fails)

He doeth according to *his* will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and **none** can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? Dan. 4:35.

I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure Isa 46:9,10

The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, *Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass*; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: Isaiah 14:24 (God thought about saving the world, so it shall come to pass)

For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and *who shall disannul it?* and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back? Isaiah 14:27 (Can our free will stay God's hand if he wants all saved in the fullness of time? Who can turn back His hand?)

I have purposed it, I will also do it. Isa 46:11

What he had promised he was able to perform. Rom. 4:21

My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. John 4:34

Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. Heb. 10:9

...who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. Phil 3:21

And you, being *dead in your sins* and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2: 13-15

WHO QUALIFIES?

If **any** man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father. 1 John 1:1

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to **all** people. Luke 2:10

We have heard Him ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the **world**. John 4:42

We have seen, and do testify, that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the **world**. 1 John 4:14

All the ends of the world shall remember, and turn unto the Lord; and *all* the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him. Psalms 22:27

All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy name. Psalms 86:9

The Lord is good to **all**, and His tender mercies are over all his works. Psalms 145:9

Even though I [Paul] was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor, yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. I Tim 1:13 (Paul acted in unbelief and the Lord had mercy on him. Does the Lord love Paul any less than anyone else in this world who acts in unbelief?)

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and **all** flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. Isa.49:6

IS DEATH THE END?

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. Rom. 14: 7-9

Out of the belly of hell [sheol] cried I, and thou heardest my voice. Jonah 2:2

(Jonah was in the belly of a fish, but there can be no doubt that this miracle is also a picture of a rebellious man repenting in sheol, then being pardoned and restored and used of God. Note the word Sheol used here.)

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. Ps 139: 7,8

Oh that thou wouldest hide me in sheol, that thou wouldest conceal me until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! Job 14:10-13

For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone, and there is none remaining, bond or free. ... See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. Deut 34: 36-39

Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. Psalm 90: 3 (Think about the Judgement)

When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God. And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer. Psalms 78:34-35

Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; Psalm 49:14

The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. 1 Sam 2:6

I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave (or Hell, Sheol), I will be thy destruction. Hosea 13:14

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide; neither will He keep His anger forever. Psalms 103:8,9

I will restore their fortunes, both the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters Ezek 16:53 (These have already been destroyed, but will be restored!)

for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. John 5:28,29 (damnation=krisis, or judgment)

Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. Eph 5:14

JESUS PROCLAIMS LIBERTY TO THE REBELLIOUS IN HADES

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound Isaiah 61:1

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. John 5:25

Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captivity captive: Thou hast received gifts for men; yea, FOR THE REBELLIOUS ALSO, THAT THE LORD GOD MIGHT DWELL AMONG THEM! Psa 68:18

Therefore it is said, When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men. In saying, He ascended, what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. Ephes 4:8-10

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. I Pet 3:18-20

For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that even though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God. I Pet 4:6

As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee. Zechariah 9:11-12

Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. ... He ... spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. Acts 2: 27-31

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Rev 1:18

Luke 16:19-31 The story of the rich man and Lazarus is too well known to reprint here. The word HELL in this passage is HADES, the unseen, the abode of the dead. This picture of a fiery afterlife is almost certainly not intended to be literal, any more than the Syrophenician woman (Mark 7:25-30) was a literal dog under the table. This story portrays the changing roles of the Jews and Gentiles as Jesus was rejected by Israel and brought the Kingdom to the nations. In any event, the rich man was certainly benefitting from his chastening: he became humble, thirsty, concerned about his brothers, and was taught personally by Abraham.

But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. I Cor 15:54 (The last enemy to be destroyed is death. This apparently refers to all death, both physical death and spiritual death. Then the only thing that shall remain is...Life!)

ALL WILL BE RECONCILED TO GOD, THROUGH JESUS

For as in Adam **all** die, even so in Christ shall **all** be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have

put down **all** rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put **all** enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 1 Cor 15: 21-26

I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, know the Lord; for they shall **all** know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jer. 31:33,34

The Lord will not cast off forever. But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies, for He doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men. Lam. 3:31-33

There was given Him dominion, and glory and a kingdom, that **all** people, nations, and languages, shall serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom, that which shall not be destroyed. Dan. 7:14

He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy. Micah 7:18

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon **all** men, for that **all** have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto [the] many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon **all** men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon **all** men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience [the] many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall [the] many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom 5:6-21

For *all creation* is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. *Against its will, everything on earth* was subjected to God's curse. All creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that *all creation* has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. Rom. 8:19-23

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them **all** in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon **all**. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! ...For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen. Rom. 11:25-36

For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning. Ps 30:5

Thus the Lord will make Himself known to Egypt (Egypt! the enemies of God!), and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day. And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance. Isaiah 19: 21-25

For the Lord will not cast off for ever Lam 3:31

In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever. Micah 4:6,7

He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him **all** things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities--**all** things were created through him *and for him*. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him **all** the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself **all** things, whether on earth or in heaven, *making peace by the blood of his cross*. Col.1:13-20 (Is this amazing or what?)

Who is a God like Thee, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. Yes, Thou wilt cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Micah 7:18-19

What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when (not 'if') he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing... I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Lk 15:4-7

we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of **all** men, *especially* of those that believe 1 Tim. 4:10 (Jesus saved all men, and the ones who believe benefit more. Does unbelief render Jesus sacrifice without effect? God Forbid! [Romans 3:3-4])

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to **all** men Titus 2:11

Jesus said, Father forgive them; they know not what they do. Lk 23:34

(It is so important to realize that this applies to all people, for we all have fallen short. If God forgives even those who nailed Him to the cross, how much more will he forgive those who curse him today because they do not know what they do?)

JESUS DIED FOR ALL

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he, by the grace of God, should taste death for **every** man. Heb. 2:9

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus **every** knee shall bow, *of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;* (this seems to mean, well, everyone, right?) And that **every** tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (and what else is needed to be saved??) Philip 2 : 9-11

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for **all**, the testimony to be borne at the proper time. I Tim 2:5,6

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to **all** men. Titus 2:11

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned **every one** to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on *him* the iniquity of *us all*. Is 53:6

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the **whole world**. I John 2:2

And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the **world**. I John 4:14

we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the **world**. John 4:42 (It is nowhere written that Jesus is the “potential” Savior of the world)

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the **world**. John 1:29

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the **world** John 8:12

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to *save* sinners 1 Tim. 1:15

Thou hast given him *power* over **all** flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. John 17:2

All that the Father giveth me, shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37

(So, how many does the Father give to Him? Read on...)

The Father loveth the Son, and hath given **all** things into his hand. *John 3:35*

In these last days He has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. *Heb 1:2*

I, if I be lifted up from the earth (resurrected), will draw **all** men unto me. John 12:32

For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through Him. *Jn 3:17*

(Whew!)

DID IT WORK?

For what if some did *not* believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid! Romans 3:3,4

And they sang the song of Moses... and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the Nations. Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; For **all** the nations will come and worship before Thee, for Thy righteous acts have been revealed. Rev 15:3,4 (After His righteousness is revealed, all the nations shall glorify His name. When he reveals himself to the wicked, this does not mean it is too late. He is just beginning.)

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: ... And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. II Cor. 5:14-19

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. Rev 21: 3-6 (the fire makes everyone thirsty!)

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and *all* that are in them, (this seems to cover just about everyone...) heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Rev 5:13

SO, WHO GETS THE FIRE?

1-The Evil

And the devil who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are both the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for the ages of ages. Rev 20:10

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged each according to their works: and death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, even the lake of fire. And if any one was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20: 13-15

But to the fearful and unbelieving, and sinners, and those who make themselves abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone; which is the second death. Rev 21:8 (Note that this is NOT the END OF ALL, as the works of the Devil have not yet been destroyed)

Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; *Ge 19:24* But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. *Lu 17:29* Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eonian fire. *Jude 1:7*

(now watch what happens to Sodom...)

And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee. Mt 11:23,24

I will restore their fortunes, both the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and I will restore your own fortunes in the midst of them, As for your sisters, Sodom and her daughters shall return to their former estate Eze 16:53,55

2-The Righteous

Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: Isa 33:14-16

As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. Eze 1:13

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? ... Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Dan 3:24,25

(This tells us much about the purpose of fire- it burns away bonds!)

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: Joel 2: 1-3

Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein: For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her. Zech 2: 4,5

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God. Zech 13:9 (this third part is the Chosen Remnant!)

Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? Jer 23:29

3- EVERYONE!

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 1 Cor 3: 11-15

Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. Isa 54:16

Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; for **all** the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal. For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that **all** of them may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder. Zeph 3:8-9

For our God is a consuming fire. Heb 12:29

The wages of sin is death; BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

Everyone will be purified by fire. Mark 9:49

So... Everyone gets fire, and fire is for cleansing. Jesus died for all, and all will be reconciled to God. Sin results in the death of all, and Jesus defeated death. When the curtain falls, our loving Father will be ALL in ALL! Hey, don't take my word for it! Take a hint from Berea, where "they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11

That we may know Him, the only true God. Amen

<http://www.auburn.edu/~allenkc/davbaug1.html>

Three Fundamental Doctrines

Three basic divisions in doctrine exist among all Christians in some fashion. This is the reason for the rainbow of doctrines in the church which was intended to be of one mind, heart and purpose. Every denomination in our faith believes and encourages one of the following tenets while denying the others:

Eternal Torment in Hell:

Sinners have a chance during this lifetime, and this lifetime only, to turn from their sins and accept Jesus' as their "personal" savior, or be sentenced to agony in Hell forever. Here their tormenter will be the worst sinner of all, Satan. Our Enemy enjoys this. There will be no relief for these people, not ever. Sin will never die, and suffering is never defeated.

Annihilation:

The time will come when all the sinners in Hell, or the grave (depending on the doctrine), will be removed from their agony, resurrected from the grave, judged, then totally obliterated. This is interesting, but I would suggest to any Christian who believes this to - at the very least - think about the word "eternal" in their bibles. It should throw red flags. Are sinners to be eternally tormented or not?

Complete Salvation:

God resurrects everyone. Those who had heard and had faith in Jesus, awake to life. The others awake to God's contempt (Daniel 12:2). They face His judgement, but like any loving father, their penance is for their own good; it is not meant to kill, but purify. When this is complete (however long it takes to satisfy justice) every knee will bow and every tongue will confess and praise Him for who He is. He will wipe their tears away and bring them to His table because Jesus had tasted death for every man already.

These three cannot be true at once, yet all Christians believe deeply in one. So I ask this: Which one reflects God's glory, grace and fullness? Which one celebrates the God's beautiful love, and mercy which overcomes all things? Which doctrine bears more fruit? Which one makes you want to get out of your seat and proclaim His power to the nations? Which one most characterizes Agape Love, that love that forgives all transgressions and does not bear out a grudge? Which is the Good News?

Think about your own children, or any person you dearly love. Picture them in your mind and heart right now. If that person wronged you, would you hold an eternal grudge against them? Would you consent to them being tormented for all time? Would you terminate them? Don't you know that God loves the whole world more than we can grasp, and more than we could possibly love Him in return? When he was being nailed to the cross, Jesus did not call for the Father's wrath against them, but for His mercy. The Father heard his Son's request that they be forgiven. He heard his Son's words and saw His heart, and so it was done.

A thief comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). This is not who Jesus is. It was not His purpose to kill and destroy people then, now, or at the end of days. He does not change. Ask yourself who Jesus is: a healer, a king, a teacher, one who is filled with mercy and love, the Lord almighty. Now what does He *want*? He wants people, all of them, not just some. He is a deliverer not a destroyer. To know Jesus is to know the Father. His Glory is not in his ability to kill or injure, but in His willingness to reconcile, rebuild and exist within a fullness. Is it not more glorious for God to *change* His enemies than execute them. Nothing pleases Him more. He has power like that. Imagine writing a letter with a pencil and the lead breaks. Angrily snapping the pencil in half and dumping it in the garbage would be the easy impulse and satisfying to the flesh. Instead, take that same pencil and - rather than destroying it - transform it into a fountain pen, shining bright with gold, perfect in all its measurements flowing with crimson ink, never running dry. *That* would be a display of power.

He is a redeemer, not a slayer. The impulse to annihilate an enemy is the fruit of a carnal man. The spiritual man learns that victory lies not in quick destruction, but healing and restoration. If your neighbor can conquer an enemy with grace, and bond together with him in love, he is strong in the Spirit. That man is spiritually mature. The difficult choices bring the greatest victories. Overcoming an enemy by the sword, a quick and gratifying solution, is exactly what Jesus taught us to avoid. Yet His very own people assume that He plans to do exactly that, force destruction and death (or worse yet, never-ending torture) upon His enemies for their unbelief. Prepare to be amazed when you see people who once cursed God, praising His name and bowing before Him in love. Bring earplugs; it's going to be a loud shout.

COMMON QUESTIONS

So is salvation a free gift based solely on God's loving kindness or is it something that can be revoked if we are not "good" enough?

Salvation is a promise, a free gift to all men based entirely on his goodness, kindness and love for us, and nothing people do with our free will can back him into a corner on this. The whole point of the Old and New testament is that we are not good enough in ourselves to equal God's love for us. If we cannot attain salvation by works, we cannot lose it by works either. If you could be a wicked enough servant to lose your salvation, then it would not be free and undeserved. It would be paid for, earned and deserved. Salvation is not gained, it is given. So if all men do not deserve it, and God is this merciful to forgive all sin, then who did Jesus die to

save? ALL people, for all of us have fallen short of His glory, and we have all acted in unbelief. We all live in the same fallen world. Such is the love of God for even those we consider to be our worst enemies in this time. Such is His power. He is not controlled by our free will in this age or the next. It is *human* doctrine which claims that God's forgiveness and loving kindness will simply not be adequate.

We force ourselves, and each other, to take the reigns so we can prove to God that we are good enough to receive and maintain our salvation. This is law-speak; it misses the whole point completely. It is diametrically opposed to the ministry of all the disciples and apostles in all their letters to the church. In his ministry, Jesus spoke of a refining fire and punishment which has a cleansing purpose. He never said He would retract the free gift of salvation from even the worst of the worst of the worst. The Lord *assured* that the world was saved through him, and He is bigger than we are. His love for us is more awesome than we can understand. Believe God's promises and take Him at His word. Rest assured, Jesus performed a miracle of awesome magnitude when he hung on that tree. He saved the entire planet whether we liked it or not. Listening to the Liar has resulted in so much division and scriptural contradiction. Salvation is so simple (2 Corinthians 11:3).

So why would a loving God send people to eternal torment? Why doesn't God show mercy and forgive His enemies too?

By now, if you are embracing the truth in your heart, this question might seem a bit wierd. Our Lord will not send anyone into eternal agony. Nor will there be some deranged Auschwitz-style day of extermination. His punishments bear good fruit. He is not like his enemies.

Those doctrines are rooted in torture, oppression, extermination and failure. They are based on a scriptural interpretation from the desperately wicked and carnal heart of man. They insist that God has subjected his power to *our* will and cannot overcome our defiance in this age or the next with anything but destruction. These doctrines slander His name. They call him weak. They drag his reputation through the mud before unbelievers, painting Him as a ruthless killer instead of one who overcomes, who heals, forgives, and restores all to Himself. They teach that His love and grace has a limit, rather than teaching about a God of limitless love and power. These doctrines have created God in *man's* image, according to *our* vision of justice. And the fruit of it has played itself out through history as you know. Just look at the church's violent heritage based on its teachings. They mutated into what they taught. These warped doctrines were contrived by that most malevolent liar and people are conforming to it today.

In the end many will say "Lord, You gave us dreams and visions. We heard your voice. We knew you." But since they never looked deeper into His heart for people, and did not forgive *their* enemies, of what He showed them, they saw nothing. Yet, being so merciful Himself, He will not wipe them out entirely. Jesus tasted death for every man. He will dry their tears, comfort them, and restore all. Enemy will forgive enemy; we will all sit at the same table with cheer and wonder in our hearts. Paul never mentioned eternal torment, not once! And he said one who teaches a Gospel other than his, let him be accursed.

But what about that sin God will never forgive?

In Matthew and Mark, we learn of a sin which will not be forgiven in this world or the next: blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. "*And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in*

this world, neither in the world to come." Many new Christians are shocked by this. Their impulse is to check their pasts to see if they have unwittingly committed this unpardonable sin, and they wonder whether they will be sentenced to eternal torture for it. If they feel they might have done this, their hearts break, even if they are not really sure. They feel that salvation has suddenly been ripped away from them. Have peace and take heart. God delights in mercy.

The **Young's Literal Translation** of the Scriptures can be purchased anywhere, whether on Amazon, Ebay, or at Borders, or can be viewed online at www.biblegateway.com. This is the most accurate word for word translation of the original text, which, among other things, respects true meaning of *aion*, which is not *world, forever* or *eternity* but "age." Here are those passages relating to this sin in that translation:

Mark 3:29

But whoever may speak evil in regard to the Holy Spirit hath not forgiveness to the age, but is in danger of age-during judgment;' (another way of saying this is Judgement during the age, or an age)

Matthew 12:32

And whoever may speak a word against the Son of Man it shall be forgiven to him, but whoever may speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age, nor in that which is coming.

An age (or an era) is a time period which has a beginning and an end. There are many ages, and many things happen *in* those ages. Sometimes the scriptures reference the "age of ages" (often translated as "for ever and ever") Think about an 8 hour work day. Your lunch period is the hour - of hours - *in* which you ate.

In Matthew and Mark, Jesus is speaking about two ages, *this* one, and the one to come. The first is *our* earth and time, and the one to come is God's Judgement; The Day of the Lord, is not necessarily a 24 hour period. There are plenty of examples in the scripture to show this. Sins not forgiven in that age will be punished by the Lord's Fire, and we already know, by looking at the scriptures, what His fire does, and what it is for. We also know that God's justice fits the crime committed. This is the time when the wicked, shall be "tormented in the presence of the Lamb." They will be tormented in presence of Jesus, and *by* His presence. But, as terrifying as it will be, this time will come to an end, and when it does the Lord's wrath ends with it. A new age is ushered in. This is the new heaven and the new earth. This is the age of restitution of all things unto Christ, in which he will put all things under Him. This is when the Lord forgives all and becomes "all in all," and everyone who hated him will come and be ashamed. This is the age when we learn just how much God loves *His* enemies.

In these scriptures, Jesus was giving warning that by his blood all sins will be forgiven to those who believe (and eventually everyone *will* believe), except blasphemy against the Spirit. This is the one sin not covered, and even those who believe in the Son today will be punished for that sin. However, the Lord will not be angry forever, nor will he cast off forever. He will only punish until the debt is paid, and his punishments always bear good fruit. Jesus tasted death for every man.

God is Love but isn't He also a God of wrath?

A common mistake we make is in mistaking God's emotions from our own. God is not a man, nor is he visible. God is a spirit. However, in order for his creatures to understand him, God describes himself in ways that we may understand. He refers to himself as being disappointed, angry, saddened, joyful and even surprised, when in reality, we know that God always knows what will happen before it does. This is called "divine condescension" when God puts himself into terms we can understand so that his plan might be fulfilled. God is not controlled or manipulated, or in any way overcome by emotion the way a human being might be. God's wrath is always to fulfill a purpose and never is God devoid of Love. To separate God's wrath from his love is like saying God is divided against himself. Rather, He is fulfilling a purpose in his wrath, as he always was: to reveal Jesus Christ, who came to make peace by the blood of his cross. As the scriptures say *"In a little burst of wrath I hid My face from you for a moment, but with age-enduring love and kindness I will have compassion and mercy on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer.* (Isaiah 54:8 - Amplified Version).

So what about free will vs. predestination?

Often times we confuse choice with will. Choices (noun) are options that we have. The human will (noun) is our or mental faculty to exercise those choices. It is clear that all men and women have the choice to sin or resist sin. However, nowhere in the scripture does it say that our human will cannot be affected or changed by God. As Paul in Romans states: "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." (Romans2:4) God does not force action. However, he is able to lead and subdue all that he desires to come to him.

Consider the prophet Jonah, who was given a choice to follow God's instructions or refuse. Jonah made a choice not to follow God's will, in fact Jonah ran the other way. So God threw Jonah into a whale's belly until he came around. This should show you how much value God placed on his free will. We all have free will, but so does God. He knows everything and can do any thing he wants. Everything will go according to His plans because He is perfect. He has proved this many times in the scripture and has even spoken it. These miracles were not done so that God could do cool stuff with physics. They were done to reveal intent, a plan for everyone. God puts up with us until he gets tired of our wrong choices. No, you will not find much about human sovereignty in the scripture. But, what you will find in plenty is: *"I am the Lord, your God."* It never states that human choices have the power to dominate God's will, plans, and purposes. For more on this issue: <http://bible-truths.com/freewil2.html>.

Didn't Jesus say that the Father will destroy both body and soul in Hell (Matthew 10:28)?

This is what He said (Young's Literal Translation): "And be not afraid of those killing the body, and are not able to kill the soul, but fear rather Him who is able both soul and body to destroy in Gehenna." The word "destroy" (apollumi) in the Greek text is the exact same word for "lose" (apollumi) used in the parable of The Prodigal Son. This is the same word which describes the son who was once lost (or destroyed), then was found. We find this word also in two more parables: The Lost Coin and The Lost Sheep, both of which are found. *"The Son of Man came to seek and save what is lost (apollumi)"* (Luke 19:10). What did Jesus save? Who was destroyed? We were all lost, and we were all destroyed. And, that which is lost can be found by God. His judgement for the wicked is to destroy them that they may be found. Paul suggested to the Corinthian church that some people must be given over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh (1 Corinthians 5:5). This judgement results in saving the spirit. When we are

over to be destroyed, the fruit is restoration (referring to the death of our carnal nature, and birth of our spiritual nature). I too fear a God who is able to destroy, or lose, my body and soul. If I turn from the Lord, He turns me to destruction. But in his perfect judgement, he find me again. His love will not fail. Nothing will happen that does not conform to His desire, and everything works to the council of His own will toward a good end.

Hosea 14:4-9

I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them Who is wise? He will realize these things. Who is discerning? He will understand them. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them.

Samuel 14:14

For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him.

Isaiah 26:9

When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.

Isaiah 48:10

See, I have refined you ... I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

But, if God is not in the extermination business, what is the Lake of Fire for?

Read Malachi 3 very carefully, and you will know exactly what The Lake of Fire is, and what it is for. Remember, Jesus spoke in parables to cloak meaning from some people, and reveal it to others. Until we understand God's heart, we will never understand his methods. Some books of the Bible (like Hebrews 10, and II Peter 2 & 3) warn of the coming wrath to be poured upon all the earth like fire. It is described as the fire of His indignance. This will bring destruction upon the wicked hardhearted people in the earth. We often times confuse carnal destruction with spiritual destruction. Look at what Paul says about what Christ will do to these people: Heb 10:13 *"There he waits until his enemies are humbled as a footstool under his feet."* God destroys the wicked so that they will be humbled, and here is the result:

Daniel 4:37: *"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble those who are proud."*

Nebuchadnezzar, the great king from Babylon who had rejected God said these words! Why? Because, he had been destroyed by the zealous fire of God's wrath (verse 33): *"That very same hour the prophecy was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven. He lived this way until his hair was as long as eagles' feathers and his nails were like birds' claws."* God destroyed him because he was proud. He took everything away from the evil king and the punishment became worse and worse until he submitted to the Lord. God's indignance which he will pour out on the proud at the end of days will break their will to refine them like gold and deliver. All men will praise Him in the end and of their own accord, for this is God's will. This was Paul's warning in Hebrews 10. He saying that those who turn away cannot be saved by another sacrifice; their hearts have gone hard. They will be destroyed that they be made humble. Look at what else this man had to say:

(verse 35): "All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He has the power to do as he pleases among the angels of heaven and with those who live on earth."

<http://www.mercifultruth.com/links-savedbygrace.html>

But what about the Parable of Lazarus and The Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31)? Doesn't that clearly outline an eternal torment in hell?

Many people believe this. But keep in mind, the Israelites, including the disciples and even John the Baptist, believed that the Messiah's purpose was to battle the Romans and make Israel a great and powerful nation. They expected a warrior. They got one, but not like they thought. This shows you that the common belief is not necessarily the right belief. Much can be said about this awesome parable, but I will give a short summary.

Do not draw to human conclusions based on established doctrines. Essentially, the parable is a prophecy detailing the shift of God's favor from Israel to the Gentiles. The name "Lazarus" is the Greek counterpart of the Hebrew name Eleazar. It means "whom God aids." Eliezer was Abraham's servant, a Gentile. The rich man represents the Levitical line of Jewish priests (clothed in purple and fine linen, and in this parable, he refers to Abraham as "Father Abraham"). He is a Pharisee. When the poor man dies he goes to Abraham's bosom. Paul says that those with faith in Christ are Abraham's true descendants. They go into his bosom, a relationship with him. For a former Pharisee like Paul to say this was a quite an awesome statement in itself. In the parable, the rich man enters a time of Judgement, the flame that torments him. For more information read <http://mercifultruth.com/lazarus.html>

So if everyone will be saved, why bother going to Church or serving God at all?

Whether or not someone hears this message and returns to their sin has no effect on its truth. This is God's plan. Someone who does this is revealing what has been in their heart all along. God knows our hearts more than we do. He sees the black spots even if we do not. Some people claim that if people know this, they will leave their church. The fact is, the church belongs to Jesus Christ and not a man. (<http://www.mercifultruth.com/links-chosenkingdom.htm>) Serving God is to follow his commands: believe that Christ is Lord, then if he is your Lord: love each other as he has loved us. Bless those who curse you. Forgive your enemies. These commands come directly out of Christ's mouth, and many of those sitting in pews across the nation have no use for these words. We are a temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:17) and he no longer dwells in a house built with human hands but upon the praises of his people. Our purpose is to tell people the Good News, that Jesus is their friend who saved them, and let the Holy Spirit do what He will. We have not been given the power or authority to save people. We did not hang on a tree. Jesus is the Savior of the world. But, God's goodness leads to repentance (Romans 2:4) The Gospel message leads to repentance because it is love, and where there is love, there is light and where there is light, Christ is for he is all these things. The Gospel does not deny judgement, but neither does it deny that judgement comes from a God who uses it for the purpose of love. We have been given is the ministry of reconciliation, so people can live

today, and not be destroyed in their sins. This is so that, through Jesus, they may be given life. Bringing people to Jesus through a fear rather than love, is to bring them from one death into another death. It is time for the church to come back together and teach doctrines of freedom, love and life.

So what is the second death (Revelation 21:8)?

Because we are human - being flesh - we tend to apply our own understanding of what constitutes life to God's message and the spiritual realm (1 Corinthians 2:13-14). So naturally, when we see the word death we instinctively defer to our earthly existence, and fail to see any deeper underlying truth. This is why we are often confused by what God tells us, and why so many people were repelled when they heard Jesus say that one must eat His flesh and drink His blood to gain life. They did not see the spiritual meaning behind that. So it is with the Lake of Fire; they don't see the spiritual meaning in that either. What is flesh is flesh and what is Spirit is Spirit (John 3:6). To understand the second death, it helps to understand who the second Adam is, and His purpose. The first Adam was flesh. He brought sin into the world, the wages of which are death. The second Adam is Spirit, who is Jesus (1 Cor 15:45). He brought life into the world. In the flesh, He came to earth to set it on fire. He brought with him a blazing furnace, and burned the Pharisees in it. But did he burn them at the stake?

Malachi 3

Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal or like a strong soap that whitens clothes. ³He will sit and judge like a refiner of silver, watching closely as the dross is burned away. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold or silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the LORD.

He set them on fire *spiritually*. The fire that Jesus brought, which was Spirit and truth, tormented the Pharisees so much (because they were wicked) that they set out to murder him. Jesus' fire was not meant to kill them, but refine them. This is what God brings to the wicked at the end of days, a refining fire which will torment them, to burn the dirt (their sin) away. This is how He makes everything new (Revelations 21:5.) The second death does not kill *people*, it annihilates sin and death itself - which will be consumed by Life. Some will be hurt by it, others will not (Daniel 3:22-25), but everyone will be purified by fire.

What about those who lose faith and cannot enter God's rest in Hebrews 3 and 4?

"Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, 'As I swore in my wrath, they shall not enter my rest,' ...although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: 'And God rested on the Seventh day from all his works'; and again in this passage, 'They shall not enter my rest.' Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, 'Today if you hear his voice do not harden your hearts.'"

Many people today misjudge this as being about a future in Heaven. In Hebrews 3 the message is spoken to a Jewish people who understood both the reference to Moses (when the Israelites could not enter the promised land as a punishment for unbelief) and the meaning of "rest." The scripture does not say Heaven, so we shouldn't put that assumption on it. The Jews reading this letter understood that the rest refers to the Sabbath. After Creating the universe and the ages, God rested. He became still and quiet on the seventh day. Certainly Heaven existed before this day and this rest. The Jewish people observed it every week symbolically in the Law, by resting from daily labor. It was a capital offence to break the Sabbath. We know that the Law was a shadow of things to come in Jesus. When Christ came, he died, and the reward for all those who believe is rest through the Holy Spirit, which is the true Sabbath.

We enter into this by faith and belief in God's promises: "*Come all ye that labor and I will give you rest,*" Jesus says. We who believe lay down the labors of our walking destruction in sin and enter into God's rest *today*, not in the future. Those who turn from God cannot enter this promise. They have hard and proud hearts, and God resists the proud. Today, we enter God's rest every moment we walk with Him; our belief "profits us" in that it shows we are soft at heart to God and are rewarded with rest. Hebrews is warning them not to walk the same road as their ancestors, to become hard against this gift and lose it. Those who turn in unbelief resist Him, and He resists them. He, in his anger, withdraws from those who withdraw from Him. This says nothing about an eternity in hell or being beyond God's reach forever.

Doesn't this mean you don't need Jesus? Why did Jesus die?

This is an amazing question. Jesus died so that we could live. Of course we need Jesus because He gives us rest. He gives us the power and life of the Holy Spirit. Those who believe have life within them. Those who do not, have no life within them. They are not saved! In the future, everyone will drop to the earth and confess that Jesus is Lord to the Glory of God one way or another. Jesus died to save the world. He did not die to *potentially* save the world. God is not hoping and wishing his children would let him save them. He is the *ultimate* authority, and all His plans are perfect, because He is perfect. Most people think that God sacrificed his Son only for our benefit. This is half the truth. When Jesus died, he received an inheritance:

Hebrews 2:7-9

For a little while you (the Father) made him (Jesus) lower than the angels, and you crowned him with glory and honor. You gave him authority over all things. Now when it says "all things," it means nothing is left out. But we have not yet seen all of this happen. What we do see is Jesus, who "for a little while was made lower than the angels" and now is "crowned with glory and honor" because he suffered death for us. Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone in all the world.

Reader, really see this. Jesus paid for the world with his suffering, his blood, and his death. He tasted death for *all* people. Yes, we are rewarded by that, but Christ's reward is even greater. The earth - and everything in it - belongs to Jesus; it has been purchased, and He has been crowned king over it. He has been given all authority over all things and nothing is left out. But, see how the author of Hebrews clearly states that we have not seen all this happen yet. The plan has not yet been consummated or reached its perfect conclusion. By all means necessary, Jesus is coming back to *claim* his inheritance - not to wipe it out or subject it to eternal pain. God sees and knows everything. God is perfect, and so are his plans. He is not surprised by anything or thrown off course. Does eternal torment reveal perfection in God's

plan to save the world? How does Jesus Christ benefit from bringing irreconcilable ruin to his inheritance for which he paid such a price? The scriptures say that Jesus comes to humble his enemies and place them under his feet:

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 *Then comes the end, when (Jesus) delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him (The Father) is excepted. Now when **all things** are made subject to (Jesus), then the Son Himself will **also** be subject to (The Father) who put all things under Him, that God may be **all in all**.*

Jesus is king over all things right now as we speak. What will Jesus do when the end comes? He will put an end to all rule and authority. He will destroy all death. ALL things will be made subject to Christ. Now when someone is subjected to a king, what happens? That enemy becomes a subject OF that king, and a subject OF his kingdom! THAT is the power of reconciliation. A kingdom that grows from the size of a mustard seed to a full grown tree.

What happens when we die if we do not go straight to a hell?

The Holy Scripture tells us. King Solomon, who wrote a good portion of the Bible, considered the wisest man who ever lived, writes extensively about death in the Bible. He knew God and what death was according to what God spoke to the Jews regarding sin and death. Let's examine the Book of Ecclesiastes to see what death is according to the Bible. Then we will examine why Solomon was so bleak about his outlook on life and why there was a light at the end, how God provides hope.

Ecclesiastes 6:36

A man might have a hundred children and live to be very old. But if he finds no satisfaction in life and in the end does not even get a decent burial, I say he would have been better off born dead. I realize that his birth would have been meaningless and ended in darkness. He wouldn't even have had a name, and he would never have seen the sun or known of its existence. Yet he would have had more peace than he has in growing up to be an unhappy man. He might live a thousand years twice over but not find contentment. And since he must die like everyone else well, what's the use?

(Here is Solomon saying that the death of a child ends in darkness for that child. He would never see the sun or know of its existence. No further knowledge. This is how God's chosen people understood death [the punishment for Adam's sin] in Solomon's day)

Ecclesiastes 6:10-12

Everything has already been decided. It was known long ago what each person would be. So there's no use arguing with God about your destiny. The more words you speak, the less they mean. So why overdo it? In the few days of our empty lives, who knows how our days can best be spent? And who can tell what will happen in the future after we are gone?

(Solomon acknowledges that death comes to all. It has already been decided that everyone will end up as dust in Sheol)

Ecclesiastes 8:8 None of us can hold back our spirit from departing. None of us has the power to prevent the day of our death. There is no escaping that obligation, that dark battle. And in the face of death, wickedness will certainly not rescue those who practice it.

(This should be a huge revelation if you are seeing it. Solomon does not *want* his spirit to leave his body. But, if Solomon believed he would go straight to Heaven or Hell, why would he resist his spirit to depart? Shouldn't he be overjoyed to immediately meet God in Heaven, or fearful to go straight to Hell? Yet he never mentions Hell in Ecclesiastes when speaking on death, not once.)

Ecclesiastes 9:2-8 The same destiny ultimately awaits everyone, whether they are righteous or wicked, good or bad, ceremonially clean or unclean, religious or irreligious. Good people receive the same treatment as sinners, and people who take oaths are treated like people who don't. It seems so tragic that one fate comes to all. That is why people are not more careful to be good. Instead, they choose their own mad course, for they have no hope. There is nothing ahead but death anyway. There is hope only for the living. For as they say, "It is better to be a live dog than a dead lion!" The living at least know they will die, but the dead know nothing. They have no further reward, nor are they remembered. Whatever they did in their lifetime--loving, hating, envying--is all long gone.

(So the same fate meets everyone according to him. The good, the bad, and the ugly go to the same place. The Jewish people called this place Sheol. Solomon is dismayed that the good are not rewarded further, nor do the wicked receive further justice, but that one fate comes to all: death.)

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. For then the **dust** will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Until now Solomon has explained death to the people of his day like this: when we die there is no further reward, only darkness and oblivion. The dust returns to the earth and everyone's spirit returns to God who gave it. The same fate comes to all people, good or bad. What does that tell us about our spirit? We read that God formed Adam from dust, then breathed into his nostrils and Adam lived. Our spirits are the wellspring of life, God's breath within us giving life. Death is called "sleep" 54 times in the Bible. Here are a few:

Luke 8:52 *Jesus said, "Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth"*

John 11:11-14 *Jesus said, "Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." His disciples thought He was speaking of natural sleep. "Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead" (verses 11-14).*

Acts 13:36 *For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers.*

2 Peter 3:4 *For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.*

Psalm 13 *Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep the sleep of death;*

Isaiah 14:1719 *All the kings of the nations, All of them, sleep in glory, Everyone in his own house; But you are cast out of your grave Like an abominable branch. But is death the end?*

Psalm 16:910

Therefore hath my heart been glad, And my honour doth rejoice, Also my flesh dwelleth confidently: For Thou dost not leave my soul to Sheol, Nor givest thy Saintly One (Jesus) to see corruption (decomposition in the grave).

David saw a vision of the Messiah. He saw that Jesus would not remain in Sheol, so neither would David. He saw that Jesus would have the power to wake all who will sleep the sleep of death. "For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

For more information: <http://bible-truths.com/lake1 -C.html>

GOD IS IN CHARGE

*Four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't get to Jesus through the crowd, so they dug through the clay roof above his head. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My son, your sins are forgiven But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there said to themselves, "What? This is blasphemy! Who but God can forgive sins!" **Mark 2:37***

This paralyzed man did nothing to have his sins forgiven. He did not confess or believe in Jesus Christ or that he was Lord. He had not been baptized either by the Holy Spirit. He just showed up. But Jesus saw the faith and desire of his intercessors and forgave his sins. How angry the law teachers were!

But as Paul said "It is not him who willeth or runneth, but God who shows mercy." (Romans 9:16). If God wishes to bring all men into repentance, he will do as He pleases and according to his own wisdom and plans. The Lord says:

Isaiah 46:9-10 *I am God, there is no other, I am God, and there is no one like me; I reveal the end from the beginning, from ancient times I reveal what is to be: I say, "My purpose shall take effect, I will accomplish all that I please."*

In that, we should have no doubt. He forgives who forgive and will show mercy on whom He will show mercy. His plan shall take effect. In Exodus, God declared to Moses that he would completely destroy the Israelites for worshiping the golden calf and start over with Moses.

Of course God was testing Moses, as he tests us today. The Lord wasn't shocked by what they did even if He was angered. Moses did not throw his hands up and say "Well you said it Lord, so who am I to argue?" Moses argued. He humbly interceded, eventually changing God's mind. But can God's mind really be changed?

1 Samuel 15:29

The Eminence of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.

No, God does not change his mind as the scripture says. But he will test us as he did Moses.

1 John 3:18-25

Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions. It is by our actions that we know we are living in the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before the Lord, even if our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our conscience is clear, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him. And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. Those who obey God's commandments live in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Holy Spirit lives in us. If you love the Son and love your enemies, you may stand before God in bold confidence.

If you believe that God will torment mankind forever, or will allow his purpose to not take effect, then why not pray for them?

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

STANDING IN INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father we stand in agreement with the prayer of Abraham and Moses. If there is but one person on earth with faith and righteousness at your return, will you save your entire creation? Will you extend your delight in mercy, and awesome power to overcome the works of the Enemy and save all in spite of his desires? We appeal to you Lord. We trust you and honor your promises in faith. You have been so good to us. You are so loving and merciful. We honor and acknowledge your authority over all you create. You are good to us. You heal and restore. You are filled with love. We lift our hands and extend our hearts to you. We plead to you on behalf of our fallen brothers and sisters that you not cast them off forever, but forgive your enemies for their iniquities, for you love though they hate you. Lord, be not bound by our limitations but shatter our traditions. Embrace us. Enjoy the fullness of your people in your House, so that Jesus might delight in the praises of all your people, and be lifted up by all. You have been so good to us. You have been so good. You are love and healing. We are after your heart. We make our lives a prayer to you. You have been so good to us. Thank you Lord for caring. Thank you for who you are. In the name of Jesus we pray these things. Amen.

The doctrine of Eternal Torment contradicts itself and the Word of God.

Does it teach that the fire in I Cor.3:15 burns mans' *works*, but not the man himself? **Yes.**
But, does it teach that this same fire in Rev.20:15 also burns *works*, not the man? **No.**

Does it teach that God is the Creator of ALL? **Yes.**
But, does it teach that God created EVIL as He says in (Isa. 45:7)? **No.**

Does it teach that God is absolutely and totally sovereign (Eph. 1:11)? **Yes.**
But, does it teach that God exercises sovereignty over man's free will? **No.**

Does it teach that Jesus Christ IS the Savior of the whole world (I Jn 4:14)? **Yes.**
But, does it teach that Jesus Christ actually *will* save the whole world? **No.**

Does it teach that presently Christ *only* has immortality (I Tim. 6:16)? **Yes.**
But, does it teach that therefore all men's souls are mortal and not immortal? **No.**

Does it teach that the original manuscripts of God's Word were inerrant? **Yes.**
But, does it teach us that the King James translation, which they say is "inerrant" has gone through THOUSANDS of error corrections since 1611? **No.**

Does it teach that the soul that sins shall DIE (Ezek. 18:4)? **Yes.**
But, does it teach that souls of deceased sinners are actually DEAD? **No.**

Does it teach that Sodom is "suffering the vengeance of eternal [aeonian] fire?" **Yes.**
But, does it teach that Sodom will be restored to their former estate (Ezek. 16:55)? **No.**

Does it teach a future resurrection of dead people back to life (John 5:29)? **Yes.**
But, does it teach that a resurrection is imperative for dead people to live again? **No.**

Does it teach the first half of I Cor. 15:22 that "For as in Adam ALL die?" **Yes.**
But, does it teach the next half, "even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive?" **No.**

Does it teach that "...the end of the world [*ion age*]" does end in Matt. 24:3? **Yes.**
But, does it teach that this same "*ion age*" in Matt. 25:41 & 46 will also end? **No.**

Does it teach that John 3:13 & Acts 2:34 are truthful Scriptures (II Tim. 3:16)? **Yes.**
But, does it teach this truth that "NO man," including David, has gone to heaven? **No.**

Does it teach that ALL God purposed, spoke, and willed (Isa. 46:1011), He will do? **Yes.**
But, does it teach that God's will to save all will actually be done? **No.**

Does it teach that the Apocryphal books do not belong in the Bible? **Yes.**

But, does it teach us that the 1611 so-called "inerrant" King James Bible originally contained fourteen such books, including "Tobit," "Judith," "The idol Bel and the Dragon"? **No.**

Does it teach that Christ is responsible for our salvation? **Yes.**

But, does it also teach that "no man can" come to Christ of himself (John 6:44)? **No.**

Does it teach that the last enemy to be destroyed [Gk: abolished] is death? **Yes.**

But, does it teach that ALL death, including the Second Death, *will* be abolished? **No.**

Does it teach that all things are possible with God (Mark 10:25-27)? **Yes.**

But, does it teach that it is possible for God to save nonbelievers after they die? **No.**

Does it teach that every tongue in heaven and earth will confess Jesus as LORD? **Yes.**

But, does it teach that the Holy Spirit inspires this sincere act (I Cor. 12:3)? **No.**

Does it teach that good and evil are both in the same tree of knowledge? **Yes.**

But, does it teach that good and evil both come from the same root? **No.**

Does it teach that God absolutely "knows all" (I John 3:20)? **Yes.**

But, does it teach that God knows in advance ALL who will reject Christ? **No.**

Does it teach that God's love will never fail (I Cor. 13:8)? **Yes.**

But, does it teach that God's love will never fail in saving the world He loves? **No.**

Does it teach that the masses did not understand Christ's parables (Mat. 13:13)? **Yes.**

But, does it teach that Christ purposely didn't want them to understand, (Vs. 14:17)? **No.**

Does it teach the Old Covenant contained the Ten Commandments (Deut.4:12)? **Yes.**

But, does it teach a New Covenant which contains a much higher law (Heb. 8:8-9)? **No.**

Does it teach that loving our enemies means doing good and not evil to them? **Yes.**

But, does it teach that God will never subject His enemies to eternal torture and evil?

No.