

Doctrine



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...

*The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

Heaven and Hell

THEOLOGY

Calvary Old Path believes in a literal heaven and hell. We also believe that every human who has ever lived will stand before God to be judged.

DOCTRINE

Everyone would agree that at some point, our life ends and we die. In this booklet we will be looking at the following areas:

1. Is Heaven Real?
2. Will We be Judged One Day?
3. What is Hell?
4. Hell is Forever.
5. False Teachings of Churches and World Religions.
6. How Can I Make Sure I Go to Heaven?

Is Heaven Real?

Yes!! Heaven is indeed a real place. The Bible tells us in *Isaiah 66:1*, “*Thus says the Lord: Heaven is My throne.*”

Also see: *Acts 7:48-49* and *Matthew 5:34-35*.

After Jesus’ resurrection and appearance on earth to His disciples, “*He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.*” (*Mark 16:19*) Christ entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us (*Hebrews 9:24*). Jesus went before us, on our behalf, and is alive and has a present ministry in heaven, serving as our high priest in the true tabernacle made by God (*Hebrews 6:19-20; 8:1-2*).

Scriptures refer to three heavens. The first heaven in the Old Testament is referred to as the “sky” or the “firmament”. This is the heaven that contains the clouds. The second heaven is outer space, which includes the stars and planets (*Genesis 1:14-18*).

The apostle Paul was “caught up to the third heaven”, but was prohibited from telling what he experienced there (*2 Corinthians 12:1-9*). This is the dwelling place of God. Jesus promised to prepare a place for the true Christians in heaven where there will be many mansions (*John 14:2*). Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have everlasting life (*John 3:16*).

The apostle John got to see the heavenly city, Holy Jerusalem (*Revelation 21:10-27*) and witnessed that heaven possesses the “glory of God” (*Revelation 21:11*) where the very presence of God and heaven has no darkness. The Lord Himself is the light, so the sun and moon are no longer needed (*Revelation 22:5*). The city is filled with precious stones, clear as crystal, and pure gold. It has twelve gates that are made of pearls (*Revelation 21:12*) and twelve foundations (*Revelation 21:14*). The paradise of the Garden of Eden is restored and the river of the water of life flows freely (*Revelation 22: 1-2*).

Heaven is absolutely beautiful! The reality of heaven is beyond the comprehension of man to describe (*1 Corinthians 2:9*). There will be no more sorrows (*Revelation 21:4*). There will be no more separation, because death is conquered (*Revelation 20:6*)! We will also have glorified bodies (*Philippians 3:20, 21*)! The best thing about heaven is that we will be with our Lord and Savior for all eternity (*1 John 3:2*)!

Is Heaven Real?

The Bible says in *2 Corinthians 5:8*, “*We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*” The minute a genuine believer in Jesus dies, they will be with Him in heaven! This is great news! We now See how wonderful, glorious and real heaven is. The bible says that hell, unfortunately, is a very real place. The Bible warns people to be reconciled to God before we face judgment. Hebrews 9:27 says, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

Will We Be Judged One Day?

Scripture is clear that one day we will all be judged by God. The New Testament describes three major future judgments:

- The Judgment Seat of Christ (*1 Corinthians 3:10-15*)
- The Judgment of Nations by Jesus (*Matthew 25:31-36*)
- The Great White Throne Judgment (*Revelation 20*)

Judgment Seat of Christ

The time of the Judgment Seat of Christ occurs after the Rapture, while the church is in heaven during the seven-year tribulation period. This is where believers will have their works judged not for condemnation but for rewards (*Romans 8:1*)!

Judgment of the Nations

This judgment takes place at the end of the Tribulation, just before the millennial kingdom.

The Great White Throne Judgment

This judgment is for the Christ rejecting unbelievers only. Here, the sinner will stand in the presence of a Holy and Just God and give an account of their sins. This is the final judgment. There is a judge but no jury. There are no rewards. You do not want to find yourself in this judgment because there is no hope left. Eternal condemnation will be your sentence! God has a plan of salvation for you! If you reject it, hell will become your reality forever.

What is Hell?

Hell is something that many people choose not to believe in, nor do they want to talk about it. People often say, “Why would a God of love send anyone to hell?” Let’s take a look at what the Bible says regarding hell.

2 Peter 3:8-10 says this: “*But, beloved, do not forget one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*”

As we see here, the Lord does not want anyone to go to hell. The problem is sin. God cannot tolerate sin and it has to be dealt with. Jesus talks more about hell than heaven to warn us not to go there. Keep in mind, once you arrive in hell, it is permanent; there is no opportunity for salvation. There will be no party in hell, as some believe, only continuous torment.

You can read about the rich man and Lazarus in *Luke 16:19-31*. The rich man had all worldly possessions but he did not believe in Jesus. When he died, he went into torment (Hades) and Lazarus was comforted in Abraham’s bosom. Jesus makes it clear in this account (this is a true story, not a parable) that once you die, the decision is made. You cannot cross over. The Bible says that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (*Matthew 25:41*). As we review the scriptures below, please understand that Jesus has provided a way out by accepting Him as Lord and Savior!

Here are a few scriptures regarding hell that the Bible warns us about...

“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8).

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23).

“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15).

Hell is Forever

“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:46)

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28)

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched.” (Mark 9:43-48)

“And cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:50)

“Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” (Revelation 20:14)

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10)

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected the law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay”, says the Lord. And again The Lord will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:26-31)

“And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (Revelation 14:11)

“But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you fear Him!” (Luke: 12:5)

Hell is Forever

Our eternity is something we all need to take seriously (Also, see booklet on the Need for Redemption). These verses from the Bible are warning us of the judgment to come. If you are reading this now and feeling God nudging at your heart, please do not ignore this. Rejecting the Holy Spirit is what will send a person to hell. We do not want to ignore these warnings. “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” (*Romans 3:23*) So, in other words, we are all hell bound. We are all in need of a Savior.

Do you know where you are going?



False Teachings of Churches and World Religions

Some churches teach that good works will save you but this is not true. *Ephesians 2: 8 -9* says, “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God not of works, lest anyone should boast.*” Others teach purgatory, reincarnation, annihilation and universalism. These teachings are all unbiblical. We never know the day when we will come face to face with our Maker. Death could come 30 years or 30 seconds from now...no one knows! There are only two places to spend eternity; Heaven or Hell. The Bible, not the world, is the only authority in which we can entrust our eternity. (Also, see booklet on The Bible as Our Only Authority). The Bible makes it clear that there is only ONE WAY to heaven and that is through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! (*John 14:6*)

In *Matthew 7:13-14* Jesus says, “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who go in by it.*”

Here, Jesus is telling us that most people will reject the good news of the gospel to live for themselves and go on to destruction. This is so sad.

Jesus wants all to be saved but He does not force anyone to believe. It is your choice. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? Religion is not a relationship. Jesus says in *Matthew 7:21*, “*Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*” When a person is truly saved, he loves what God loves and hates what God hates. In *Revelation 3:16* Jesus tells us, “*So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*”

When you have a relationship with our Lord, you will want your life style to be pleasing to Him!! Are you saved? Are you sure? Eternity is a very long time to be wrong.

How Can I Make Sure That I am Going to Heaven?

Jesus told Nicodemus in *John 3:3*, “*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” After a person is truly saved, you will be a new creation in Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption! (*Ephesians 1:13,14*) **This is great news!**

“...*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*” (*Romans 10:9*) “*Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*” (*Luke 5:32*) Without conviction, there can be no conversion. No sin is too big for God to forgive.

If you have not done this yet, please take the time right now and get right with God. **He loves you** and wants you to be in Heaven with Him for eternity! You can have that assurance of Heaven today!



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

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These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.