

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

Study Sunday 10:00 AM

Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM

Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM

*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*

Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

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“...These will go  
away into eternal  
punishment, but the  
righteous into  
eternal life.”



—Matthew 25:46

**Servants during December:**

**Songleader:** Larry (3), Dwight (10),  
Stanley (17), Larry (24), Dwight (31)

**Reading:** Stanley**Announcements:** Larry**Table:** Marty, Stanley, Mike M, Larry

**Wednesday Lesson:** Kris (6), Larry (13),  
Stanley (20), Kris (27)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** on leave  
for the winter!

**Area Meetings:**

# The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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# The Reality of Hell

by Gene Taylor

In Matthew 25:31-46 the Bible teaches that at the final judgment while the righteous will enter heaven to enjoy everlasting life, the wicked will go into eternal punishment. The thought of everlasting suffering is repulsive to many. No doubt this aversion lies at the bottom of much of the indifference to what the Bible teaches about hell.

Hell, despite the denials of many, is real. Sin demands it. Sin is a violation of the law of God, 1 Jn 3:4. If there were no

punishment for sin, then there could be no law for law without penalty is null and void. If there is no law, there would be no sin. That would make the death of Jesus useless because if there is no sin there is no responsibility to save anyone from it.

The reality of life after death also demands the reality of hell. Jesus taught, in Matthew 22:23-33, that there was life after physical death. In the account of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31, two

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distinct destinies are presented comfort for the righteous but punishment for the wicked depending on whether or not one serves God while living on earth.

Hell was not originally prepared for man. It was prepared for Satan and his angels, Mt 25:41. Jude 6 states that fallen angels are placed in chains awaiting judgment. Yet, when men and women join the devil in his work and live in servitude to him, they must suffer the same fate that will befall him.

### **Hell Is Not Contrary To The Nature of God**

Many people find it difficult to accept the reality of hell because they cannot understand or believe that a loving, merciful and forgiving God could create such a place and then place people in it eternally. If no punishment were given for violation of His law, then God would not be just. Being a just God, He will reward the righteous and punish the wicked. Hell is to punish the wicked.

### **What Hell Is Like**

*Hell is eternal.* It is described that way in Matthew 25:46. In Romans 16:26 God is said to be eternal. The Holy Spirit, in Hebrews 9:14, is also described as eternal. The same Greek word is

used in all three passages. The word means "eternal, everlasting, without end, never to cease." Hell and the punishment meted out there will last as long as God forever.

*Hell is a place of darkness.* Jude 13 speaks of "the blackness of darkness" to which false teachers will be confined forever. God is light, 1 Jn 1:5, and the Father of lights, Jas 1:17. Hell is described as darkness because it is the place farthest removed from God.

*Hell is a place of fire.* Matthew 13:42 speaks of it as a furnace of fire. Matthew 25:41 calls it an everlasting fire. Mark 9:44-45 says the fire is never quenched. Revelation 21:8 refers to it as the lake of fire. There will be no relief from its fires because Revelation 14:11 says the smoke from the fires of torment ascends forever and ever.

*There is no rest there.* Revelation 14:11 says the wicked will have no rest from their torment day or night. Hell is a place where there is no hope. The punishment is everlasting, Mt 25:46, with no chance of pardon or parole.

### **Who Will Go There**


As already noted, Satan and his angels will be there, Mt 25:41. Revelation 21:8 says the "cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars" will be there. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 says that those who do not know God and those who will not obey the gospel of Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction. In short, all sinners who choose to remain in their sin will be found in hell.

### **Why People Will Go There**

People will not be in hell because God wants them to be there. He desires that all be saved, 1 Tim 2:1-4. They will not be there because God cannot save them. God is all-powerful and the gospel, His power to save, Rom 1:16, can save to the uttermost. God sent His Son into the world so that all might have salvation, Jn 3:16, and

He has extended His invitation to all who would come to Him, Mt 11:28-30. If a person ends up in hell, he is lost by his own free choice. He has no one to blame but himself. Many see no need to be interested in spiritual things and are indifferent to the pleas of the gospel. Others refuse to obey the gospel or submit to the will of God. Some refuse to believe. Others just love sin more than righteousness. Some, though once obedient, become unfaithful in service. Many put off obeying until it is too late.

### **Conclusion**

Hell is real. The suffering of it is waiting for the sinful. You can escape the torments found there by giving obedience to Christ now. He will wash away the guilt of your sins and grant you hope of a life of eternal bliss in His presence. 

## *Remember in Prayer*

**Joyce** was to have had a procedure Wednesday to help her with swallowing and speaking issues due to her cancer condition, but will have to be rescheduled. **Shirley** has been feeling ill, possibly with the flu. **Billy's** teeth extraction (to accommodate a

partial) had been delayed, but was done last week.

Let's not forget others with chronic issues—such as **Mike B;** **Pam;** **Carolyn;** **Betty;** as well as **John, Sylvia,** and **Paige Pollard.** 