

**IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN HELL?**

"If there's no preaching on hell in your church there's no Gospel preaching in your church." – Burk Parsons

What do the majority of Americans think about what happens after death?

- Roughly seven-in-ten (72%) Americans say they believe in heaven — defined as a place "where people who have led good lives are eternally rewarded."
- 58% of U.S. adults also believe in hell — a place "where people who have led bad lives and die without being sorry are eternally punished."¹

What happens after death?

Upon death, believers immediately go into the presence of Jesus Christ and experience unspeakable joy whereas unbelievers immediately enter hell where they experience punishment separated from the presence of God. The future Resurrection will provide believers with glorified bodies whereas unbelievers will be cast into the lake of fire, which will endure throughout eternity (2 Cor. 5:6-8; Luke 16:22-24; Philippians 1:21-24).

1) How does Jesus describe hell?

Revelation 14:9-11

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

- In Hell there is no _____ or _____.

Revelation 21:8

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

- In Hell there is no _____ – Revelation 14:11
"and they have no rest day or night..."

Luke 16:22-24

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'

- 1) Consciousness
- 2) Memory
- 3) Self-absorbed regret

Jude 13

“to whom is reserved the blackness and darkness forever.”

- In Hell there is no _____ – Revelation 14:11
‘ages upon ages’

2) Is it reasonable to believe in hell?

a. God Himself is eternal – Hebrews 13:5

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

b. God’s justice: Forgiveness of sin requires payment for sin. Christ is the only sacrifice for sin. Outside Christ there is no forgiveness of sin.

c. People continue to sin in hell – Matthew 13:42

“...weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

3) How should we respond to the reality of hell?

a. Repentance of our sin.

b. Reassurance in the supremacy and justice of God.

c. Reach out to our world...#NextSteps

“If our hearts are never moved with deep sorrow when we contemplate this doctrine, then there is a serious deficiency in our spiritual and emotional sensibilities...The reason it is hard for us to think of the doctrine of hell is because God has put in our hearts a portion of his own love for people created in his image, even his love for sinners who rebel against him.”² – Wayne Grudem

Key: Redemption/Hope/Rest/Return

¹ Caryle Murphy, “Most Americans Believe in Heaven...and Hell,” November 10, 2015, *Pew Research Center*, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/11/10/most-americans-believe-in-heaven-and-hell/>.

² Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004), 1152.