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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 (**Matt. 25:46**) with no chance of pardon or parole.

**Who Will Go There**

As already noted, Satan and his angels will be there (**Matt. 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 (**John 3:16**) and He has extended His invitation to all who would come to Him (**Matt. 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. *Credit: www.padfield.com* •

**What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

- Hear and Learn** - **Rom. 10:17** m. **10:9-10** ; **1 Pet. 3:21** ; **John 6:45; 17:3**
- Believe** - **Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24**
- Repent** - **Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30**
- Confess the Lord** - **Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**
- Be Baptized** - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - **Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17**

**About the Hillcrest church of Christ**

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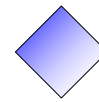


**Schedule of Assembly**

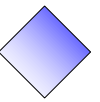
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

**www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com**



# The Voice of Truth



June 13, 2010

**What is a Christian?**

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Those who live for the Lord are called by different terms in the scriptures: brethren, saints, disciples, children of God, etc. Perhaps no term stands out more than the name "Christian". We find this term in the scriptures three times: **Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16**. This term denotes one who is "of Christ" or "belongs to Christ".

It is unfortunately true that the term "Christian" means different things to different people. A Christian is not necessarily a good person, although that is the concept that many people have. A religious person is not necessarily a Christian. Many gross and ungodly acts have been done in the name of religion, but these were not Christian acts. Furthermore, everyone who declares himself to be a Christian is not necessarily one. Therefore, "What is a Christian?"

A Christian is a believer in Christ (**John 8:24**). Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (**John 11:25-26**). A Christian is one that believes Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Again John wrote, "Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name" (**John 20:30-31**). But it includes more than faith alone on man's part (**James 2:24**).

A Christian is one that repents of his sins (**Acts 3:19**). Repentance is a change of mind regarding sin with a view to amend one's life. Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except

ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish" (**Luke 13:3**). Yet it includes more.

A Christian is one that confesses Christ (**Romans 10:10**). Jesus said, "Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven" (**Matthew 10:32**). But there is more.

A Christian is one who has been baptized into Christ (**Galatians 3:27**). One cannot become a Christian without having sins forgiven, by baptism (**Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16**). Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (**John 3:5**). But there is more.

A Christian is one whose life harmonizes with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ (**John 8:12**). John writes, "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son" (**John 9**). Now we are getting the idea that there is more to being a Christian than being a good person. A Christian is one who is a disciple (learner) of Christ (**Acts 11:26**); he is an obedient child (**1 Peter 1:13-16**). He is holy (**1 Peter 1:16**), whose life is a sermon (**1 Peter 2:11**). A Christian is one who resists the devil (**1 Peter 5:8-9**) and holds fast that which is good and abstains from every form of evil (**1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**); he hates sin (**Psalms 1:1**). He is one who fears God (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**); he is upright (**Psalms 106:3**).

What is a Christian? He lives by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (**Matthew 4:4**). •

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" **Matthew 4:4**

**Matthew 4:4**

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**Pages 2 to 3 - "The Out-stretched Hand Of Jesus"**

## “The Out-Stretched Hand Of Jesus”

By Jarrod Jacobs

**Matthew 14:22-33** records the time when Jesus walked on water. When Peter saw Jesus, he said, “*Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*” (**Matt. 14:28-31**).

Just as Jesus stretched His hand out to save Peter, He stretches His hand out to us today in an effort to save us from “drowning” in sin, “*destruction and perdition*” (**Lk. 19:10**; **I Tim. 1:15, 6:9**; **I Jn. 3:5**). How does this happen today? Jesus stretches out His hand....

### As He Identifies His Own.

When Jesus was teaching on one occasion, His mother Mary, and His brothers and sisters came and wanted to speak with Him. When this was told to Him, Jesus said, “*Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother*” (**Matt. 12:46-50**). While ALL people can be His (**Matt. 11:28-30**), we must understand that not all people are His until they have submitted to the Lord’s plan for salvation (**Heb. 5:8-9**). The Lord stretched out His hand and identified His people. Are you in this number? As we read the scriptures, we see that belonging to Christ is a conscious choice we make, wherein we are intent on following Him faithfully through our lives. Notice, it is the wise and blessed man who hears and obeys the words of Christ (**Matt. 7:24-27**; **Jas. 1:25**). The true disciple of Christ is the one who “*continues*” in Christ’s word (**Jn. 8:31**). Do such verses describe you, friend? If not, why not?

Some have asked me why I do not call every religious person my “brother.” **Matthew 12:46-50** tells us why! Not every “religious” person is Christ’s brother; therefore they are not my brother! You see, if I am a brother to Christ, then I am a brother to everyone else who is Christ’s brother (**II Jn 9-11**; **Rom. 8:17**). If someone is not Christ’s brother, then they are not my brother (spiritually). Whether or not one is a brother of Christ is not a decision made by me, but rather, the Bible determines who is and is not

Christ’s brethren (**Rom. 8:16-17**; **Gal. 3:26-27**). It is just that simple!

### As I Deal With Temptation.

“*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer (permit, allow, JJ) you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it*” (**I Cor. 10:13**). When it comes to being tempted, there are two things we must understand: 1) God will not allow us to be tempted (tried) above what we can bear. 2) There is a way of escape for us to be found with every temptation!

If this doesn’t show Christ’s care, concern, and love for His people, I don’t know what does!! Jesus has come to earth for us (**II Cor. 8:9**; **Phil. 2:5-8**). He has died as a sacrifice for our sins (**Isa. 53:6**; **II Cor. 5:20**). He has also resurrected from the dead for us (**Rom. 1:4**; **I Cor. 15:20**). By and through these actions, we have salvation (**Mk. 16:16**), the church (**Acts 20:28**), hope (**Eph. 2:12**), and the unsearchable riches of Christ (**Eph. 3:8**) to name just a few blessings from Christ.

Christ stretches His hand out to shield us and protect us from temptations too great to bear! What a Savior! What a friend!

### As I Deal With Worries.

Jesus wants us to live by faith (**II Cor. 5:7**) and cast all our cares and worries upon Him. The apostle Peter reminded the Christians, “*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you*” (**I Pet. 5:7**). This is just another area in which Christians have it so much better than non-Christians! We (Christians) have Jesus’ out-stretched hand which comforts us. Non-Christians have no where to turn and no comfort. We have safety and shelter in Christ, while they have uncertainty and confusion. It is so much better to be an heir of God and joint-heir with Christ (**Rom. 8:17**), but the general population of people are not always convinced of this truth. Are you convinced?

### As He Offers Me Salvation.

Jesus offers “*rest*” to all who will come to Him (**Matt. 11:28-30**). Jesus died for us and provided a way for man

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to be saved from our sins (**Mk. 16:16**; **Matt. 28:19-20**; **Rom. 6:3-4, 17-18**; etc.). In addition to this, remember that **Revelation 22:17** declares that “*Whosoever will*” may come and be saved. Yes, salvation is offered to all. Jesus died for every man (**Matt. 20:28**; **Heb. 2:9**). Christ stretches out His hand because He wants all to be saved and none to be lost (**II Pet. 3:9**; **Lk. 19:10**). Therefore, we see that any who are lost have done so by their own choosing, and not Christ’s! What have you chosen, friend?

### How Shall We Respond To Christ?

When Christ stretched out His hand to Peter, it was gladly accepted, and Peter was saved (**Matt. 14:28-31**). In

## 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 John 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 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 (**Matt. 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.

like manner, Christ beckons us with open and out-stretched arms to His side. Unfortunately, not everyone responds in a positive way. Some will essentially slap Christ’s hand away when He offers it. Some will turn their back on Him, saying “no” to His offer of eternal life (**Jn. 6:66**; **Acts 26:28, 17:32a**). Others put off obeying Christ, thinking that there will be a better time in the future (**Acts 24:25, 17:32b**). One wise group, though, will make the correct choice and obey Him (**Acts 2:41, 17:34**). Since this is true, there are just two questions we must answer. The first question is: “How will YOU respond to Jesus’ out-stretched hand?” The second: “Why are you waiting (**Acts 22:16**)?” *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com* ♦

### 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 John 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

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