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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

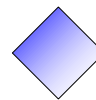
and are indifferent to the pleas of the gospel. Others refuse to obey the gospel or submit to the will of God. Some refuse to believe. Others just love sin more than righteousness. Some, though once obedient, become unfaithful in service. Many put off obeying until it is too late.

Conclusion

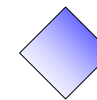
Hell is real. The suffering of it is waiting for the sinful. You can escape the torments found there by giving obedience to Christ now. He will wash away the guilt of your sins and grant you hope of a life of eternal bliss in His presence. Credit: www.padfield.com ♦

I Am Your Bulletin

- I am not just another piece of paper.
- I am your weekly church information sheet.
- I do not come to you easily, or without expense.
- I cost money, time, thought, and energy.
- I should not be taken for granted.
- I can only be as useful and valuable as you allow me to be.
- I am often abused and overlooked.
- Sometimes all I get is a fleeting glance.
- Sometimes all I get is a critical analysis.
- I want so much for you to read me, study me, appreciate me, and make me useful for your spiritual activity and development.
- I want to serve you.



The Voice of Truth



August 22, 2010

What Then? Jimmy Pettigrew

The Word of God tells us that there is one baptism (Eph. 4:5), and this baptism is for all lost men (Mark 16:16). The design of baptism into Christ is for the remission of sins, to obtain salvation (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Baptism changes ones state and relationship with God. One is out of Christ until he is baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27). Salvation is to be found only in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10), along with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3). Thus, one cannot have salvation or any other spiritual blessings out of Christ, before being baptized into Christ!

Therefore, after baptism - what then? Baptism does not guarantee eternal life! Even after one is baptized into Christ, he can so sin as to be lost; and Paul told some: *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace* (Gal. 5:4). They have fallen from grace! He had declared earlier that these had been called into the grace of Christ by the Gospel (Gal. 1:16). Here Paul plainly declared what so many in the religious world state cannot be done: They have fallen from grace! Baptism did not guarantee their eternal salvation (Gal. 3:26-27)!

Baptism does not guarantee eternal life. What then, after baptism? Let us make a list. After baptism you **MUST:**

1. Put the kingdom (the church) first (Matt 6:33). Put God before pleasure, loved ones, company, work, etc. Like Paul, count all things lost for Christ (Phil 3:7-8).
2. All of life is devoted to Christ (Gal. 2:20). We are to be living sacrifices for Christ (Rom. 12:1-2). For me to live is Christ (Phil. 1:21).
3. You must worship God every Lord's Day (Acts 27; Heb. 10:25).
4. You must live with care. Satan exists to make war with the saints of God (Rev. 13:7). Peter thus warned: Be

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. - Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet 5:8).

5. Cease to practice sinful or doubtful things. Live as a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). The one who is baptized into Christ is raised up to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4). Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners (1 Cor. 15:33). Abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:21).

6. Set your affection on things above. Don't put your trust in things of the world, for all will be burned up (2 Pet. 3:10). If ye then be risen with Christ (an undeniable reference to the new life which follows - not precedes, baptism), where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God (Col. 3:1-3).

7. Keep in touch with God. We must permit God to speak to us daily through the study of His Word (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15). Never quit growing spiritually.

8. Be doers of the Word (James 1:22). Show faith by works (James 2:14-26).

9. We must be more concerned about obedience than sacrifice. To obey is better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22).

10. We must add to our faith (2 Pet. 1:5-8). *For he that lacketh these things is blind... but, if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble* (2 Pet 1:9-10).

Brethren, *Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...* (Phil. 1:27). We must live the gospel to be ready for eternity. ♦

About the Hillcrest church of Christ		
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<p>Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com</p>	<p>1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313</p>	<p>Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*</p> <p><small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small></p>
www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com		

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A Biblical Look at the Holy Spirit By David Weak

Mention the words Holy Spirit and you will likely get a variety of reactions. Some people claim to have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them personally, guiding their day to day living. Others, however, consider the Holy Spirit to be a divine person - a member of the Godhead, whose specific work involves the revelation of God's word. Who is right?

While some subjects pertaining to the Holy Spirit may indeed be difficult, the confusion which exists over Him is unnecessary. The New Testament gives us plenty of evidence we may use to draw some sound conclusions about the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Is A Person Not A Thing

Some people speak of the Holy Spirit as if He were no more than a mysterious force which permeates nature and influences people and things. However, one thing is clear from a study of the New Testament: The Holy Spirit is not an "IT!"

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as a person, not a thing, *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, WHOM the Father will send in my name, HE will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you"* (**John 14:26**; epm. mine, jdww). The words whom and he are used to refer to people not things. Of the Holy Spirit, Jesus also said, *"He will testify of Me"* (**John 15:26**); *"He will guide you into all truth;"* *"For He will not speak on His own authority;"* and *"what He hears He will speak"* (**John 16:13**).

Furthermore, the Holy Spirit is described in the New Testament as doing only those things persons are capable of doing. The Holy Spirit has cognitive abilities (i.e. the ability to reason, the ability to know). He knows the things of God (**1 Cor. 2:11**). He has the ability to reason and to decide (**Acts 15:28**). The Holy Spirit has an independent will (**1 Cor. 12:11**). Also, the Holy Spirit acts like a person. He speaks (**1 Tim. 4:1**). He commands action (**Acts 13:2**); The Holy Spirit forbids action (**Acts 16:6**). He grieves (**Eph. 4:30**). He can be vexed (**Isa. 63:10**). He leads (**Gal. 5:18**). He intercedes (**Rom. 8:26**). These are descriptions that are only suited to persons, not things.

The Holy Spirit is a Member of the Godhead (Godhood)

The term Godhead appears in three verses in the King James Version of the Bible: **Acts 17:29**; **Rom. 1:20**; **Col. 2:9**. The word Godhead refers to the state or condition of

being God. It is the condition of having the attributes that make God, God. To illustrate - one achieves MANHOOD when he possesses the qualities and attributes that make a man a man. The three persons who possess the qualities and characteristics of Godhead are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is God (**1 Pet. 1:3**; **Eph. 4:6**; **Jude 1**). Jesus, the Son is God (**John 20:28**; **Heb. 1:8**). The Holy Spirit is also God. When Ananias and Sapphira conspired to deceive the apostles about the cost of their sold property, Peter said, *"...Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?...You have not lied to men but to God"* **Acts 5:3-4**).

The Work of the Holy Spirit is Revelation of God's Word

Revelation is the process of revealing what was previously covered or unknown. Paul said the mystery was revealed to him through revelation. A mystery is something that is unknown. This mystery was that, *"which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets..."* (**Eph. 3:3,5**). So, the word of God which has been previously unrevealed was revealed to men by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised the Helper or the Comforter—the Holy Spirit—to guide the apostles into all truth (**John 16:13**). He would teach them all things and bring to their remembrance all that Jesus had taught them (**John 14:26**).

The Holy Spirit Confirmed the Gospel

In addition to revealing the word of God, the Holy Spirit confirmed through miracles the word of God which the apostles preached. The Hebrew writer said, *"...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"* (Heb. 2:3-4). Many in the first century church possessed spiritual gifts for the necessary building up of the body. These gifts were diverse (**1 Cor. 12:4-10**). These gifts were distributed to each one in accordance to the will of the Holy Spirit (**vs. 11**).

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Conclusion

These are just a few of the particulars from the New Testament pertaining to the Holy Spirit. One thing should be fairly clear at this point—the subject of the person and

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.

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

work of the Holy Spirit is clearly revealed unto men. Any doctrine that conflicts with these plain teachings is man made and false. *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com* ♦

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 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.

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