

## Searching the Scriptures / 87 / Who Deserves To Be Damned? / Part 2

We are looking at the question posed by the Lord Jesus in Mat 23:33, “*How can ye escape the damnation of Hell?*” Today we want to ask, “Who deserves to be damned to Hell?” Our three points are:

- 1. The Universality of Sin**
- 2. God is Obligated to Punish Sin**
- 3. The Punishment is Equal to the Crime**

### 1. The Universality of Sin

We read in Rom 5:12, “*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...*” Because of our sinful nature, every human being—regardless of age, gender, social status, or nationality—stands guilty and condemned before God, the Creator and the Judge of this entire universe. Jam 2:10 further states, “*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*” Rom 3:19 adds, “*Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*”

We also find these words in Eze 18:4, “*Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*” God also explains why we sin in Jam 2:14–15, “*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*” The death that the Bible is talking about is really the “second death”, or eternal death, which is the damnation of Hell. Rev 21:8 speaks of this, “*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*” It is helpful to remember that salvation is altogether the work of God Himself, as John 1:13 explains: “*Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*”

### 2. God is Obligated to Punish Sin

It is important to remember that God has obligated Himself to punish sin, and that man is completely accountable to God for his sin because he was created in the image of God.

As a just Ruler, or Judge, God must punish “sin”, which the Bible defines as “*transgression of the law*” in 1 John 3:4. Because God is extremely patient with mankind does not in any way diminish the fact that He hates sin and hates sinners. We read in Psa 7:11, “*God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*” He absolutely will judge and punish all who are not His children. 2 Pet 2:9 states, “*The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.*”

Ecc 8:11 is a very revealing verse that underscores man’s innate wickedness and foolishness in thinking he can somehow escape the judgment of God: “*Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*” But Num 32:23 also assures that those who remain unsaved will

not escape their divine appointment with the Judge, “... *behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.*” Is it any wonder that the Bible ominously warns in Heb 10:31, “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*”

### **3. The Punishment is Equal to the Crime**

It has been said that the punishment should be equal to the crime. Since the punishment for sin is to be abandoned in the Lake of Fire forever, can you think of how terrible the crime must be? It is easy to lose sight of the reality that all sin is first and foremost against God, as we discover in Psa 51:4, “*Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*”

We cannot begin to understand the depth of our sin and how our rebellion is such an affront to God Almighty, our Creator. Num 14:18 states, “*The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.*”

Even true believers—as was the case with some whom God used to write down His Holy and Perfect Words—could only fall down as if dead when confronted with the glory of God. Consider the case of the Apostle John in Rev 1:11a; 16–18: “*Saying, I [Jesus Christ] am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last... And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*”

Here’s the answer to the question, “*How can ye escape the damnation of Hell?*” Only the Lord Jesus Christ has the power to unlock Hell to let a captive out, or to consign someone to eternal damnation.