

Searching the Scriptures / 89 / Where Is The Damnation Of Hell? / Part 4

The focus of our Bible study today is about the “location” of Hell. Two aspects to keep in mind are:

- 1. Hell is Presently a Condition—Not a “Place”**
- 2. After Judgment Day It Will Be a “Place”**

1. Hell is Presently a Condition—Not a “Place”

Where will the damnation of Hell take place? Presently, Hell is not an actual location—but, rather, a condition. However, let me quickly add that it will be a place following the trial on Judgment Day at the end of the world. So, what exactly do we mean by Hell being a condition?

When we turn to John 3:36 we get a better picture of what God has in view : *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”* What is the meaning of that frightening statement, *“... the wrath of God abideth on him”?*

When we examine how God uses the Greek word for *“abideth”* in other verses, we learn that it carries the connotation of time spent doing something and/or remaining somewhere. Obviously, we should also look at the context to determine the length of time in view. As an example, let’s read John 19:31, *“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”* John 9:41 states, *“Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.”*

There is another aspect besides time that I would like to emphasize. Remember, that we are speaking about the wrath of God abiding on a person. The Bible helps us grasp the implications of this truth in Gal 3:10, *“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”* Speaking of the Bible as the *“Law of God”*, Rom 4:15a informs us that *“... the law worketh wrath”*. In other words, the wrath of God abiding on a person can also be described as being eternally *“under the curse”*. This means that because we cannot obey every commandment in the Bible perfectly—only Christ did that—we are subject to the greatest curse imaginable unless God, in His great mercy, grants us everlasting forgiveness.

This is the glorious message of Gal 3:13, *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”* John 15:6 makes this ominous declaration about man’s unsaved condition, *“If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”*

2. After Judgment Day It Will Be a “Place”

When a true believer dies his physical body is buried, but his soul, or spirit essence, goes immediately to be with the Lord in Heaven. 2 Cor 5:8 says, *“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present*

with the Lord.” However, when somebody dies without becoming saved, his body is also buried, but his soul goes to a place of silence to await the Judgment on the Last Day. We see in Psa 115:17, “The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.”

On Judgment Day the bodies of all the unsaved will be resurrected to stand trial before the Judge of all the earth where they will be found guilty and sentenced to Hell. It is little wonder that Rev 6:15–17 describes the horror, chaos, and confusion of that fateful day: *“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”*

The fearful proceedings for the spiritually “dead” are detailed in Rev 20:11–15: *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it [Jesus Christ], from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

The answer to the question, *“How can ye escape the damnation of Hell?”* is salvation by the grace of God.