What should I know about Hell?

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Why provide a study or commentary about hell? Based on the Bible (Matthew 7:13), the majority of humans will end up in hell, so I want to help people understand what awaits them if they do not accept Jesus as their savior.

<u>Matthew 7:13</u> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and **broad is the way, that leadeth to** destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: <u>Matthew 7:14</u> Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

<u>Isaiah 5:14</u> Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it. <u>Isaiah 5:15</u> And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled:

To understand any situation, it is always valuable to have an actual eye witness account, instead of just hearsay. Jesus provided that witness when he told of this situation in Luke. Notice that he actually used names of some of the people involved, unlike when he told parables and used descriptive titles only. He also said that "there was a certain rich man" not just a generic representation but a particular person in the past.

Luk 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:
Luk 16:20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
Luk 16:21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

This rich man fared sumptuously every day of his life, but when his time came to die those riches could not buy his way out of his eternal judgment in hell.

<u>Luk 16:22</u> And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

The rich man died and his body was buried in a tomb.

<u>Luk 16:23</u> And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Notice that although this man's body is buried in the grave in verse 22, the 23rd verse tells us that he is now in hell. The scripture states that the man was "in hell", which means that it is a real place with boundaries, not just a state of mind as some may infer. Could you imagine the shock when this previously rich man realizes that instantly he is now in hell for eternity? I don't really think that we can imagine the awful feeling of regret and hopelessness that he must have felt.

Since the text states that he lifts up his eyes, then we can conclude that his being not only consists of a soul but also a new body.

Since he lifts up his eyes and sees Abraham afar off, we know that he possesses the sense of sight and ability of some movement. We also read that he is in torments. Please note that this is plural, representing more than one type of torment.

Luk 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

This man was able to cry and speak to others while in hell, thus this new body had the ability to speak in an understandable language and possesses ears to hear others.

He also had the mental ability to recognized Abraham and Lazarus and understood their previous positions in life, even though he likely never met Abraham.

This tormented man seeks mercy from Abraham and asks that Lazarus dip the tip of his finger in water to use it to cool his tongue. Notice that this man didn't ask to be removed from the flames of hell, nor did he ask that a bucket of water be poured on him, nor did he ask for a cup of water to drink. Why didn't he ask for these things? My opinion is that he knew the hopelessness of hell and knew that the chance of getting any relief was likely impossible, thus he asked for the smallest amount he could describe. The water on the tip of a finger would only represent a drop of water. I don't think we can really imagine the hopelessness of hell, a place where the presence of God is not felt but the horrors of evil are everywhere. This rich man's body has a tongue and it is hot from the flame around him, thus he possesses the ability to feel heat.

We also read that he is tormented in this flame. Notice that he didn't state flames as in multiple occurrences, but a single flame. This tells me that the fires of hell never fluctuate and never have a low moment. I interpret this to indicate that the tormenting fire is constant without relief. This man's body feels the heat of the flame and he is tormented. Webster's dictionary defines "torment" Extreme pain; anguish; the utmost degree of misery, either of body or mind. In hell both this "new" body and the mind are tormented simultaneously.

Luk 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

This man in hell is instructed by Abraham to remember things from his life, so we can conclude that a person in hell will possess a memory of the events from their life. Being that this new body is not subject the aging process of a mortal body, we can also assume that all of his past is open to him to recall. I can easily imagine that this memory could be very vivid and accurate of every mistake and failure that was made.

Can you imagine how horrible it is in hell for a person to recall the opportunities that the Lord gave them to be saved? All the regret of the past would torment the mind and bring more agony than the physical pain, when they realize that they could be in paradise where Abraham and Lazarus are enjoying the blessings of God. He would recall the times that the Holy Ghost brought conviction for his sins, when a believer witnessed to him, and when the minister delivered the scripture to him. Even worst would be those that once served the Lord, but backslid and died lost (2 Peter 2:20-21). Try to visualize the horror of the realization that you could have been in paradise (heaven now) but due to your poor decisions you became entangled again in the pollutions of worldliness.

<u>2Peter 2:20</u> For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the **latter end is worse with them than the beginning**.

<u>2Peter 2:21</u> For it had **been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness**, than, after they have known it, **to turn from** the holy commandment delivered unto them. <u>2Peter 2:22</u> But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

<u>Luk 16:26</u> And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Abraham explains that there is a gulf or abyss that separates hell from paradise. He also confirms that there is no option for residents of either place to travel to the other. Obviously those in paradise would not desire to enter hell, but those in hell would give anything and everything to get out. Even most prisoners on earth have some hope of a shortened sentence or parole, but in hell there is no hope of ever getting out!

Luk 16:27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

<u>Luk 16:28</u> For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Even though this man attempts to pray, his prayers have no hope of being answered. How many "years" of crying and praying to the Lord for mercy would it take before the hopelessness to cause the person to finally give up all hope of relief? Could you imagine how it will be after millions of years to still have no more hope of release than when they were first cast into hell? As eternity rolls on, the hopelessness would no doubt continue to grow and the mental agony gain worse. I cannot pretend to truly understand the horribleness of such torment as we cannot really comprehend eternity, much less such a place without any hope of a better day. You see, there is no hope that the next "day" will be any better or that a pardon will be handed down. You can't even wait for death to bring a relief as this is eternal death. The worst pain or sickness suffered in this life cannot compare to the pains and agony of hell.

The man in hell pleads for Abraham to send Lazarus back to testify to his five brothers lest they also end up in hell. He obviously still has the capability to feeling compassion for his family and does not desire for them to come where he is at. In some ways this surprises me as I think of the idiom that "misery loves company", and how you would assume that this person damned to eternity in hell would want everyone else to receive the same. That tells me that hell is so bad that you would not want your worst enemy to be there.

The rich man expected the testimony of Lazarus regarding death and hell to persuade his brothers to change their ways and come to the Lord. Obviously this man knew that the current lifestyles of his brothers were leading them to the same fate as himself. How many people do you know that are on the road to hell right now?

Luk 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have **Moses and the prophets; let them hear them**.

Abraham answered that the Law of Moses (Holy Scripture) and the prophets that preached it were available to his brothers. He said "let them hear them". Why will more souls end up in hell? Because they do not hear and obey the scriptures of the Holy Bible.

Luk 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. **Luk 16:31** And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

This man is still persistent that if a person rose from the dead, that his family would listen to their warnings, but Abraham states that this would not persuade them anymore than the prophets. To confirm what Abraham stated, we can ask if the resurrection of Jesus' friend Lazarus (Mary and Martha's brother) resulted in a great revival. We do know from the Bible that people sought to see Lazarus after this resurrection event but nothing conclusive about conversions. The Bible does indicate that the chief priests even consulted about putting Lazarus to death after his resurrection, so it obviously did not have a positive effect on them.

Will Hell be moved to a new location?

<u>Revelations 20:12</u> 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. <u>20:13</u> 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. <u>20:14</u> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <u>20:15</u> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

No one is immune to standing before God in judgment, whether they are small or great in the eyes of man. Each is judged by what is recorded in the books according to their works. The "new hell" or the Lake of Fire is so terrible that even the existing hell it's self will be cast into it. (Rev 20:14) How much worse can the Lake of Fire be than what is described about the rich man's torments? Notice that this is declared the second death.

<u>Today Hell is a pit in the heart of the earth</u>

Isa 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought **down to hell**, to the **sides of the pit**.

Eze 31:16 I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that **descend into the pit**: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

Pro 9:18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the **depths of hell**.

Mat 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Pro 27:20 Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Hell is never full as it enlarges itself to hold each new lost soul committed there.

Hell is a place of Darkness

<u>Mat 8:12</u> But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into **outer darkness**: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<u>Mat 22:13</u> Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him **into outer darkness**; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<u>Mat 25:30</u> And cast ye the unprofitable servant **into outer darkness**: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Hell is a place of Sorrows and pain

2Sa 22:6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;

Psa 18:4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

Psa 18:5 The **sorrows of hell compassed me** about: the snares of death prevented me.

<u>Psa 116:3</u> The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell got hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

<u>Those in hell are Bound in Chains</u>

<u>2Pe 2:4</u> For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into **chains of darkness**, to be reserved unto judgment;

<u>Mat 22:13</u> Then said the king to the servants, **Bind him hand and foot**, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Hell is everlasting, eternal, forever, and unquenchable

<u>Matthew 25:46</u> And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Hell will be a place of everlasting punishment. Some religious groups teach that a soul in hell is annihilated or destroyed without an eternal torment. The Webster dictionary defines "EVERLASTING" as lasting or enduring forever; eternal; existing or continuing without end; immortal.

<u>Matthew 3:12</u> Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

The fires of hell are unquenchable. The Webster dictionary defines UNQUENCHABLE as that which will never be extinguished; inextinguishable. Even if water could be brought into hell, it could not put the flames out. No amount of weeping, praying, pleading, cursing, threatening will reduce the fires of hell.

<u>Hebrews 6:2</u> Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

God's judgment is not pardonable, but it is eternal (without end of existence or duration).

<u>2Peter 2:17</u> These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest: to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever.

We see two things from this verse in 2nd Peter. One fact is that hell exists in the mist of darkness. The second fact is that hell is reserved forever. I don't want my eternal reservations to be in Hell, do you?

<u>Mat 13:40</u> As therefore the tares are gathered and **burned in the fire**; so shall it be in the end of this world. <u>Mat 13:41</u> The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; <u>Matthew 13:42</u> And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Those that offend and do iniquity shall be cast or driven by force into a furnace of fire. Jesus also tells us that there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth in hell. The weeping indicates sorrow or remorse, and gnashing of teeth shows extreme anxiety or pain.

<u>Matthew 25:41</u> Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Again the flames of hell are referred to as everlasting. Jesus also tells us the original purpose of hell, in that it was prepared as punishment for the devil and the fallen angels.

<u>Mark 9:43</u> And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: <u>9:44</u> Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

This is "eternal damnation" in a fire that shall never be quenched. We could not suffer this level of torture on earth since death would end that source of pain, but in hell it will never end.

The term "worm dieth not" has been interrupted in various ways. Some have said that it refers to demonic creatures that devour the flesh of the damned while others say it represents the outline of the body that is never completely consumed. Personally, I think that the word "worm" refers to the soul of man, as it is never annihilated. I base this view on the use in the verses from Job 25:6, Psalms 22:6, and Isaiah 41:14. Either way, there is no comfort in any of the interpretations.

<u>Revelations 2:11</u> He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the **second death**.

I have heard some people say that hell will not last forever, because Revelations 2:11,20:14 refers to a "second death". The problem with this understanding is that this second death lasts forever. There are too many

references to hell being "eternal", "everlasting", and "forever" to think otherwise. Can you imagine how horrible it will be to experience death over and over forever?

The Judgment of God

<u>Hebrews 9:27</u> And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: <u>9:28</u> So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

<u>Acts 17:30</u> And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now **commandeth all men every where to repent**: <u>17:31</u> Because he hath **appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world** in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. **45:23** I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

<u>Romans 14:11</u> For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. **<u>14:12</u>** So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God**.

<u>Matthew 12:36</u> But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. <u>Matthew 12:37</u> For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Every person will bow before Jesus and be judged from the records that God has kept. What will it be like to be a sinner standing before the creator of the Universe and explain why we rejected him!

Could a merciful and loving God send my soul to Hell?

As John 3:16 states, God the Father provided his only begotten son (Jesus Christ) as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. He created mankind with a soul and the capacity to make his/her own decision about who they will serve. If we turn down the Lord's gift of grace and spend eternity in hell, we have no one to blame but our self. What will your choice be?

Hell was made for the Devil and his followers (originally just the other fallen angels), so if we choose to follow Satan then we have made our decision. You may say that you aren't following Satan, but if you refuse God, then by default you are a servant of Satan.

<u>Matthew 25:41</u> Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, **into** everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

<u>Revelations 14:10</u> The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be **tormented with fire and brimstone** in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

<u>Revelations 20:10</u> And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Isaiah 5:14 Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it. **5:15** And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled:

<u>2Peter 2:4</u> For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; <u>2:5</u> And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; <u>2:6</u> And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly; <u>2:7</u> And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: <u>2:8</u> (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds); <u>2:9</u> The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

How bad can Hell be? I'll just burn up and that is the end of it, right?

Hell will be worse than any nightmare that you could ever experience. From the verses provided in this study, we can see that those condemned there will burn in flames and experience bites upon their flesh. Hell will be full of souls, but each will seem to be in isolation in a void of darkness. We read from Luke that the "rich man" saw those in Paradise and that they weren't suffering this torment. Could you image enduring this pain and then the mental agony of seeing what you missed out on? If you go to Hell, you will have plenty of time to regret refusing the Lord's gift, but remorse at that time will be too late. Once we pass from this mortal life, we have established forever our eternal destiny.

Who is going to Hell?

I think the question of who is going to hell or not going to heaven are best answered by the following two verses.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Whosoever's name is not found written in the book of life (not born again) will go to hell. That is as plain as the Lord can make it. If you are not saved when you leave this life, then you will be committed to hell for eternity.

There are many verses that illustrate the lifestyles and sins committed by a lost person and how they cannot enter heaven with these weights of sin.

Heb 3:17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? **Heb 3:18** And to whom swore he that they **should not enter into his rest**, but to them that believed not? **Heb 3:19** So we see that they could not enter in **because of unbelief**.

<u>Mat 7:20</u> Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. <u>Mat 7:21</u> Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. <u>Mat 7:22</u> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <u>Mat 7:23</u> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Mat 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

<u>Mat 24:12</u> And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Mat 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Those that do not endure until the end will not be saved, as their love of God will wax cold.

Psa 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

<u>Luke 18:17</u> Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Rom 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Rom 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: Rom 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Rom 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Rom 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Rom 1:31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Rom 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Eph 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children: **Eph 5:2** And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savor. **Eph 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness**, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; **Eph 5:4** Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. **Eph 5:5** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

<u>Mat 13:41</u> The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; <u>Matthew 13:42</u> And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: Mat 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. Mat 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. Mat 5:30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. Mat 5:31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: Mat 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

<u>1Jn 2:15</u> Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <u>1Jn 2:16</u> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <u>1Jn 2:17</u> And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

<u>1Corinthians 6:9</u> Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, <u>1Corinthians 6:10</u> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

<u>Galatians 5:19</u> Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <u>Galatians 5:20</u> Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <u>Galatians 5:21</u> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

<u>Luke 18:24</u> And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! <u>Luke 18:25</u> For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. <u>Luke 18:26</u> And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? <u>Luke 18:27</u> And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

It is not impossible for a person rich in the world's goods to enter heaven, but it is more difficult.

<u>1Cor 1:26</u> For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: <u>1Cor 1:27</u> But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
<u>1Cor 1:29</u> That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty people, and not many noble will make it to heaven.

<u>Matthew 7:13</u> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and **broad is the way, that leadeth to** destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: <u>Matthew 7:14</u> Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

<u>Rev 22:15</u> For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

The Webster dictionary explains that the use of the term "**dog**" for a person is that of reproach, contempt, or moral impurity. **Whoremonger** refers to one who practices unlawful indulgence of lust, fornication, or adultery. An **idolater** is ne who worships as a deity that which is not God. One that **maketh a lie** utters false information for the purpose of deception.

How can I ensure that I do not go to hell?

The same scriptures used above also tell us how to ensure that we do not go to hell when we die. We must be born again and thus have our name entered into the book of life. We must also live a holy life through the sanctifying power of the Lord and ensure that our relationship with the Lord endures until the end.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and **holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord**:

Mat 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.
Mat 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.
Mat 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Conclusion:

<u>1Corinthians 2:9</u> But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man**, the things **which God hath prepared for them** that love him.

The verse above says that we cannot even imagine (enter into the heart of man) how great heaven will be. I think we can give Hell the same comparison, that you cannot image the horrors and extreme torments that exist there.

As Christians, if we can grasp this understanding of eternity, then we can see the gravity and seriousness for every lost soul. Each sinner is only a breath away from burning in a Hell that was planned for Satan! I'm not talking about suffering for a few minutes and being burned up, we are talking about a repetitive continual dying that will never end! I hope this basic study of Hell will place a burden on each reader to petition the Lord for our lost and grow closer in our own experience. May God give us a vision of Hell and an understanding of the reality of eternity.

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