THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL

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THE LOVE OF GOD

This book is dedicated to seeking and revealing the Bible TRUTH about hell.

*****Would heaven really be a place of 'joy' if our loved ones were burning for all eternity in pain and much suffering? No, it would be torture for us too!*****

Anyone who is a Christian will know what a loving God we serve. Our God who created the heavens and the earth loves even sinners so much that He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to die on that cross. Now, think about this for a moment; does God love sinners forever? Yes! He doesn't stop loving the people He created. Now would our Heavenly Father who still loves those who are lost, burn them in hell fire, in pain and anguish for all eternity, just for a relatively short life lived on this earth? I don't believe He would. Please don't get me wrong, those who are lost will be judged and punished in the lake of fire at the end, but they will not be tortured in hell fire for eternity. The loving God we serve wouldn't do such a hideous thing. They will simply 'burn up' (Malachi 4), with much weeping and gnashing of teeth and be no more.

Ezekiel 33:11 ...'Say unto them, as I live, saith the LORD God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked.'

Look at what God is saying above. Even the death of the wicked is difficult for Him, because He is such a loving God. And yet people believe that God will burn the wicked in flames of hell fire for eternity, just for a short life lived on this earth.

There are so many people around the world today who refuse to worship God because they have been taught this false teaching of an eternal hell fire for the lost, and who's to blame them? There are also those who have come back to the faith once they have found out the truth, that God does not burn the lost forever.

*****Yes, the lost are cast into the lake of fire, but they 'burn up' and 'perish', they do not burn forever, and this truth about hell will be shown here from the Word of God.*****

Don't forget, we humans are in a natural 'fallen' state. Our natural desire is to sin. Now, are you going to tell me that God will burn in eternal hell fire, those who are lost, even though it was in their nature to sin? Do you get that? Our NATURAL desire in this flesh is to sin. How could God punish a person with that natural desire for sin, who lived for a mere 70? years,
with eternal hell fire? Friend, this teaching of eternal hell fire is from satan to make God look like a mad tyrant who enjoys making people suffer, and in no way is it Bible truth!

Some Christians also believe that hell is a literal place without fire and is simply a place where the lost are separated from God in 'outer darkness'. But what is the Bible truth?

Isaiah 33:14-15 ...'Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly.'

Who lives forever with the burning fire? THE RIGHTEOUS!!

*****How can this be? It's because God is an "ALL consuming fire" and only the saved will have the "fireproof clothing" (righteousness of Christ) to live with this "fire". The lost will not be clothed with Christ's righteousness and will therefore be "burned up", completely consumed, and no longer to exist.*****

Ezekiel 18:20 ...'The soul that sinneth, it shall die.'

John 3:16 ...'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

Please read on if you would like to learn the TRUTH about hell ...

WHAT DOES 'HELL' MEAN?

What is Hell? There are four meanings of hell in the Bible. In the Old Testament, the word is 'Sheol' which simply means 'the grave'. There are three different words in the New Testament which are translated 'hell'. Those three words are: Tartarus, Gehenna and Hades. Let's look at these three in the New Testament.

2 Peter 2:4 ...'For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell [Tartarus], and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.' ... This is interesting, because it says in this verse that God has already cast the angels who sinned (including satan) down to hell. Is satan and his angels roasting in hell fire now? No, they are freely roaming around this earth tempting and deceiving people. So what does this mean about hell? Well, the meaning of tartarus is 'dark abyss' or 'place of restraint'. This isn't a place of judgment, because satan and his angels have not received their punishment yet as it says in 2 Peter 2:4 that they are 'reserved unto judgment'. Their punishment is future. Satan and his angels have been cast out of Heaven and are bound to this earth, so the 'hell' in this verse is basically the earth. By the way, the 'chains of darkness' in this verse doesn't mean the angels are literally chained in a dark place, it is symbolic of them being 'bound' to the earth. They cannot get back into Heaven. So we now know the Bible truth about 'tartarus'.

Matthew 5:22 ...'but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell [Gehenna] fire.'... All theologians agree that this word 'gehenna' was based on the 'valley of Hinnom', south of Jerusalem where trash and dead animals were burned. Jesus used this a few times (Matthew 5:29,30) to confirm that there will be a real fire that the lost will be cast into. But when will this happen? Do the lost go straight to this hell fire at death? Jesus answers this Himself.

Matthew 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 [Gehenna].' ...... Did you see what Jesus said here? He said that the lost are
cast into hell fire 'whole bodied'. Now how can someone who has just died, with their bodies in the grave be cast into hell fire with their body? It makes no sense. If it doesn't happen at death, when are the lost thrown into hell fire?

Matthew 13:40-42 ...'As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 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; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.' ......

*****The tares here are the lost. So it is at the 'end of the world', that the lost are cast into hell fire. Jesus here calls it a 'furnace of fire', so we are talking about a real fire.*****

WHERE IS HELL?

Isaiah 24:1,3,5,6 ...'Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof ... The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word ...The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.'

So we know that a real fire is coming upon this world, as Peter confirms in 2 Peter 3:7 ...'But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.' ...

*****Did you catch what was said there? This earth is kept "in store" and "reserved" for judgment, just like the evil angels are. Jesus above in Matthew confirmed that the hell fire is at 'the end of the world'. Peter confirms here that the heavens and earth are reserved for that day of judgement after the second coming of Christ Jesus to burn with a literal hell fire.*****

Now take a look at what Peter said a few verses on ...

2 Peter 3:10 ...'But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.' ... This verse is very clear on what hell fire is. When Jesus returns at the second coming, the sky above and the earth will literally be burned with fire. So if you believe that hell is some place beneath the earth's surface or on another planet, have another think, because the Bible truth shows where hell fire is, in that the whole earth is destined for fire. **Hell is ON EARTH!**
Isaiah 34:8-10 ...'For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever; from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.'

First of all. Where will hell fire be? Isaiah confirms it will be ON EARTH. Also, do you see the same language as we see in the New Testament? Words like "shall not be quenched", and "smoke ascend for ever and ever". So if we take this literally, then this earth will burn for all eternity. But now look at what Peter said regarding this earth:

2 Peter 3:13 ...'Neverthelesse we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.'

Now how can the lost still be burning if God has re-created the heavens and the earth and all things are new? It's not possible! This means the fire and the wicked HAVE to come to an end for God to make a new heaven and earth. And if only righteousness dwells is the new heaven and earth, then the wicked HAVE to be destroyed forever! Friend, this is the Bible truth of God concerning hell fire. It will 'burn up' everything, including those who are lost and everything is made new, where ONLY 'righteousness dwells'. Heaven and the new earth cannot be a place of peace and righteousness if the lost continue to burn for all eternity.

Revelation also reveals the this truth about hell fire. See the sequence of events below:

Revelation 20:12 ...'and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.'

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

Revelation 20:14 ...'And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.'

Revelation 21:5 .....'And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.'

So we have a clear sequence of events above. First, the judgment, which happens after Jesus returns. Then, those who are lost are cast into the lake of fire (hell fire), to die the 'second death'. And finally, all things are made new. Again, how can God make ALL THINGS new if the lost continue to burn 'forever'? It's impossible, the lost will have to 'burn up' and be completely destroyed. This hell fire will also serve to purify the atmosphere and the earth from all the chemical pollutants in it, and most importantly to forever destroy sin and wickedness.

For more information on when this happens, (see Understanding End Times Prophecy for a great study on the 1000 year millennium).

The last of the three New Testament words for hell to look at is 'Hades'.

Revelation 20:14 ...'And death and hell [Hades] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.'...

*****So hades cannot be hell fire, because it is cast into the lake of fire itself. So what is hades? Well, the King James Version Bible and Strong's translates it as 'the grave'.
This now makes sense, death and 'the grave' are cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death.*****

To back this up, take a look at 1 Corinthians 15:55 ... 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave [Hades], where is thy victory?' ... The Greek word for grave here is 'hades'.

To confirm this Bible truth about hell even more, take a look at the few verses before 1 Corinthians 15:55:

1 Corinthians 15:51-55 ...'Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave [Hades], where is thy victory?' ...

Did you see the amazing Bible truth about hell in these verses? It is the saints who also rise out of Hades, which confirms without a shadow of a doubt that hades means 'the grave'.

See what happens when we die, for a good Bible study on the topic of death.

So we now know what hell is and the true meaning of the word 'hell'.

Tartarus means: A place of darkness or restraint. Where satan and his angels are now, on earth, cast out of heaven.

Gehenna means: A place of real fire (the lake of fire), where the wicked are punished, 'burned up' and destroyed and the Heaven and earth is cleansed ... 'At the end of the world'.

Hades means: The grave. All people who have died, the lost and the saints are resting there.

*****Satan is doing his very best, working through the antichrist system to obscure and confuse the truth of God's Word. If we do not plant ourselves firmly on the truth of God's Word in the Bible, then we will leave ourselves open to be deceived. Friend, any truth that God has revealed to us is important, whether it be the truth about the Sabbath Day, or the truth about who the antichrist is, we MUST not reject that truth, but embrace it! Many people have left the faith because they were taught the error that God will burn the lost forever. Friend, we do not serve a God who would do such an awful thing. He loves us all, and would not allow anyone to suffer in agony in hell fire for eternity. Does this teaching of eternal hell fire glorify God? No, it makes Him out to be a tyrant, which is what satan wants. But thankfully, we can know from the truth of His Word that He will not burn the lost in flames of fire forever. The truth about hell is laid out before you, but don't just take my word for it, open your Bible and compare it for yourself.*****

COMMON VERSES USED
Before we look into the Bible truth as to what will happen to the wicked, let us first take a look at the commonly used scripture verses that mainstream Christianity uses to support this 'eternal hell fire' teaching of theirs.

VERSE USED - Revelation 14:11 ...'And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.'

Did you know that this verse in Revelation is taken from Isaiah? ...

VERSE USED - Isaiah 34:8-10 ...'For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.'

Do you see what Isaiah is saying about 'hell fire'? 'The STREAMS turn into pitch. The DUST turns into brimstone. The LAND becomes burning pitch.' He is talking about EARTH. Hell fire will be ON EARTH! And we know earth will be made new (Isaiah 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13), which means that hell fire CANNOT BURN FOR ETERNITY!!

VERSE USED - Matthew 18:8-9 ...'Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.'

VERSE USED - Daniel 12:2 ...'And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.'

*****Does this verse say that the wicked will be resurrected and thrown into the fire to burn for evermore? No, it says that they are raised to everlasting contempt. Now if God destroys them completely in the lake of fire and they die, never to live again, could this also mean 'everlasting contempt'? Yes or course. So we can disregard this verse as 'evidence'.*****
This is an interesting one. The mainstream teaching says that it is the so called 'eternal souls' of the lost which burn in hell for all eternity. And yet Jesus clearly says in the verses above that the lost will be cast into 'hell fire' WHOLE BODIED, which He confirms in Matthew 5:29. So it is not just the 'soul' of someone which gets cast into the fire. The lost are cast into the lake of fire at the end with their whole bodies. And what happens to a body when it is cast into fire? It 'burns up' (Malachi 4).

But what about the fact that it says 'everlasting fire'? The BIG misunderstanding with this is the MEANING of everlasting fire. Please think about this. Did Jesus say that the lost will 'BURN FOR ALL ETERNITY'? No He didn't. He said that they will be cast into a fire that would be 'everlasting'. If someone burns up and dies in that fire, never to live again, would that fire to them be 'everlasting'? Of course it would! It is the RESULT of the fire that is everlasting!

*****The whole concept of the 'soul' being in hell for all eternity is based on a false belief that we have a separate eternal 'soul'.*****

VERSE USED - Matthew 25:41,46 ...'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 ... And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.'

What many people do not realize is the Bible reveals that Satan himself will be completely destroyed and turned to dust! In Ezekiel 28:18-19 the prophet is talking about Satan, and he reveals that Satan will be DEVoured by the fire. He will turn into ASHES and he will BE NO MORE. Which means Satan is completely destroyed! So what is 'everlasting punishment'? It means that the lost will be destroyed forever and they will never live again.

VERSE USED - 2 Thessalonians 1:9 ...'Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.'

I'm amazed that this verse is even used, because it supports the truth that the wicked are DESTROYED, rather than burning in hell fire for all eternity. What does 'everlasting DESTRUCTION' mean? It means something is destroyed forever. Never to live again. So this verse actually goes against the mainstream teaching of the eternal soul.

Revelation 20:14 ...'And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.' ... Does 'death' now mean life? Look at the finality of what is being said here. EVERYTHING bad is destroyed, so that the universe can now be a place of peace, joy and righteousness!

Before we go on, let me clarify that the Word of God in the Bible does not contradict itself. So what do we do? We need to take into account the whole picture of what happens to the lost in the Bible and then the difficult, unclear verses that appear to contradict, will become a lot clearer as to what they actually mean. So let's delve into this and find out the real Bible truth about hell fire.

BIBLE TRUTH ABOUT BURNING IN HELL FIRE
John 3:16 ‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not PERISH, but have everlasting LIFE.’

Jesus clearly said there are two options. You can either follow Him and gain eternal LIFE. OR don't follow Him and PERISH. Now we all know what the word perish means right? A COMPLETE END.

Jeremiah 17:27 ‘But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.’

What did God say the punishment would be for the city of Jerusalem if the people would not hallow His holy 7th day sabbath? He said the city would burn with 'UNQUENCHABLE FIRE'. Is Jerusalem still burning today? No, the fire simply kept burning UNTIL it did it's job of completely destroying the city. And this is the very same meaning as the New Testament teaching of 'eternal fire'. It will CONTINUE burning UNTIL it has done it's job of DESTROYING THE WICKED.

Malachi 4:1-3 ‘For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.’

*****Friend, this is the clear Word of the Lord above. What happens to the wicked? They are 'burned up'. How much of a plant or flower is left after you have destroyed it's roots and branches? Nothing!! God clearly says in Malachi above, that the wicked will have neither root or branch left, there's nothing left. Are you getting this amazing truth? Nothing left! Does this sound like people will burn forever in hell fire? Not at all.*****

Psalm 68:2 'As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.'

Psalm 37:10 'For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.'

Psalm 37:20 'But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.'

The Psalmist wrote about what would happen to the wicked, and he was pretty clear about it, don't you think? The wicked shall 'perish', and will come to a complete end.

Have a careful think about the following three verses:

Jude 1:7 ‘Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.’

2 Peter 2:6 ‘And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly.’
Lamentations 4:6 ...'For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.'

Put the pieces together from the above 3 verses. What was the result of eternal fire on Sodom and Gomorrah? They were destroyed! The fire from God was so fierce that it turned the cities (including the people) into 'ashes' and they were 'overthrown in a moment'. Are Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed? Yes! Are they still burning today? No! So what does eternal hell fire mean? Well, we can see from these Bible verses that it is the effect of the flames that is eternal, not the flames themselves.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 ...'In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.' ...

Paul agrees with Jesus and says that the wicked are punished with 'everlasting destruction'. Now if someone told you that someone was destroyed with everlasting destruction, would you think that they were still alive? Paul cannot be any clearer here. The wicked are destroyed completely forever.

Are you starting to see what everlasting hell fire is all about? The fire will 'burn up' the lost. They will have neither 'root or branch' left. They will be completely destroyed 'forever'. Let us continue with this Bible study of God's truth about hell fire and 'earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.' (Jude 1:3)

ARE THE LOST BURNING IN HELL NOW?

Many Christians believe that those who have died and are lost, are burning right now in hell, because they believe this false teaching of the immortal soul. If so, then that means they have already received their reward for what they did. Does the Word of God in the Bible agree with this?

Luke 14:14 ...'And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.'

Matthew 16:27 ...'For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.'

Revelation 22:12 ...'And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.'

It seems that God does NOT agree with them. As we can clearly see in the above 3 verses, everyone receives their reward and judgment only after the second coming of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. So where are the people who have passed away 'dwelling' now?

Daniel 12:2 ...'And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.' ... They are sleeping, awaiting the return of Jesus. After all, 'from dust we were made and to dust we shall return.'

John 5:28-29 ...'Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.' ... No need to marvel at this, Jesus says it is a simple truth. He doesn't say, those who are in hell
and those who are in Heaven will come forward to receive their reward. Where does Jesus say they come from? The grave! **The saved and lost who have passed away are in the SAME PLACE now, the grave.**

1 John 5:12 ...'He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.' ... If the lost burn forever in hell, then they would have life, but the Word of God confirms that it is only those who have Christ Jesus that have life. **Those who don't follow Jesus have 'not life'. In other words, death.**

**HELL IS ON EARTH**

Revelation 20:9 ...'And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.' ... Many Christians believe that hell will be under the earth or maybe on some other planet in space, or even floating around somewhere in 'darkness', but where does God say it will be? ON the earth. The wicked are ON the earth when God reigns hell fire down from Heaven and **devours them**. Notice also the following verse from Isaiah:

Isaiah 34:8-10 ...'For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.'

Did you notice above that Isaiah describes "hell" as being on earth? And did you notice Isaiah says the smoke shall ascend up forever and ever? Does this sound like Revelation 14:11? Yes! Revelation 14:11 is taken right from Isaiah 34 and yet it is talking about THE EARTH. The streams, dust and land become burning pitch. **Hell fire is ON the earth. So can hell fire burn forever on earth?**

Revelation 21:5 ...'And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, **I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.**'

2 Peter 3:13 ...'Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth**, wherein dwelleth righteousness.'

No, once the wicked are 'burned up' on the earth with hell fire, God then renews the earth for the saved.

Peter says something very interesting in the above verse. He says that in the new heavens and earth **only 'righteousness dwells'**. Well, where are the wicked if there is only righteousness in the heavens and on earth? There is only one answer; They have ceased to exist. They have been completely destroyed by the hell fire from God; They have 'burned up' and are 'no more'. The wicked cannot burn forever in hell, because if they did, sin would still be alive for eternity, and the statement by Peter could not be true.

**THE WICKED PERISH**

What did the apostle Peter say to Simon the sorcerer, when Simon tried to buy the Holy Spirit with money?
Acts 8:20 ...'But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.'

Did Peter say "your money will burn forever in hell fire with you"? No. He said PERISH. As in completely destroyed. And while we are on the subject of the apostles. When did they ever go around preaching to people that they would burn in hell fire for all eternity if they didn't accept Christ Jesus? Where are those Bible verses?

Are you still not convinced that 'eternal fire' isn't a literal hell fire burning the wicked forever? Then take a look at the following Bible verses:

Matthew 3:12 ...'but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' ... Well, what is unquenchable fire? ... Isaiah 47:14 ...'Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame.' ... Friend, you have the truth of God's Word right there. 'Eternal fire' is 'unquenchable fire', which means the wicked, as it says above in Isaiah, will 'not be able to deliver themselves from it'. Eternal hell fire means that no man can put it out, it will CONTINUE to burn UNTIL it has 'burned up' every last wicked person, including satan himself.

Psalm 68:2 ...'As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.'

Luke 13:3 ...'I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.'

2 Peter 2:12 ...'But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption.' ... We all know what 'perish' means. A Complete end! Peter even goes one step further to confirm it with 'utterly perish'.

John 3:15-16 ...'That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' ... According to those who believe in a literal eternal hell, the two routes for us are either eternal life in heaven, or eternal life in hell. Now something is wrong there. What did Jesus say the two routes are? One is eternal life, the other is to perish (death).

If the lost burn in hell fire for eternity, then it means they will be immortal, but what does the Word of God say about this ... 1 Corinthians 15:53-54 ... 'For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.' ... We are in a mortal state now, and can be destroyed completely. It is only through Jesus that we inherit immortality, therefore the lost do not inherit immortality and as a consequence, they are destroyed in hell fire.

1 Timothy 6:14-16 ...'our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality.'

Revelation 21:6-8 ...'And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 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.\textsuperscript{a}..... IT IS DONE! God is the beginning and the end. God gives eternal life (beginning) to those who overcame, but He will bring the wicked to an end. Hell fire and the lake of fire is the same thing. Remember from earlier that the lake of fire is ON THE EARTH? God will cast all the wicked into that fire and what will happen to them? They will DIE the SECOND DEATH. The 'wages of sin is death' (Romans 6:23).

Friend, this is the Bible truth about hell fire. God's Word clearly teaches that hell fire will not last for eternity, it is just the result that will be eternal. Remember, the wicked will be 'burned up', they will become 'ashes' and they will 'utterly perish'. And where will this happen? 'On the breadth of the earth'. And then God will 'renew the heavens and the earth' and the wicked will 'be no more'. David knew the truth about this ...

\textsuperscript{a}Psalm 37:20 ...'But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.'

Just as in Noah's day, God cleansed the wicked from the earth with the flood. And one day soon, as we are now living in the end times, God will cleanse the earth again, but this time with fire, and when God puts the fire out, the wicked will be gone, just as it says in Revelation 21:4 ...'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.'

Notice also above God reveals the truth that there will be no more pain. If the wicked are to burn in hell fire forever, there would be plenty of pain! Thankfully, the Bible is something we can trust. Friend, put your trust in the Word of God and not in the teaching of man. Don't just trust what your preacher says, but test everything against the Word of God in the Bible yourself. Many are being kept from the kingdom because they have been taught the error that God will burn the lost for all eternity, and they don't want to serve a God like that. So please share this important truth, that the lost WILL burn in the lake of fire if they do not turn to Christ, but they will 'burn up', and cease to exist. THAT is good news!

THE WORD FOREVER

Before we look at the verse dealing with the 'worm that never dies', let's look at some Bible verses concerning the word 'forever', so that we can get some good Biblical background concerning this concept.

\textsuperscript{a}1 Samuel 1:22 ...'But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.' ... Hannah pledged to God that she would take her infant son Samuel, to serve in the temple at Shiloh, where he would abide 'forever'. Now no one would take this to mean that Samuel would abide in the temple for a literal eternity. Hannah herself interpreted what she meant by forever ... \textsuperscript{a}1 Samuel 1:28 ...'Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.' ... Forever meant 'for as long as he lives'.

\textsuperscript{a}Jonah 2:6 ...'I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever.' ... Jonah is describing being swallowed by the whale. He says he was down there 'forever'. How long was he there? 3 days!!
Exodus 21:5-6 ...'And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul: and he shall serve him for ever.' ... How could the servant serve his master forever? What about when the servant dies? Does he still continue to serve him? No, forever means, for as long as that person is still alive, until death.

So the word 'forever' in certain circumstances means, as Strong's describes it; 'A period of time' or 'An unbroken age'. And what we see above also applies to the lost in the lake of fire. The fire from God to burn the lost will be for an 'unbroken age' because no one will be able to put the fire out. It will keep burning 'forever' or 'for an unbroken age' until it has done its job of devouring the lost and they 'perish', 'burn up' and are 'devoured'.

What does the Word of God say are the 'wages of sin'? Eternal burning in hell fire? No, DEATH.

Now something we must do with regards to this teaching is use LOGIC. If we are teaching something that has no logic, then there is something wrong with that teaching, because our Heavenly Father is a God of Logic, not confusion. So with that in mind, take a look at the following verse:

Revelation 21:1,4 ...'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away ... And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.'

Now we already learned that hell fire is ON EARTH. So logic tells us that if hell for the lost is on earth and 'heaven and earth' are made new, then that means hell fire does NOT burn forever and the lost will be completely destroyed. They have 'passed away', never to be any more. Satan and the wicked are no more! There is no more pain or suffering in all the universe. Praise God! THAT is good news!

THE WORM THAT NEVER DIES

Those who hold on to the eternal hell fire teaching, use the well known 'the worm that dieth not' verse, to back up their claim. But in light of all the evidence we have gathered so far, what does this verse really mean?

Mark 9:43-44 .....'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: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.'

Let's first compare the above with the verse in Isaiah 66:24 ...'And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.' ... This is just what Jesus said. But notice how Isaiah applied this scene to the 'carcases' of the lost that God's people will look upon at the end. The righteous will see the dead bodies of the lost, and the worm will eat away at the dead bodies UNTIL there is no more. Think about what Jesus said in Mark above. It would be better to lose one part of your body and enter heaven, than for your whole body to be cast into hell fire, where you would be devoured and eaten up by the worm.
The meaning of the 'worm that dieth not' is the same as 'everlasting fire'. They both continue UNTIL they have done their job of destroying the lost.

There are those who believe that it is the 'soul' that is forever in hell, and not the body. But how can a worm chew away on someone's "soul", if there is nothing to eat at? Do you see how completely illogical this is?

Are we now going to say that there will be actual worms chewing on the bodies of the lost for eternity? Many of those who believe in this eternal hell fire believe that it is the soul of the person that is in hell for eternity. Well, how are the worms going to eat someone's soul? When you really think about this, you can see how absurd this eternal hell fire teaching really is.

In Bible days, outside Jerusalem, there was a dump where the carcasses of dead animals and criminals ended up. Worms continually crawled there eating up the rotting flesh. Jesus used this imagery, quoting Isaiah, to illustrate the fate of the lost. But, it's DEAD bodies, not eternal torment being described.

LIFE OR DEATH

Friend, there are two options ... John 3:16 ... 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not PERISH, but have EVERLASTING LIFE.'

Perish or everlasting life! The Word of God could not be any clearer on this. 'The wages of sin is death', not everlasting life in hell fire.

Nahum 1:2,6,9 ... 'God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.' ...

*****The new Heaven and earth must be a place of peace and happiness, with no evil. If this is to happen, then the wicked, including satan, must be wiped out and come to an end. Friend, this is the truth of God's Word in the Bible. Hell fire will burn the wicked, there is no disputing that fact. But, the fire will destroy them and they shall be no more. Sin cannot be allowed to carry on in the new heaven and earth, it has to be completely wiped out. God will make an utter end of sin and the wicked. The worms will eat away at the DEAD bodies of the lost UNTIL there is nothing left. This is the Bible truth about the worm that never dies.*****

A PARABLE OR REAL EVENT?

The Rich man and Lazarus parable is a greatly misunderstood topic in the Bible and one that many Christians use to defend their belief that God is going to burn the lost for ever and ever.
But if we look at this parable in a more simple clear way, which we will do here, then we will be able to see that this cannot be a real event and in no way does it support the "eternal hell" teaching. So let's take a look at the verses in question.

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

Jesus was addressing this parable to the Pharisees, because they thought that their mere Abrahamic descent was sufficient to save them. So we have two classes of people. Those, like the Pharisees (rich man) who thought that their own works and "righteousness" would save them. And those who desired and "hungered" for the truth (Lazarus). Jesus is making the important point that it is what you do with the opportunities given you in this life that will decide your eternal destiny. Will you, like the Pharisees (rich man) think you are rich and believe that your mere race and own works will save you? Or will you, like Lazarus seek and hunger for the truth of Christ Jesus?

The rich man had opportunity to help this beggar laid at his gate, but did not do so. The rich man did no "wrong" towards the beggar, but his refusal to help someone in need showed that he knew nothing of the true meaning of the second greatest commandment, which was to love thy neighbour as thyself. And what did Jesus say elsewhere about not helping someone in need? ...

Matthew 25:45 ... 'Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.'

Luke 16:22-23 ... '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; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.'

Now this is where we start seeing the rich man and Lazarus parable for what it is. The mainstream teaching is that when we die, our bodies go back into the ground, and our "soul" floats off to either heaven or hell. But look carefully at what happens here in this parable. Lazarus is CARRIED to heaven, suggesting that he is taken BODILY to heaven. And the rich man is BURIED in the ground. And now notice what it says about the rich man. It says that he was "buried and being in HELL lifted up his eyes". Do you see the clear connection between buried and hell. Jesus is linking the two and saying that the rich man IN HIS GRAVE IS IN HELL.

*****Because that is what the Greek word Hades means, the grave!*****

Now let's look at even more compelling evidence that this is a parable and not a real event.

Luke 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.'

SO IF THIS IS A REAL EVENT, then it means that those in heaven and those being "tormented in flames of fire in hell" CAN SEE EACH OTHER! Now I don't know about you, but for me, being able to see from heaven the lost burning in flames of fire for eternity, WOULD NOT BE HEAVEN. And what does the rich man ask for Lazarus to do? To DIP HIS FINGER IN WATER so that the rich man's TONGUE CAN BE COOLED. Two things. How does a BODILESS SOUL have a PHYSICAL TONGUE that can be cooled? And how is a DROP OF WATER going to COOL SOMEONE burning in flames of fire?
Do you see? There are many problems if you take this parable as literal.

It is evident that Jesus is relating an imaginative story (PARABLE) designed to make clear a certain particular truth concerning the relationship between this life and the next, and does not intend His words to be taken literally. If the rich man had "eyes" and a "tongue" and Lazarus had a "finger" then it would mean at death they went BODILY to their rewards. But scripture clearly does not teach this, as at death our bodies go to the grave.

So what is Jesus pointing to when he said that the rich man is "tormented" in the flames? Jesus is pointing to the time at the end AFTER the second coming, when the lost are "cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20), where they will "burn up" and be like "stubble" (Malachi 4), and will cease to exist. Which is the SECOND DEATH (Revelation 21).

Yes, they will be tormented in the flames, but they will burn up and die the second death.

Luke 16:26 ...'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.'

As we can clearly see, Jesus is teaching us that when we die, our destiny is SEALED, never to be reversed. Those who are lost at death, remain lost, and those who are saved, remain saved. There is no other chance to save someone once they have died. And what does this prove? It proves the Roman Catholic teaching of purgatory to be false! The Roman Catholics believe and teach that you can pray to get someone out of "hell", or pay some money (indulgence) to get them out. But Jesus is clearly teaching that no one can pass from being lost to saved after they are dead.

Luke 16:27-31 ...'Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.'

Jesus finishes the parable by confirming that it is only through the Word of God laid out in scripture that will lead us to the truth of salvation. And confirms that if you don't accept the clear truths in the Bible, then even one being RAISED FROM THE DEAD (notice how Jesus links the "sending of Lazarus" to raising him from the DEAD?) would not convince the person who rejects the truths laid out in scripture. And did Jesus prove this with the Jewish nation? YES! A few weeks after He told this parable, He raised literal Lazarus from the dead, and STILL the Jews would not accept Christ for who He was! So Jesus here proved His point well.

This is the Bible truth about the rich man and Lazarus. This cannot be a literal event. Jesus is merely portraying an important lesson in this story.

To say that the saved go straight to heaven at death and the lost burn in fires of hell for eternity go against the clear teaching of scripture that when we die, we return to the dust and our "thoughts perish", and we are not raised again until the second coming of Christ.
Psalm 146:1-4 ...'Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.'

DO WE HAVE A SEPARATE 'SOUL'?

*****The majority of professed Christians believe that we have a separate soul that lives on after the body has died. Now there is one big problem with this thought .. It makes us immortal. And the Bible is clear that only God the Father and Christ Jesus has immortality (1 Timothy 6:14-16) and we are only made immortal at the resurrection when Christ Jesus returns (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). So where did this 'immortal soul' teaching come from?*****

Genesis 3:4 ...'And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.'

This teaching originated with Satan himself! It was the first lie and it continues and is embraced by the whole world today! Let's take a quick look at what happened in the very beginning with Adam and Eve:

Genesis 3:22-23 ...'And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.'

Can you see what has happened here? After Adam and Eve sinned, they could have continued to live forever by eating from the tree of life. But God DENIED them access to the tree, therefore DENYING them eternal life, which means they would end up dying, which is what God said would happen if they ate from the tree of knowledge.

So what does this mean? It means that Adam and Eve could not live forever without the tree of life. And when they die, they would return to the dust as the Bible confirms in Genesis 3:19.

When did Jesus say we would be with Him in heaven? Straight after death? No. Take a look at

John 14:3 'And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.'
Why would Jesus need to say that He will come and get us so that where He is we will also, if we have already gone to heaven at death? Makes no sense does it? That's because it is at the second coming we go to heaven, not before.

Part of the confusion about death and what happens when we die is down to two words in the Bible that are misinterpreted. Those two words are 'Soul' and 'Spirit'. Now if we take a look at the original Hebrew and Greek meaning of these words, we can start to better understand what the Bible teaches about death, and the truth about what happens when we die. So first let's take a quick look at the 'Strong's' meaning of these two words.

Soul in Hebrew is the word 'nephesh', which means "a living being" (Strong's 5315)

Soul in Greek is the word 'psyche', which means "a living being" (Strong's 5590)

Spirit in Hebrew is the word 'ruwach', which means "breath, wind, air" (Strong's 7307)

Spirit in Greek is the word 'pneuma', which can either mean "Holy Spirit" (Which is a description NOT a Title) or "breath, wind, air" (Strong's 4151)

So we can see from this that the words soul and spirit do not mean that we have our OWN spirit or soul, but rather we basically have the spirit of God in us keeping us alive, and with that spirit in us, we ARE LIVING SOULS. And we can see this clearly from the creation account ...

Genesis 2:7 ...'And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.' ... Notice one very important point about the creation of Adam. When God breathed into him the breath of life, "Spirit", Adam BECAME a living "Soul". Do you see that? So if we reverse this process, God's Spirit (breath) is removed and Adam dies, he becomes dust again.

This is an important truth concerning death and what happens when we die. Remember that Adam wasn't given a soul, he BECAME a living soul with the breath of God inside him. We are but dust without the Spirit (breath) of God in us, as this following Bible verse confirms ...

Genesis 3:19 ...'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.'

Why do so many Christians ignore the clear teachings of the Old Testament? These truths from the Old Testament haven't changed.

Now I hear you saying, "but what about the souls crying under the altar in Revelation?" Let's look at the verse ... Revelation 6:9-10 .....'And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?' ... Now don't forget that much of Revelation is symbolic language and not literal. So these are the people of God who have died for Christ and they are crying out to Him under the altar. first, where is the altar? The altar will be God's throne in Heaven, so could "under the altar" be on the earth? Take a look at this following Bible verse which reveals the truth about death and this issue of crying out to God under the altar:

Genesis 4:10 ...'And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.'

Do you see what is happening here? Abel has died at the hands of his brother Cain, and what is happening? His blood is "CRYING" out to God FROM THE GROUND, or THE
EARTH. Now does blood cry? Of course not, this is just symbolic language for God knowing what Cain has done to Abel. So from this we can better understand the Bible verse about death in Revelation. They are not literal souls of people still living that are crying out to God, because they have turned back into dust. But their blood is a testimony to what they have had done to them, and it is their blood that "symbolically" cries out to God for justice, just as Abel's blood did.

SOUL SLEEP

Job 14:10-12 ...'But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.' ... This is a pretty clear Bible verse about death and what happens when we die. Where is man after the Spirit of God leaves him? He returns to the ground and doesn't arise until when? "till the heavens be no more". When will the heavens be no more? When Christ Jesus returns at the second coming and resurrects His people. Now Job describes death in an interesting way. He says that we will "sleep" when we die. Who else taught the meaning of death in that way? JESUS!!

Matthew 9:24 ...'He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.'

John 11:11-14 ...'These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth: but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.'

So Jesus spoke of death as sleeping. Not about going to heaven or hell when we die, but sleeping. And until when do we sleep in the grave? Martha knew the answer ... John 11:23-24 ...'Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' ... You see Martha knew that Lazarus would rise again at the resurrection, which would be Jesus' second coming, but as we know, Jesus decided to resurrect Lazarus there and then.

Job 34:14-15 ...'If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.'

With the spirit of God in us, we are living souls, but without God's spirit (breath) we return to dust. David revealed the same truth about death in Psalm 104:29-30 ...'Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.'

A specific order has been set in place by God and the apostle Paul reveals that order which cannot be broken ... 1 Corinthians 15:22-24 ...'For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end.' ...

*****It is ONLY at the resurrection during the second coming of Christ, that we are raised from our graves and go to heaven. NOT before.*****
CAN WE PRAISE GOD AFTER WE DIE?

Many Christians believe that when we die, if we are saved we go straight to heaven to be with Jesus. Which means we would be able to praise God after death. Is this so? Well, take a look at the following:

Psalm 115:17 ...'The dead praise NOT the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.'

What happens when we die? Do we go to heaven to praise God? No, David revealed the truth about death. When we die, we go to the grave and stay in silence. We sleep until the resurrection day. So who can praise God? ...

Psalm 150:6 ...'Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.' ...

Every LIVING being, that has breath! The book of Ecclesiastes also confirms this Bible truth ...

Ecclesiastes 9:5,10 ...'For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.' ...

Also the prophet Isaiah know the truth about death ...

Isaiah 38:18-19 ...'For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee.'

And why can't those who have died praise God? Because they do not go to dwell in Heaven or in a so called fiery hell. So where do they dwell when they die? ...

Isaiah 26:19 ...'Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.'

What happens when we die? Mark these words well, we DWELL in the dust.

The dust of the earth, or grave, is our home until the resurrection at the second coming of Christ Jesus. The prophet Daniel also confirmed this Bible truth ...

Daniel 12:2 ...'And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.'

Matthew 27:52 ...'And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose.' ... At Jesus' resurrection He gave gifts to some and resurrected them also from the dead. But what were they doing before they were resurrected by Jesus? They were sleeping. In other words they were in their graves not knowing anything, awaiting the resurrection.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 ...'But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.'

Now if Christians went to heaven when we they die, then Paul would have encouraged these with this truth, but no, Paul knew that you don't go to heaven when you die, and therefore he is encouraging the people with the promise of the resurrection when Christ returns. Let's face it, Paul could have said “hey don't worry about death, you will go to heaven as soon as you die and be with God". But no, he told them the Bible truth about death, in that you sleep in the dust until the resurrection.
Also, those words 'God will bring with Him' do not mean that the saints come from heaven with Jesus. If you look at it carefully, you will see that it is saying that God will raise the saints **just as Jesus was raised from the dead**

If Christians go to heaven when we die, then we will have received our reward there and then. But Jesus revealed the truth about when we get our reward ... Matthew 16:27 ...'*For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.' ... Only at the second coming and resurrection we receive our reward, **not before.**

Now if we were already in heaven with Jesus when He returns, then we would hear His voice in heaven and come back with Him. But take a look at this Bible verse ... John 5:28-29 ...'*Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves** shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.' ... Where are we when we hear His voice? **IN THE GRAVE.** This is where we will be when we die, in the grave.

Now the clearest verse in the New Testament which confirms what happens when we die is found in the book of Acts. Take a look at this clear Bible verse that cannot be taken any other way, other than the simple truth which it reveals:

*Acts 2:29,34 ...* *Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. For David is not ascended into the heavens.*

For David is **NOT** ascended into the heavens.

**DOES PAUL SAY WE GO TO HEAVEN WHEN WE DIE?**

There are a few contentious verses which Christians use to say that we go to heaven when we die, and the majority of those Bible verses were penned by the apostle Paul, and yet we have already shown above that Paul knew the truth that we 'sleep' in the grave until the resurrection. So do we have a contradiction in the Bible? No, it's just that the few 'difficult' verses are misunderstood by the majority. Let's take a look:

In 2 Corinthians 5 and Philippians 1, he makes a statement that goes like this ... "**we rather be absent from the body and present with the Lord**" and also "**to live is Christ and to die is gain, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better**".

Even on their own, these statements can be easily understood, but in light of what the rest of the Bible teaches about death, then these verses become even more clearer. Think about what Paul was saying. Would you think it better to depart the way Elijah and Enoch did and be with Christ? Of course you would, and this is what Paul was thinking about. And there are two reasons why to die would be gain. One is that Paul would be free from temptation and persecution, and also his next conscious thought after death would be the second coming and the resurrection. So of course to die would be gain in his eyes. In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul talks about three "houses" (bodies). He talks about the earthly body (house) we have now, the heavenly body (house) we will have in Heaven and an unclothed body. The unclothed body is death, and Paul is saying that although to die would be better than living in this earthly body with its sufferings, to go straight to heaven into our immortal body like Elijah and Enoch did
would be an **EVEN BETTER** way. In no way is Paul talking about living on as a spirit being after we die.

*****Spiritualism is a fast growing form of religion, and the only reason for that is because of this false teaching of when you die you live on as a 'spirit being'. Friend this is a false teaching and the Bible shows it to be false. We can find out the truth about death and what happens when we die by opening our hearts to the truth of God's clear Word in the Bible. I believe Satan is going to use this false teaching of the immortal soul to deceive many people during the end times. But we can escape all deceptions if we will be grounded on the Rock of Truth in the Bible.*****

*James 5:7* ...‘Be patient therefore, brethren, **unto the coming of the Lord.**

I pray that you would aim to be like a Berean and not a FRUITY LOOP and search the scriptures daily to see whether they line up with what you are being taught, IN that way you will be a workman not needing to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of Truth and you will here Jesus say:

*Matthew 25:21 (AMPC)* Well done, you upright (honorable, admirable) and faithful servant! You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little; I will put you in charge of much. Enter into and share the joy (the delight, the blessedness) which your master enjoys.

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I Brent Tremain wish to give credit to the owner of the following website: