

# Where Will You Spend Your Eternity?

## I. Introduction

A. A simple but all-important question for each of us to ask is, “where will I spend eternity?” Consider some things Scripture teaches about the two possibilities Jesus gave as the answer to this question. *Hymns for Worship, Song 284*; **Matthew 25:46**

## II. Hell: Harmonizing with God’s Character

A. Hell is a *real* place where many really will spend eternity. To deny this is not a defense of God’s character, but an attack against it. His faithfulness and perfectly just character assure that hell is a reality. **Matthew 10:28**; **1 Corinthians 1:9**; **1 John 1:5-6**; **Deuteronomy 32:4**; **Acts 17:31**

## III. Hell: Wages Earned by Sin

A. It is within the character of a perfectly just God to allow those with unforgiven sin to face hell because eternal death is the *wages* sin earns. **Romans 6:23a**; **Isaiah 59:1-2**

## IV. Hell: Eternal Separation from God

A. Perhaps the most frightening thing about hell is that it involves being separated from God, with no possibility of ever being reconciled. **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**; **Matthew 25:41**

## V. Hell: The Severity of Its Torment

A. Hell is not a place where one will simply cease to exist. Rather, it involves pain that will last *forever*. **Mark 9:48**; **Matt. 13:50**

## VI. Hell: Who Will Go There

A. While many are unwittingly headed down the path of eternal torment, this is not God’s *preference* for any. **Matthew 7:21-23**; **2 Corinthians 5:10**; **1 Timothy 2:3-4**; **Romans 6:23b**

## VII. Heaven: A Gift God Offers

A. Because it is not God’s preference for any to spend eternity in hell, He has gone to great lengths to offer the gift of eternal life. **Romans 6:23b**

## VIII. Heaven: Where Righteousness Dwells

A. This gift He offers involves spending eternity in a place where there will be no sin. **2 Peter 3:13**; **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

## IX. Heaven: Eternity in God’s Presence

A. Perhaps the most beautiful thing said about heaven is that those who spend eternity there will be in God’s direct presence forever. **Mark 16:19**; **Revelation 21:23**; **1 Thessalonians 4:17**; **Philippians 3:20**

## X. Heaven: Place of Comfort and Rest

A. Heaven is also a place where there will be no death, crying, or pain of any kind. **Revelation 21:4**; **Hebrews 4:9**

## XI. Heaven: Greater Than All Trials

A. Just as hell’s torment is incomparable, so too is the *beauty* of heaven. Given the value of heaven, any trials we must face to spend eternity there are more than worth it. **Matthew 5:11-12**; **Romans 8:18**

## XII. Heaven: God’s Preference for All

A. Moreover, heaven is not a place like earthly homes that will run out of room. There is plenty of space there for *all* who choose righteousness. This is God’s preference for each one of us. **John 14:1-3**

B. May we each choose this path. **Matthew 25:46**; **24:44**