

# Hell: Eternal Torment for *Everyone* There

## I. Introduction

A. Some question whether there will be degrees of punishment in Hell for those who spend eternity there.

## II. “More Tolerable”

A. One of the passages often used by those who believe Scripture proves that there are differing degrees of severity in Hell is one in which Jesus speaks of it being “more tolerable” on the Day of Judgment for Sodom and Gomorrah than for those who rejected the message carried by His disciples sent on the limited commission. This passage, and others like it, seems to stress the severity of choosing to reject the Son of God, and the ability of God to take into account the opportunities each of has as He judges us. **Matthew 10:14-15** (cf. **Matt. 11:20-22**)

## III. “Many Stripes” / “Few Stripes”

A. Another passage that is often assumed to be teaching differing degrees of eternal punishment is one in which Jesus gives an illustration concerning servants who had greater or lesser opportunity in their lord’s work, and were judged accordingly. This, again, shows that God knows what abilities and opportunities each of has, and takes that into account as He judges our lives. **Luke 12:47-48**

## IV. “Heavier Judgment”

A. A third passage is one in which the Holy Spirit speaks to the seriousness of false teaching. This passage demonstrates the need to not flippantly jump into teaching the Lord’s will or treat teaching as if it’s about pursuing preeminence. Instead, we should take speaking as the oracles of God seriously, knowing that God judges false teachers very strictly. **James 3:1**

## V. The Reality for *All* Who Face Hell

A. While some questions related to Hell are not answered by Scripture, what *is* answered makes it clear that everyone who takes the course to Hell will be faced with the most awful torment imaginable, and the pain will continue forever. There is no such thing as “light” punishment in Hell. **Matthew 13:49-50; Mark 9:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**

## VI. Hell: The Wages Earned by *Any* Sin

- A. It’s particularly key to note this as it applies to different types of sins. While Scripture demonstrates that the temporal consequences of sin can vary from one sin to another, this does not infer that certain sins can be ignored as if they present no threat to one’s salvation. *Any* sin that is not forgiven by God separates one from Him. **Romans 6:23; James 2:10**
- B. Since all sin is serious, the key to being right with the Lord is to pursue God’s cure for sin. While everyone *has* sinned, there is a clear distinction made in Scripture between those who accept God’s remedy and those who do not. Part of accepting the salvation God offers is having a heart that will lead us to turn *from* any sin. **Matthew 1:21**

## VII. Conclusion

A. Scripture makes clear that just as all those who spend eternity in Heaven will be blessed with the most wonderful comfort imaginable, all of those who spend eternity in Hell will face endless, horrifying torment. May we each choose wisely. **Matthew 25:46**