

# If You Die and Go To Hell, Who Cares?

Ezekiel 33:10-11

## I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** I love being a gospel preacher! I feel very, very blessed the Lord allows me to engage in the most important work a man can engage in (**1 Cor. 9:17**: "...I have been entrusted with a stewardship." **Phil. 1:17**: "...I am appointed for the defense of the gospel."; **2 Tim. 4:5**: "But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.").
2. It's a joy to share the good news with people! **Jn. 3:16**; **Rom. 5:8**: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
3. However, by far, without question, by far; the vast majority of people I've had the opportunity to teach the gospel have rejected it!
  - A. Most of my family has rejected the gospel!
  - B. The vast majority of my friends have rejected the gospel!
  - C. The vast majority of my co-workers over the years have rejected the gospel!
  - D. The vast majority of my acquaintances have rejected the gospel!
  - E. The vast majority of people who I had the opportunity to teach in Michigan rejected the gospel!
4. I shouldn't be surprised!

**Jn. 3:19-21**: "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."

**2 Cor. 4:3-4**: "those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."; **1 Jn. 2:15-17**
5. I certainly don't know the exact percentages of those who will be saved and those who will be lost; but I know the relative percentages:

**Matt. 7:13-14**: "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: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."
6. I often think about this awful situation and it makes me sad and depressed: **1 Tim. 2:3-4**: "...God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
7. **3** Given the fact the vast majority will, in eternity, find themselves in that infernal region of "everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" and all the preaching in the world is not going to have a major impact on that; a question naturally presents itself: "If you die and go to hell, who cares?"

## II. DISCUSSION:

- I. **4** God Our Father in Heaven Cares:
  - A. God cares enough to have planned our redemption and reconciliation to Himself before the very "foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4).
    - (1) First promise of the Messiah: **Gen. 3:15**: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."
    - (2) Promise to Abraham: **Gen. 12:3**: "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (**Gal. 3:16**: "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ.")

(3) God promised to set up an everlasting kingdom to accomplish his great plan of redemption (2 Sam. 7:16):

- ✓ *“a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”* (Dan. 2:44)
- ✓ A “kingdom...not of this world” (Jn. 18:36),
- ✓ A “stone...cut without hands” (Dan. 2:34),
- ✓ “[T]he true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.” (Heb. 8:2).
- ✓ That “kingdom” was also called the “church” (Matt. 16:18-19).

(4) In the Bible story we see God caring enough to patiently and providentially work over the centuries to fulfill His promise. Then “when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son” (Gal. 4:4) and this kingdom/church was established on the first Pentecost after the death, burial and resurrection of Christ:

**Mk. 9:1:** “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

**Acts 1:8:** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 2:1-4)

**Acts 2:47:** “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

**Col. 1:13-14:** “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

(5) A kingdom in which God will remember our sins no more! Jer. 31:34

B. God cares enough to have taken the time, effort and sacrifice to send His only begotten Son.

**Jn. 3:16:** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” “only begotten”; from Greek *monegenes* (mon-og-en-ace): Thayer: single of its kind (sole or single, alone, only, by themselves).

(1) God did not give us His second best, He gave the very best He had: His “only begotten Son.”

(2) “God’s positive purpose in Christ is the salvation of the unbeliever. Although judgment is the inevitable consequence of disbelief, it is not God’s primary desire for men. The breadth of the invitation is revealed by the ‘whosoever,’ which is as inclusive and indefinite as possible. Salvation is not restricted to any race, color, or class, but is the heritage of all who will truly believe.” (Merrill C. Tenney, *Gospel of Belief* p. 89-90).

(3) God did not wait until man was perfect, or require us to be without sin. For had this been the case Christ would not have needed to come into the world.

(a) **Lk. 19:10:** “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

(b) A physician is not called when you are well but rather when you are in need of aid (**Mk. 2:17:** “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”).

(c) **Rom. 5:8:** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(4) Parable of the lost (prodigal) son: Lk. 15:11-32; God is like that father, waiting and longingly watching for the sinner to return (**v. 20:** “But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.”).

C. **5** The Father’s desire is the salvation of all men, not their condemnation.

**1 Tim. 2:3-4:** “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

**2 Pet. 3:9:** “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

**Ezek. 33:11:** “Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’”

**Matt. 25:41:** “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

D. Thankfully He has seen fit to warn us of the dangers of disobedience (three lines of evidence).

(1) By Old Testament examples; the people of God, the Jews: Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11

(2) By giving us vivid descriptions of hell:

(a) Eternal fire: Matt. 25:41; Mk. 9:43-48

(b) Everlasting punishment: Matt 25:46

(c) Outer darkness: Matt. 8:12

(d) Everlasting destruction: 2 Thess. 1:9

(e) Lake of fire: Rev. 19:20

(3) By giving us a description of those who are going to be there:

(a) Matt 25:41: Devil and his angels.

(b) Rev 21:8: wicked of this world.

(c) Rom. 2:8-9: disobedient.

(d) Those “who do not know God” and those “who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”: 2 Thess. 1:8.

E. Only one who truly cares does all these things for us!

## 2. **6** Jesus Our Savior Cares:

A. Nobody forced Christ to do what He has done for you and me.

**Jn. 15:13:** “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

**1 Tim. 2:6:** “...gave Himself a ransom for all...”

**Jn. 10:17-18:** “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. I 8 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”

B. Came to seek and save that which was lost:

(1) That means He came to seek and save ALL of us! Rom. 3:23 (**Matt. 18:11:** “For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.”).

(2) This was His mission from the very beginning (**Matt. 1:21:** “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”; Vine: “Jehovah is salvation”).

C. Christ knew of the agony He was to endure (recall excruciating).

- (1) Jesus signified His own death: **Jn. 12:32-33**: *“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”* 33 *This He said, signifying by what death He would die.”*; Jn. 3:14-15 Jesus compares Himself to the brazen serpent from the days of Moses (Num. 21).
- (2) In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus cared enough for you and I that He did not see his own will through, but the Father: **Lk. 22:42-44**: *“...He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’ 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”*

D. Christ deeply cares for us:

- (1) He reconciled us to God through His death (**Col. 1:19-23**).
- (2) He makes intercession for us to the Father: **Heb. 7:25**: *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”*
- (3) He knows exactly what it’s like to live as a human and be tempted (**Heb. 2:14-18**).
- (4) He mediates on our behalf before God the Father (1 Tim. 2:5): **Heb. 9:24**: *“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;”*
- (5) He advocates on our behalf to God the Father: **1 Jn. 2:1-2**: *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”*

E. He has not left us in the dark, groping around to find out what the will of the Father is (Jn. 16:13; Eph. 3:1-5; Jude 3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

F. Does Jesus Care? *“Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary, the long long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares.”* (Frank E. Graeff)

3. **7** Heaven Cares:

- A. The angels rejoiced at the birth of Christ (Lk. 2:8-14; **Lk. 2:13-14**: *“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 ‘Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’”*).
- B. This care emanates from the very throne of God in heaven! **Rev. 5:8-14**
- C. The angels rejoice when one repents (**Lk. 15:7**: *“I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”*).

4. **8** The Lost Care:

A. Do you remember the story about the rich man and Lazarus? Lk. 16:19-31

B. We can learn a very important lesson from the rich man:

- (1) Being in torment he realized his eternal destiny.
- (2) He wanted to prevent others from going there:

**Lk. 16:27-31**: *“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ 29 Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”*

- C. Imagine if the dead were able to communicate to us today! I think it's safe to say there would be a different attitude toward the word of God.
  - (1) Like the rich man, the lost would care and say to the living: "Don't come here, listen and obey." "Don't make the awful mistake I made!"
  - (2) They would tell us to obey the gospel and remain faithful no matter what the cost in this life!
  - (3) Carl Sagan (Does he believe his quote now?! *"The cosmos is all that is or was or ever will be."*).
- D. **1 Pet. 4:18:** "Now *'If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?'*" (Grandma Edna)

#### 5. **9** We Care:

- A. As children of God, we are to demonstrate the same loving care towards those who are lost as God expressed toward us (Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
  - (1) We are to go and teach (Mk. 16:15; Matt 28:19-20); not with a baseball bat, but in love.
  - (2) We have a great responsibility toward the lost (Ezek. 33:8-9).
- B. Regardless of how rude, arrogant, obstinate and perverse the lost may be we must never forget the value of everyone! Matt. 16:26; Lk. 15:4-6 (value of the one lost sheep)
  - (1) We must be ready to give and answer for our faith (**1 Pet. 3:15:** *"always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"*).
  - (2) We must maintain a tender heart and attitude toward the lost (**Matt. 5:43-45:** *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;"*).
  - (3) We must set a good example to reflect the marvelous light of God that others might want to come to God (**Matt. 5:16:** *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*).
- C. We care by not "soft soaping" the gospel (Acts 20:27; 2:37; 7:54); by not adding or subtracting from God's Word (1 Pet. 4:11; Rev. 22:18-19).

#### 6. **10** Do You Care?

- A. Your actions indicate your attitude towards caring; if you are a Christian your attitude towards doing all the commands of Christ is indicative of your love for Him (Jn. 14:15; **1 Jn. 5:2-3:** *"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."*).
- B. If you are not a child of God do your actions say you care about your soul? Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ? Are you worshiping God in the right manner? Studying His word with a mind to obey it? Do you get mad when someone corrects you and show you the error of your ways?

### III. Conclusion: **11**

- 1. If you die and go to hell, there are many who care, they desperately care! YES!
- 2. But ultimately their care matters little; in the end, the most important thing is this: Do you really care enough about your own soul?
- 3. **\*\*** If you care, why not do something about it NOW! **2 Cor. 6:2:** *"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*

Adapted from a sermon (If You Die and God To Hell, Who Cares?) by John Cripps.