

Choosing Eternal Living

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Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the **strait gate**
Matthew 24:48 If that **evil servant** shall say in
Matthew 6:15 if ye forgive **not** men their trespasses
Matthew 25:41 Say also unto them on the **left**
Luke 18:24 How **hardly** shall they that have riches
John 12:48 hath one that judgeth him: the **word**
John 15:6 If anyone does **not** remain in me
Romans 2:5-7 treasuring up for yourself **wrath**
2 Corinthians 4:3 If our gospel be **hid**, it is hid to
2 Timothy 3:15 From a child thou hast **known**

The greatest danger we face is eternal suffering in the Lake of Fire! It is too *horrible* to imagine, but it is the *fate* of most people in the world—and is why Jesus warns again and again:
AV **Matthew 7:13** “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.”

The few enter eternal living AV **Matthew 7:14** “Because *strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*”

Our life does not have to end at the wide road, because God has given us a *choice*—we can choose *eternal living* at the end of the narrow road.

A decision has to be made to give our *heart* to God for Him to teach us what we need to know to enter the kingdom. It is a *huge* decision and must be made—either to follow the Word of God to *eternal joy*; or to follow the way of the world to *eternal shame*!

Every soul will eventually arrive at *one of two* possible destinations—both are *real places* with *real people* there forever!

A sulfuric lake on fire is a terrifying thought—and it was the fate of the servant who was taken by surprise.

AV **Matthew 24:48-49** “If that **evil servant** shall say in his heart, *My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken.*”

Many think that since Jesus has not returned after all this time—*Will He ever return?* [they say]. And, *Since we don’t know, let us eat, party, and drink wine. Let us treat people any way we want and get revenge on those who hurt us.*

If *that* is our thinking, then like the wicked servant, we will be taken by surprise when the Master returns suddenly—who then will

51 “Cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

There is another servant who did not grow spiritually; did not follow God’s plan of life and showed no godly example or spiritual fruit for others to emulate. He hid God’s Truth by not living it and met the *same* fate.

AV **Matthew 25:30** “Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

God’s financial plan of *trust* for real needs in this *life* is a vital truth, but *most* people are not willing to do that, and they will make excuses to avoid obeying God.

They are *not willing* to give donations when asked; they will *not sell* real estate holdings

and give the proceeds to charity. Jesus said AV **Luke 18:24** “How *hardly* shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!”

Any place where trust on God is eliminated, Satan keeps diminishing our faith and leading us away from trust on God. It is why Jesus warns:

AV **Matthew 18:3** “Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Any part of our life where self still controls, spiritual growth is stifled—spiritual fruit *must increase* **John 15:16!**

The lake of fire is a *real place*, and people are suffering *real torture* there because they were not willing to see *spiritual fruit* in their life by trusting God to help them.

This horrible *place* is for those who do not love, forgive, or show compassion for others. If no change in attitude is forthcoming, Jesus would have to say:

AV **Matthew 25:41** “unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

The suffering in Hell never ends, so Jesus never stops warning that a burning lake *must* be avoided at all costs. Anything that *causes* us to sin must be cast from us!

AV **Mark 9:47-48** “It is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

The rich man never learned to trust God on earth, but in Hell he said AV **Luke 16:24** “I am tormented in this flame.”

The anguish of this horrible place is NKJV **Revelation 14:11** “The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night.” It is a place of eternal regret and never-ending torment!

There is much suffering in the world, but nothing can compare to the horrors of Hell. It is

not just a place for criminals but is also for those who never allowed God to take *rebellion* out their heart—never got rid of idols!

AV John 3:3 “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*”

Jesus warned AV Matthew 6:15 “*if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”

It was the fate of the unforgiving servant— NKJV Matthew 18:35 “*My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.*”

Our life must be *reborn* and our heart *reset* so God can replace our *rebellious* heart with a *submissive* heart—a heart that will trust Him to bring change in us—a change that is desperately needed in *all of us!*

If we remain hardened in heart NKJV Romans 2:5-7 “*You are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality.*”

To persist in **doing good**, is to persist in **trusting God**. Hell can be avoided by a choice to *listen* and *learn* when God reveals a wrong *attitude* in our heart, or a wrong *decision* we have made.

The lake of fire is truly a *horrible* place—and the majority of people go there *despite* all the warnings.

God just asks us to *repent*, *believe* in His Son, and *trust* in His divine power—to heal us; to protect us; to treat others as we want to be treated; and to ask Him every day for a forgiving heart toward everyone!

The penalty for *not* trusting God for *purity* of heart is serious—it has us acting like the world:

NKJV Galatians 5:19 “*Adultery, fornication, uncleanness [impurity WEY], lewdness [indecenty],*

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.”

The apostle had previously warned them— “*that those who practice such things will not inherit [have no share in] the kingdom of God.*”

It is *vital* that we allow God to work with us and to deliver us from worldly ways of acting, reacting, and responding!

The *Bible* is the *final authority*, and it teaches us everything God wants us to know to be eligible to enter His kingdom.

AV 2 Timothy 3:15 “*From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*”

Everyone’s heart *has* to be *converted* to one that will trust *God* as a child trusts a parent. If we are *not* willing to have that conversion work done AV Matthew 18:3 “*ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*”

Our *destiny* is *determined* by what we do with the Truth of the Bible.

Jesus said AV John 12:48 “*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*”

God wants *everyone* to be saved 2 Peter 3:9, but there are *multitudes* in the flames *now* who would give *anything* for another chance to repent.

It all depends on the *attitude* of the heart—whether we show spiritual fruit by our attitudes toward others.

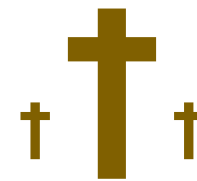
NIV John 15:6 “*If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers.*”

To remain *in Him* means to *follow Him* in responding to wrongs or reacting to insults with kindness and forgiveness. Such offenses give the opportunity to *learn* from them by reacting scripturally.

If we react like the *world*, we will be the “*branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.*”

To choose the way to *eternal living* is to choose the response of the *living Word*

NIV Galatians 5:22 which is a *fruit of the Spirit*—“*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.*”



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