

# The Path - Basic Christian Doctrine

## Day 14: Eternal Judgement

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We have been studying the six basic Christian doctrines listed in the book of Hebrews. These are listed in Hebrews 5:12 through 6:2. We have covered the first five principles. Today we will explain what the scriptures teach about the sixth doctrine, eternal judgement.

Jesus definitely and on many occasions taught that the judgement men will face after death will be eternal in length; and that heaven will be eternal as well. Consider the following scriptures:

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_."
- Matthew 18:8: "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 \_\_\_\_\_ fire."
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ life."

The apostles likewise taught that Heaven and judgment are eternal:

- Romans 6:22: "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end \_\_\_\_\_ life."
- Galatians 6:8: "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting."
- Jude 1:6-7: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, 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."
- Revelation 20:10-15: "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and

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night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

There are a multitude of additional scriptures which prove that Jesus and His apostles believed and taught that there are eternal rewards for living for Him and eternal punishments for living without Him. The judgement for living without Him is given in the scripture above: “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”. This is an extremely frightening passage. It should cause every one of us to soberly consider our decisions and actions in life.

Heaven on the other hand is a place of eternal blessings and relationship with Jesus Christ. It is described in Revelation chapter 21. You will want to read the entire chapter, but for now let's read verses 2 through 4:

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 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.”

God has provided a beautiful future for those that love Him. Aren't you glad that you are making preparations to be in that future with Him?



**Discussion:**

- 1. Why do you think that “eternal judgement” is one of the basic Christian doctrines listed as a foundational doctrine of Christ?**
- 2. Why do you think some do not prepare for an everlasting future?**
- 3. Why do you think that God made heaven so beautiful?**
- 4. How do you think it is possible that Christians will have no sorrow in eternity?**