

The Certainty of Hell
for the Unrepentant Sinner

and

The 8 Vital Signs
of the
True Believer

Who Has Been

“Saved From The Wrath To Come”

(1 Thessalonians 1:10)

Grace Bible Church
P.O. Box 303
Urbana, IL 61801

The Surety of Hell for the Unrepentant Sinner

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Hebrews 9:27 ...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Nahum 1:3 The LORD *is* slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all ["never"] acquit *the wicked*:

Can we know precisely who will be lost? (John 3:18-20)

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

1Corinthians 6:9, 10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (see 1 Corinthians 5:11 for exhortation to the Saved!!)

Matthew 12:36, 37 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Read Matthew 5 for full context on what God considers sin!

Will any man escape without God's intervention?

Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case [i.e., "in no way"] enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

By what standard will men be judged?

John 12:47-49 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 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. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

2Timothy 4:1-4 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

What is Hell (from the Greek: “hades”)?

Hell is the place of the dead. It is the temporary destination of the unrepentant sinner awaiting the White Throne Judgment, the “holding cell” for those who are eternally damned!

Revelation 20:11-15 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.

What is “the lake of fire,” the “second death?”

The Lake of Fire is the unrepentant sinner’s eternal destination, i.e., the “hell” Christ taught which was translated from the Greek “*gehenna*.” It is described by God’s Word as never ending consciousness and sorrow (Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31).

Matthew 13:41-42 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Revelation 14:9, 10 ...If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: [see **Luke 19:11-27**]

A foreview of the horror of the eternal Lake of Fire:

Isaiah 66:23, 24 (judgment in the millennial kingdom)

And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

To better appreciate the seriousness of eternal damnation, God's great hatred of sin, and His future, unrelenting and unmerciful judgment of all unrepentant sinners, read Proverbs 1:24-31; Ezekiel 8:18; Isaiah 33:10-14; 63:3.

God's Description of Eternal Damnation—A State of Being—An Existence

Daniel 12:2	Shame and everlasting contempt
Matthew 24:51	Weeping and gnashing of teeth
Matthew 25:46	Everlasting punishment (Mark 9:44 "their worm dieth not")
Luke 3:17	Unquenchable fire
Romans 2:8, 9	Indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish
2 Thessalonians 1:9	Everlasting destruction
Jude 7, 13	Eternal fire; blackness of darkness forever

Luke 12:5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear [God].

Does God take pleasure in damning unrepentant sinners?

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

“What shall we do?”

This is the question his brethren asked Peter when the Holy Spirit had convicted them that they had rejected and crucified the Hope of Israel, Jesus the Christ, that they could not save themselves by any good works of religion and, consequently, that they were subject to the wrath of God and eternal damnation.

God’s Word tells us that the only way to heaven is His Way, by grace alone through faith alone in the finished cross-work of the LORD Jesus Christ alone. He, as the Lamb of God, died in sinful man’s place, satisfying God’s justice by paying the price for man’s sins: death. Then, having satisfied God, He rose from death and the grave with justification and the offer of eternal life for all who believe that His cross-work on their behalf is the only and all-sufficient payment for their salvation from God’s eternal wrath.

Galations 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, ...for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (read Matt 4:20)

Romans 5:6-9 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Romans 10:6-13 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*;) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? ...That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved...For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The Eight “Vital Signs” (or Evidences) of True Saving Faith

2Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you [Galatians 2:20], except ye be reprobates?

John 15:2 **Every** branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and **every** branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (Matt 7:21-23; Luke 8:5-15)

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

True salvation is not evidenced by mere religious works no matter how commendable (see Matthew 7:21-23). True salvation is evidenced by the undeniable work of God’s Spirit in the personal life of the Believer. The following 8 “vital signs” of new life in Christ are adapted from Dr. Steven Lawson’s book, Absolutely Sure. All of these will be manifested to some degree in every person who is truly born again. If these are not present in one’s life, there can be no absolute assurance of eternal salvation.

1John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1. Do you *desire communion, fellowship with Christ* which is disassociated from your temporal circumstances, needs or desires? (1 John 1:1-4)
2. Do you *abhor sin, any sin, and routinely practice the confession of your sins to the LORD?* (1 John 1:5-2:2)
3. Do you *delight in and have a deepening commitment to God’s Word*, i.e., do you seriously, sincerely, voluntarily and diligently study the Bible to better know God and discover His will for your life, and direction for your thoughts, decisions and walk, i.e., do you seek greater comprehension of its truths for the purpose of applying them to your life? (1 John 2:3-6; 2:18-27; 4:1-6)

4. Do you have *sincere compassion and love for believers* which is evidenced by self-sacrifice, especially, in regard to the needs of the members of Christ's body who worship in the local congregation in which He has placed you? Do you respond selflessly to the sincere needs of others and humble yourself before spiritual instruction and exhortation? (1 John 2:7-11)

5. Is there a *growing change of desires* in you which is manifested by your forsaking all worldliness (thoughts, words, deeds, fellowships), and seeking the godliness, the personal holiness, commanded by the LORD? (1 John 2:12-17)

6. Do you show *increasing conformity to Christ*? When others who know you best consider the fruit, facts and patterns of your life, do they see Christ in you? Are your actions consistent with your words? (1 John 2:28-3:10)

7. Are you in *undeserved conflict (nonconformity) with the world*? Does your life witness against the world around you? Do you walk in charitable faithfulness, as a "light" in the dark world of sin, showing forth the fruit of the true saving grace of God and accomplishing a "salt work" in the unbelievers around you; or, in contradiction to God's holy way, is the world comfortable with you, and you with the world? (1 John 3:11-13)

8. Do you have *increasing confidence and fellowship in prayer*? Is your relationship with the LORD truly personal and fruitful? Are your prayers Christ-centered and focused on His glory? Are your prayers answered? Do you pray in faith, "nothing wavering?" Does your prayer reflect the instructions and examples given in the Word of God, or are they, primarily and in contradiction to God's desires, self-centered and focused on the temporal things of this life, i.e., your personal circumstances and desires? (1 John 3:19-24; 5:14-15)