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HOW FAR DOES LOVE GO?

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THE RIGHTEOUS PURPOSE OF GOD'S JUDGMENTS

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A COMPELLING BIBLICAL CASE AFFIRMING ALL GOD'S JUDGMENTS HAVE A GOOD, TIME-LIMITED AND REMEDIAL PURPOSE

Have you experienced the sad passing of a friend or a loved one and grieved in uncertainty over his or her eternal destiny? Have you ever had trouble sleeping because you were tortured with fear of dying and going to a never-ending hell yourself? You are not alone. As I read "Hope Beyond Hell", I cried for joy. It assures us of a Love that is greater than our worst vices...a Love that never gives up on us and never fails no matter how miserably we may fail. **Charles Slagle** – author of "From the Father's Heart." Prophetic psalmist, evangelist, and worship leader.

Are you at peace regarding the eternal destiny of your children, parents, brothers, sisters, grandfather, grandmother, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends? Are you experiencing abundant joy in your "personal" salvation while unsure if some of your loved ones might suffer throughout all eternity? How is that possible? **You see, we Christians have a problem, a very serious problem.** The problem is in our belief that hell is "eternal" and that most of humanity will go there. Deep inside we know something is not right, but we suppress our questions and doubts because we "think" the Bible teaches it. What inner conflict rages within! It is futile to find satisfying answers to the problems it raises. For example:

☞ How can an all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving God create billions of people knowing most will be tormented in hell forever?

☞ Why must our free will to damn ourselves be "absolute," to the point it is greater than God's "free will" to save us—His property?

☞ How can Adam's power to condemn us be greater than Christ's power to save us?

Please do not accept pat answers to these critical questions. Jesus commands us to judge for ourselves what is right (Lu 12:57). What is right about a punishment that never ends? **Do we serve God because we are afraid of Him, or because He loves us?**

What does the Bible say?

My flesh will...rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in hell. Ps 16:9-10 [The Hebrew word for 'hell' is 'shoel'. It means the departed place.]

The Lord...brings down to [shoel] and brings up again. 1Sa. 2:6

God will redeem my soul from the power of [shoel], for He shall receive me. Ps. 49:15

Great is Your mercy toward me...You have delivered my soul from the depths of hell [shoel].
Ps 86:13

I will ransom them from the power of [shoel]. Hos 13:14a

O [shoel], I will be your destruction. Hos 13:14b

The Lord will not cast off forever. Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies. Lam 3:31-32

The last enemy that will be destroyed is death...O hell [Greek word is 'Hades'. Equivalent to 'Shoel' in meaning], where is your victory? 1Cor 15:26,55

Jesus said, "**Fear not, I...have the keys of hell and of death.**" Rev 1:17-18 "Fear not?" How is that possible if hell is forever? The fact that Christ holds the keys means simply that He will release its captives at the proper time. 1Pet 3:19, 4:6 reads "He [Christ who holds hell's keys] went and preached to the spirits in prison...the gospel was preached also to those who are dead." Does this not offer hope beyond hell?

Jesus said, "Truly...you will not come out of there [prison] until you have paid up the last cent." Mt 5:26 "Until he should repay all. So my heavenly Father also will do the same to you." Mt 18:34-5 (See also Luke 12:57-9).

If judgment is "until" the last cent is paid, or "until" he should repay all, how can it be forever?

"For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you." Mt 7:2. **If judgment is measured exactly according to what we deserve, how can it be eternal? Eternity is not measurable.**

"Everyone will be salted with fire." (In the context of 'Gehenna' fire – another greek word translated 'hell'. It means the Judge's fire) Mark 9:49. What is the spiritual sense of "Gehenna fire" **if everyone will experience it?**

"The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the devil's works." 1John 3:8. How are the devil's works destroyed if he wins 98% of humanity and Christ only 2%?

"A bruised reed shall He not break...till He send forth judgment unto victory." Matt 12:20. How is "judgment unto victory" compatible with an eternal hell?

"What man of you...does not leave the 99...and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?" Luke 15:4. Does not "until he finds it" offer hope that God will do the same with His lost sheep?

"His mercy endures forever." Ps 107:1 (repeated 40 times). What comfort can this bring if hell is a hopeless state?

If "God is love", (1John 4:8,16) and "Love never fails", (1Cor 13:8) how can there be no hope?

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" Gen 18:25. **What is right about a punishment that never ends?**

“His anger is but a moment...weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” Ps 30:5. A moment? A night? Do not these time words underline the fact that God’s judgments are limited and purposeful?

“To Him belongs mercy: He renders to each one according to his work.” Ps 62:12. **How can a punishment that has absolutely no end ever be according to works?**

“He turns man to destruction; and says, return, you children of men.” Ps 90:3. Return? Wow!

“Shout joyfully...for He is coming to judge the earth with righteousness and equity.” Ps 89:6-9. What is joyful about infinite suffering? But there is great joy in knowing God’s judgments have a righteous and remedial purpose!

“He is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in mercy and will not always strive with us, nor keep his anger forever.” Ps 103:8-9. Wow!

“He shall see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. Isa 53:11. Satisfied? **Can Christ be satisfied if hell robs Him of most people for whom He died?**

“He...is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” 1John 2:2. If Christ has already paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world, what gets paid for in an eternal hell? How is this legally “just” to Christ, who has paid the ultimate price for all?

“I bring you glad tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” Luke 2:10. “All people?” How do glad tidings for “all people” harmonize with an eternal hell for “most”?

“Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more. Rom 5:20. If 98% of the earth’s people are forever lost, should it not read “much less”?

“God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all...How unsearchable are His judgments! Rom 11:32-33.

Much more grace? Mercy on all? Unsearchable judgments? How can some insist hell is forever, in light of such statements?

“His hand is not too short to redeem, nor does He lack the power.” Isa 50:2. “With God all things are possible.” Mark 10:27. **Does not “all things are possible” (with a God who lacks no power to redeem) include the possibility that God rescues those in hell?**

Every knee will bow...in heaven...earth...under the earth...every tongue...confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil 2:10-11 (Isa 45:23; Rom 10:10; 1Cor 12:3). **What truly gives God glory, a “forced” worship or one given “freely” from the heart?** My book submits 15 Biblical points why this is so.

The above texts are a small sampling of what you will find in **Hope Beyond Hell**. Read all 10 chapters of solid Biblical evidence **free** online. Included is an appendix of 160 passages strongly affirming this hope.

Dear friend, even if there is only a slight chance for such a hope; isn’t it worth checking out?

“Test all things” (1Thess 5:21) Have you tested the teaching of an “eternal” hell? As you read **Hope Beyond Hell** **free** online, you will see that the Bible offers strong support for hope. If you find I am manipulating the Scriptures, then leave it. But if not, be ready to fall in love with an amazing and wonderful God!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gerry Beauchemin has been involved in fulltime missions since 1988. He has served as a missionary in Mexico, the Philippines, and Senegal , West Africa with Youth With A Mission (YWAM), The Luke Society, and Philippine Health Care Ministries. Since 2001, he has been directing Dental Training For Missions in Brownsville, Texas where he trains missionaries to provide simplified dental care with the love, gentleness, and compassion of Christ. He and his wife, Denise, (of 27 years), have three daughters.

What makes Gerry confident He is qualified to write on this theme?

☞ He has extensively reflected upon, read the works of others, and for many years wrestled with and studied the Scriptures on this theme. He has found solid Biblical evidence for his conclusion of hope.

☞ He has agonized for most of his life over hell and understands the contradictions it brings upon the Christian faith.

☞ Though he considers himself unqualified by academic standards, he is spurred on by the thought that God chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1Co. 1:26-9; Mt. 11:25 KJV).

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