

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## MOVING INTO ETERNITY

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### PART 2: PREPARING FOR HEAVEN

#### **GOD'S THREE PRISONS**

I have heard a few pastors speak about the judgment seat of Christ but never about there being a prison in heaven. Let's see what the Bible has to say about the matter. **Hebrews 10:26-31**

The Bible says there are three places that God has created as punishment for those who has rebelled against Him:

1. The first place of punishment is hell, also known as Gehenna, the Pit or Hades. This is a place located in the midst of the earth. **Numbers 16:28-34; Isaiah 5:14-15; Revelation 20:1-3; 7**

Hell is a temporary place where the prisoners are tormented. **Luke 16:19-26**

A better description would be to say it is God's jail where the unsaved that died in their sins are kept until the Great White Throne Judgment. **Revelation 20:10-15**

2. God's permanent prison is called The Lake of Fire; it was prepared for the Devil and his fallen angels. **Matthew 25:41**

There will be no escape from the Lake of Fire; it is an eternal place of torment. **Revelation 21:8**

3. But there is also a third prison that God has prepared for believers who lived unrepentantly and a life of rebellion on earth. Roman Catholics calls this place Purgatory but they have not understood how this place works.

Jesus warned of prison but stated that it was not a permanent place of torment; rather, people will come out of it when they have paid for the sins they willfully committed on earth. **Matthew 5:23-26; Luke 12:58-59; Matthew 18:23-35**

#### **THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

In examining the three instances where Jesus spoke of punishment, it is clear that He was speaking of punishment after death for believers in Christ. These are not obscure verses, but taken in context which they are presented validates my claim that there will be a prison in heaven for rebellious Christians who will have to spend time with the tormenters until they have paid for their willful sins in full.

I also want to point out that after the Great White Throne Judgment has taken place, the heavens and the earth will be dissolved with fervent heat. There won't be a prison or torment in the new creation. **Isaiah 51:6; 2 Peter 3:9-13; Revelation 21:1**



Many eternal positions will be lost because of rebellion on earth. **Matthew 5:17-19**

You will not be judged in comparison to other people; instead, you will be judged for what you did with the talents and resources you were given on earth. **1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11**

Life is about choice. You can choose to be born again or reject God's love offered through Jesus' death on the cross. If you choose to repent, what then? Will you work out your salvation with fear and trembling? **Philippians 2:12-16**

Jesus made it clear how you are to work out your salvation. **Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-26**

## **SUMMARY**

No Christian will score 100% at the Judgment Seat of Christ. What you need to do is repent on a daily basis so that you will have as little sin as possible showing up at your trial.

Every Christian has been disobedient at some point after they were saved; we just have to live with the consequences and focus on spending eternity with our Heavenly Father, who will dry all our tears of regret and make us forget the past and the rewards we lost by our actions on earth. **Revelation 21:1-7**

In the meantime there is still a sowing and reaping on this earth, and we would do well to heed the apostle Paul's words:

*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 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. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* (Galatians 6:7-9)

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

***Do you have an ear to hear with?***