

The Terror of Hell

- I. Supernatural Realities
 - a. Knocking on door
 - b. Grim Reaper
 - c. Etc.
- II. Disclaimers
 - a. I'm confident that if I died TODAY that I'd be with Jesus forever.
 - b. I don't believe that one sin in the life of a Christian will definitely, automatically send you to Hell.
 - i. God loves us. He understands that we are in a process of sanctification and some failure is to be expected.
 - ii. It's our reaction to that failure that is so important. The Bible is a story of redemption and it should go without saying that we can fail and then embrace redemption, forgiveness and enjoy the hope of the prodigal.
 - iii. However, if we choose to *continue in sin, without repentance*, without turning from darkness to Jesus, we absolutely are at risk of Hell. The Bible makes it so clear that it's shocking that it's even debated.
 - iv. **Heb 10:26** *For if we go on [sinning](#) deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the [law](#) of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified,*

*and has outraged the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” **31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

- c. I do believe we don't ever have to sin again.
 - i. One of the reasons unbiblical grace is so popular is because so many Christians presume that we are all expected to sin every day. How tragic a theology that must be to live out!
 - ii. We are no longer sinners. We are saints. True grace is so powerful that it enables us to live free from sin! If we sin every day, we have a sin problem and we should certainly be shocked into reality.
- d. I don't live my life in fear of Hell.
 - i. **1 John 4:16** *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **17** By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.*
- e. I don't believe it's easy to lose your salvation.
 - i. **Acts 3:19** *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,*
- f. I do understand the miraculous, glorious work of the cross.
 - i. **Jude 24** *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the*

*presence of his glory with great joy, **25** to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*

- g. I do believe we must stay awake, pray and watch.
 - i. The key reason I believe we must see the prayer movement escalate, and contend for every Christian to become invested in continual prayer is that the temptation to fall will be overwhelming as the end draws near.
 - ii. **Mat 26:40** *And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? **41** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*
 - iii. **Do you know what that temptation was? Denying Christ.**
 - h. I don't believe the state of our position in Christ is a mystery.
 - i. Live a life of joyful repentance!
 - ii. **Mat 24:9** *“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*
- III. Eternity
- a. **Rev 3:1** *“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven*

*stars. “I know your **works**. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. **2** Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. **3** Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.*

- a. On average, 1.8 people die every second. That's over 155,000 every day. Most of them will end up in Hell.
 - a. There is no resting in peace.
 - b. When I hear of celebrities dying, I watch the masses celebrate their life on earth while fully ignoring their present reality in eternity.
 - c. Since just a minute ago, around 100 more people have died.
 - i. For many of them it was unexpected.
 - ii. Just over 60 seconds ago, all was well as it had been for years.
 - iii. Now many of them are in the clutches of unrelenting darkness.
 - iv. The grip is too tight to struggle free from. It will never loosen.
- b. One of the most damning things we can do is having confidence in the sinner's prayer.
 - a. Our eternity is not dependent on a moment in time when you said a prayer, whether it's as a young person or on your death bed.
 - b. We must work out our salvation with fear and trembling.
 - c. Only those who endure to the end will be saved.

- i. It's not a prayer we say at the beginning of our walk with God, it's his analysis of our lives at the end.
 - ii. Have we been obedient, pure, intimate with Jesus, passionate?
 - d. But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. **Romans 2:5-8 (ESV)**
- c. Hounds of Hell dream
 - a. In one moment people are jumping and shouting during worship, we are crying out for revival, and the next moment they are viewing pornography, they are bitter, they are faithless, they refuse to forgive.
 - b. We cannot presume to be spiritual if we are aligning with the enemy.
 - c. Silence of the Lambs story
 - d. ¹ *"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. **Revelation 3:1-2 (ESV)***

- d. This raging fire of revival that we're talking about must be viewed in light of the raging fires of Hell that are burning right now beneath our feet.
 - a. People are there right now, and nobody in this room is exempt.
 - b. **Matthew 23:33-34 (NIV)** ³³ "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? ³⁴ Therefore I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.
 - c. This is the need for prophetic messengers to the church!
 - i. The church must awaken the church and slow the flow to Hell!
 - e. **Matthew 25:29-30 (NIV)** ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
 - a. He's talking about servants here!
- IV. My most controversial belief
- a. I give myself an 80% chance of making Heaven.
 - i. **1 Tim 4:1** *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...*
 - i. Those who are currently in the faith are at risk. I am currently in the faith. I am at risk.

- f. I believe we absolutely can have a certain measure of confidence in our position in Christ. We are saved by the grace of God.
 - g. The power of the blood of Christ is indescribable and I am fully dependent on the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.
 - a. As I respond to his gift and live in repentance, from a place of loving surrender and intimacy with him I know he has me. He's mine and I'm his.
 - b. If I died today, I'm quite confident I'd be welcomed into glorious eternity.
 - h. What I am not sure of (as nobody can be) is what decisions I will make TOMORROW.
 - a. My very strong free will will always provide me the opportunity to lose my love, to fall into sin and to become lukewarm.
 - i. **Rev 3:15** *"I know your [works](#): you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! **16** So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.*
 - b. Story of Andrea
- V. The Dream
- a. Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

- b. We see two critical keys to salvation here:
 - i. Knowing Jesus- To be received Jesus, we must know Jesus. We must be hungry and intimate. We must ask, seek and knock.
 - 1. The pursuit of great intimacy with our Bridegroom must be intense and continual.
 - 2. It's not about our position, it's about our love and our obedience.
 - ii. Lawlessness- In my dream I represented a lawless church, or a lawless person.
 - 1. I wanted to be in control of my own experience.
 - 2. I was focused on what satisfied, on what comforted.
 - 3. I was not alert to the storm or surrendered to a place of radical participation in the moment.
- VI. Let's dispel something right now- 'salvation' is not primarily about 'making it' to heaven. It's identifying with the Lover of our souls, the maker of the world and coming to a place of agreement. A place of complete surrender.
- VII. **Rev 3:17** *For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.*
- VIII. If heaven was never guaranteed for you, would you still crave and love Jesus so much that you would give up everything you

have on the earth just to spend the next 30-60 years with him in wonderful intimacy?

- a. Of course, when Jesus finds his lovers on the earth, those who have an intense yearning in the depths of their hearts to be with Him, he simply can't wait to spend eternity with them! That's what the cross was all about!
- b. It wasn't a ticket to heaven or immunity from hell. It was a model of perfect love in an imperfect and hateful world.
- c. That's why he is calling us to carry our cross- it's the evidence of our love and desire for our Bridegroom.

IX. Rich Young Ruler

- a. **Matthew 19:13-22 (NIV)** ¹³ Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. ¹⁴ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
 - i. This verse precedes the next intentionally. We must be people of innocence, wonder, love and desire!
- b. ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. ¹⁶ Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" ¹⁷ "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." ¹⁸ "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁰ "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your

possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

- X. Now, consider how this story goes. Someone decides he wants to follow Jesus, *yet on his own terms*. This person could easily be found going to a vibrant church every Sunday, repeating a sinner's prayer, lifting his hands in worship, leading a small group, witnessing on the streets and owning several bibles.
- a. *Remember, the Rich Young Ruler made the choice to follow Jesus.* Most any pastor or evangelist would quickly rejoice and lead this man in a prayer. He would fill out a card and would be directed on how to connect in the church. This scenario plays out day after day after day around the world. Yet, in this story Jesus did not offer a sinner's prayer, a card to fill out or membership in the church. Jesus rejected this man! This man was what we would call a 'good man'. He kept the commandments. However, Jesus required more from this man. Jesus will always search the hearts of those who wish to follow him. In the end of this sad story, Jesus literally communicated to this man who wanted to be a follower of Jesus that he may not follow! Incredible!
 - a. Salvation is not free- we can't buy it, but there is a cost.
 - b. There is serious work involved, obedience. The Word tells us the lukewarm will be rejected by God.
 - c. However, there is a type of person who lives a substandard Christian life that will 'make it' to Heaven.

- d. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (NIV)** ¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.
- e. This scripture reveals a very narrow exception for people whose fruit is proven to be lacking and unacceptable. This person will be saved- but barely. The scripture goes on to clarify the serious nature of eternal life. It's not a simple matter, nor a light matter. If we destroy God's temple, we will be destroyed. If we reveal inappropriate fruit, we may still be saved. But, if our work endures, and our temple is pure, salvation is a guarantee. We can be confident in our eternal position, though I often find myself crying out to God something like, "Father, my heart longs for intimacy with you. I know I fail so often. I know I choose comfort over you at times. Please, Lord, help me ensure that you and I remain intimate. We remain in love. I don't take your relationship or your salvation lightly. I know it's

possible to lose that relationship and that salvation. Help me surrender all, take up my cross and excitedly follow you. I love you.”

- i. Note that my fear isn't in missing Heaven, but rather in losing intimacy.
 - ii. A lack of desire for intimacy, for prayer, is an indicator of an at risk position in Christ. This is very serious.
 - iii. Saved people develop a craving to be with their Lover- Jesus.
 1. Continual prayer is an obvious reality for those who want to enjoy God freely.
 2. Christians are confounded with the prayer movement- they can't understand why people would pray like this!
- b. Now, the call is this- Jesus is zealous about us and his love burns. He wants us to know him!
- c. **2 Peter 3:9-12 (NIV)** ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.