

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, . . .” Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 (NIV)

#1 At death, do Christians go to purgatory? Absolutely Not!

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, Purgatory is “*a place or condition of temporal punishment for those who, departing this life in God’s grace, are not entirely free from venial (forgivable) faults, or have not fully paid the satisfaction due to their transgressions.*”

Jesus suffered for our sins so that we could be delivered from suffering. To say that we must also suffer for our sins is to say that Jesus’ suffering was insufficient. (Rom. 5:8; Isaiah 53:5)

“*He [Jesus] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*” 1 John 2:2 (NIV)

“*. . . we are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*” 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NIV)

What happens after you die depends on what happens before you die. One of two places, heaven (present/Intermediate state) or hell.

#2 Is There a “Second Chance” after Death? NO!

“*It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment*” Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV). This is an appointment no one will miss.

#3 Can I Contact the Dead after They Are Gone? NO!

“*Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled (dishonored) by them. I am the LORD your God.*” Leviticus 19:31 (NIV)

#4 What Happens at the Moment of Death?

- a. For the Saved: directly goes to the present heaven. (2 Corinthians 5:8)
- b. For the Unsaved: directly goes to hell.

Will Hell Be the Party Place? No!

Hell is a never-ending place of torment and suffering. (Luke 16:23,24; Matthew 22:13; 25:30; Romans 2:9)

“He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.” 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (NIV)

If God is such a good God why would he send a person to hell? He doesn't! He never has sent anyone to hell, individuals send themselves. (John 12:47-48; John 3:16-21)

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell” Matthew 10:28 (NIV)

“There is a way to stay out of hell, but no way to get out” God has done everything He can possibly do to keep a person from going to hell. He even gave His Son to die for you while we were still a sinner.

#5 But here is the good news. . . Jesus Has the Keys

“I am [Jesus] the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” Revelation 1:18 (NIV)

Question, after all you have accomplished in this life, when your life is over. . . what then?

How should you then respond?

a. Accept Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Jesus promises, *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life”* John 5:24 (NIV)

b. Then warn others of the judgment to come. The apostle Paul makes this application when he explains that *“since ... we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men”* (2 Corinthians 5:11).

What happens after you die depends on what happens before you die.

Something to remember: God doesn't want you to believe and serve him just so you can stay out of hell. He is a good and loving God and Father who wants the best for you.