

Why Do People Go to Hell?: Clarifying the Cause of Eternal Punishment *IS THIS TRUE? "The only sin that sends people to hell is the sin of unbelief."*

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

ὁ πιστεύων	The [one] believing
εἰς αὐτὸν	in regards to him
οὐ κρίνεται.	not is being condemned .
ὁ δὲ μὴ πιστεύων	And the [one] not believing
ἤδη κρίνεται,	already stands condemned ,
ὅτι μὴ πεπίστευκεν	because not having come to believe (→)
εἰς τὸ ὄνομα	in regards to the name
τοῦ μονογενοῦς υἱοῦ	of the only-begotten Son
τοῦ θεοῦ.	of the God.

1. God's Wrath Continues Against Sin

Rom 1:18-19 For the **wrath** of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.

Eph 5:3-6 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the **wrath** of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

διὰ ταῦτα γὰρ ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας.

Col 3:5-7 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.⁶ Because of these things the **wrath** of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

δι' ἃ ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ θεοῦ [ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας].

2. Sin Remains the Cause of Deadness in Unbelievers

Eph 2:1-3 And you *He made alive*, who were **dead** in trespasses and sins,² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

3. The Wages of Sin Is Still Death

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of **sin** is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. The Guilt and Judgment of Sin Remains Until Salvation

John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Acts 10:43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

Acts 26:18 "to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

Gal 3:22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

John 16:8-11 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:⁹ "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

5. Sinful Works Will Be the Measure for Judgment to Unbelievers

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the **judgment**,

2 Pet 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of **judgment**,

Rom. 2:5-9⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,⁶ who "will render to each one according to his deeds";⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness-- indignation and **wrath**,⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

Rev 20:12-15 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.