

One-Way Ticket to Paradise!



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VIRTUAL

Everyone has *one life to decide* and there is so much *more after this life* that we cannot just go thru the motions. We have to be *sure* that we are of a repentant attitude and really trusting God for things in this life—we *have* to check in at the *right* destination.

The *overwhelming evidence* of creation shows that there is an All-Powerful God who has created it all and knows the beginning to the end of everything. There is only one life to make the right decision to believe God and to trust Jesus in faith—only *this* life!

A person taking an extended vacation may say: *I'll be away for awhile but will be back next month.* Another may move to the West but may return after staying for years in another state. Our title *One-Way Ticket to Paradise* makes us think about our life; our attitudes; and our faith in God. We will be moving to *one* of *two* locations and *never* returning—it is a serious matter!

New Testament teaching must command our attention and take priority over everything else. We not only *read* the Bible every day, but we must put it into *practice* every moment—with the help of the Holy Spirit—meeting people and circumstances as that *Word* explains. John 8:31 *“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth*

shall make you free”—free from unscriptural and resentful attitudes.

To continue in the Word means to continue meeting every situation we encounter each day, as the Bible instructs. John 8:36 *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* Free from wrong responses and hateful attitudes. If we are *released* from the old way by the Atonement of Christ, then we are *free* from *sins* of the past by that sacrifice. We are *delivered* from wrong *attitudes*; we are *released* from *bondage* to sinful thoughts; and *liberated* from *unscriptural* desires.

When checking in to the next life, we must hear what the King says to those on His *right*: Matthew 25:34 *“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”* No one would ever want to hear what the King says to those on His *left*: Matthew 25:41 *“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”*

Most people reject the idea that there is a place of eternal suffering—Hell is out of *fashion* today—it may be out of fashion, but it is *not* out of business. Just because many do not accept the *idea* of a fiery lake, does *not* mean it does not exist! *Unbelief* does not *change reality*!

Most believe a loving God would not send anyone to Hell—and it is true that He is a loving God 1 John 4:8, 16, and that He would not send anyone to eternal suffering. God has *always* loved us and He has never sent *anyone* to Hell. Those who end there can be *sure* that they sent *themselves* there—by rebellion and refusing to *read* and *heed* and *live by* the clear instructions in Scripture.

The Bible says that Hell is a *real* place—in fact, Jesus spoke of it *thirty-three* times—describing its horrors in graphic detail. It is a place of eternal, conscious torment, where there is terrible suffering and Matthew 3:12 *“unquenchable fire.”*

Those who do not obey God 2 Thessalonians 1:9 *“Shall be punished with everlasting destruction.”* Those who are angry enough to say *“Thou fool,”* to a brother without proper cause, Matthew 5:22 *“Shall be in danger of hell fire.”* Those in that horrible place will face Matthew 25:46 *“Everlasting punishment;”* where there is Matthew 13:42 *“Wailing and gnashing of teeth.”* Romans 2:8 Those who *“Do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness,”* there will be *“Indignation; wrath; 9 Tribulation and anguish.”* Our one-way ticket must *never* be to the *wrong* destination!

How can we be *sure*! Jesus said if our *hand*; our *foot*; or our *eye* *“offend thee”*—meaning *causes* us to sin by tempting us to disobey the Scriptures; we should take *drastic* action to get rid of whatever it is; rather than keeping it; keep sinning, and Mark 9:43 *“Go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.”* Even angels, when *they* rebelled against God, were not spared, but He 2 Peter 2:4 *“Cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”*

Something to consider—After several minutes, total darkness is so oppressive, that it can cause panic—we cannot *imagine* having to endure that horrible, dense darkness for an eternity—the *darkness* itself is torment enough.

The centurion said to Jesus Matthew 8:8 *“Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed”*—indicating he had real *faith* in Jesus for the *healing* of his servant. Jesus declared Matthew 8:11 *“I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* There is *no* escape from that *dreadful* place—there is only an *entrance* and *no exit*!

Our hope—1 John 4:8 “*God is love,*” but He is also *just*; and *holy*; and *righteous*; and He *hates sin*. Since the Bible is true, we *also* know that the *God* we will face, will be the God of the Bible—*kind*; *loving*; *merciful*; *patient*; and *forgiving*—as well as *just*, *holy*, *fair*, and *righteous*.

Avoiding the wrath of God is clearly explained in the Scriptures. It is a *choice* on our part Colossians 3:5 “*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.*”

It is *always* a choice—*resisting* and *rejecting* the desires of the sinful nature, which is possible by the power of the Holy Spirit; or we are *accepting* and *allowing* such cravings to control our life. Romans 6:16 “*Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*” The choice to *obey* or to *rebel* has always been our choice.

Romans 2:5 “*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 [contentious; quarrelsome] and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath.*”

If anyone faces God’s wrath, it is because they *chose* to—by hardening their *heart* when they *heard* God’s Truth. If anyone finds themselves in the Lake of Fire, it is their own fault, because they were warned—the Bible explains *how* to avoid it. God has given *proof* of His existence; and He has a written plan that explains the

path out of this world—a plan that will lead to His eternal Kingdom.

The fiery lake was originally prepared for Satan and his angels, but those who do *not* love God and do *not* accept His Truth, will eventually be there with the devil. Matthew 25:41 “*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*”

God does not want *anyone* to suffer; He does not want *anyone* to be separated from Him forever, so He has given everyone a choice. Most, however, choose the darkness of this evil world. John 3:19 “*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in [done through NIV] God.*”

With a *One-Way Ticket* to the next destination—a one-way ticket that everyone will eventually have on their journey out of this world, we have to be absolutely *sure* it is *to* the right destination, because there is *no return* from the one we *chose*! God is 2 Peter 3:9 “*Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*” God has waited and waited, because He is *patient*, *loving*, and *forgiving*, but someday—and only *He* knows when the last one repents—but that last repentance will bring the return of the Lord Jesus. *Everyone* will have a *one-way* ticket to one of two eternal places.

Everyone has the freedom to choose—to choose between *belief* and *unbelief*; between *good* and *evil*; between *God’s* will and *self’s*-will; between faith in *His* plan of life, or *staying* with the *world’s* way of life. It is a choice to *believe* and *receive* the Holy Spirit into our heart; or to *disbelieve* and *reject* God’s gift that can lead us to

Paradise! God will *honor* our choice—and we will then have to face the consequences.

Without God in our life by our *own* willful choice, is to have *no hope* for the future and no way to enter Paradise—no other way! Everyone is separated from God in the beginning, but at some point we have to make a *choice* to *ask Him* into our heart to *control* our life from then on.

The apostle wrote this: Ephesians 2:12 “*Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.*” It is our choice to draw *near* or to move *away*.

Our one-way ticket *out* of this world, *has* to be *to* the glorious kingdom prepared for all believers in the Son of God. The guiding of the Holy Spirit is so vitally important! The prophet said, Isaiah 30:21 “*Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it.*”

Receiving the one-way ticket to Paradise is explained by the only One who can give it. Matthew 22:37 “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.*” That is the key to having the right ticket to the right *place*—Matthew 22:39 “*And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*”

Genuine and *divine* love in our heart is the *key factor* to receiving the *One-Way Ticket to Paradise!* And being *sure* it will take us to the *right* and *eternal* destination!



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