

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## Hell: The Eternal Consequences of Sin

### The Reality of Hell

It is not surprising that men who mock the existence of their Creator and scorn the idea of a Redeemer would also deny the existence of hell. However, there are many professed Christians who either are uncertain about the reality of hell or deeply question if an eternal punishment in hell, which they call eternal conscious torment, is “compatible with the biblical revelation of divine justice” and the nature of an all-loving and all-merciful God. According to the Pew Research Poll database the number of Americans who believe in “hell as a place of eternal punishment” has dropped from 71% (1996) to 58% (2014) and the number who believe in the reality of hell as a place has declined from 73% (2006) to 62% (2017). But to all who accept the Scriptures as the inspired written Word of God there can be no question of the reality of hell!

As Jesus prepared His disciples to go out and preach the Gospel of the kingdom “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel,” He warned them of persecution they would endure (Mt.10:16-18); He then admonished them, ***“fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”*** (Mt. 10:28). Luke’s account of this statement varies only slightly: ***“Fear him, which after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him”*** (Luke 12:5). These two passages clearly set forth the reality and existence of a place of punishment into which the souls of unrighteous men will enter.

How strange that the “Christian” who denies the existence of hell rejoices in the hope of heaven when similar language is used by Jesus to affirm the reality of both. Jesus affirmed that at His coming in judgment, all nations would be gathered together and separated before the announcement of their eternal fate. Some would hear the desired declaration, ***“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”*** (Matthew 25:34), while others the dreaded decree, ***“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”*** (Matthew 25:41). The existence and reality of hell is just as certain as the existence and reality of heaven!

### The Nature of Hell

Understanding that hell is in fact a reality, a legitimate question would be, “What is the nature of hell?” The passages noted above clearly indicate that hell is a place of punishment, destruction and death, but what is the duration of this punishment and is the death referred to an instant death or a slow painful death?

The bible is not unclear when describing the nature of hell! Hell is pictured as a ***“lake of fire”*** (Revelation 20:14-15), ***“eternal fire”*** (Jude 7), ***“everlasting punishment”*** (Matthew 25:46), ***“everlasting destruction”*** (2 Thess. 1:9), and a ***“furnace of fire”*** (Mt. 13:42). But while hell is a place of death and destruction, it is not a place of annihilation where the souls of the condemned will be totally destroyed so as to not exist, or their consciousness extinguished. The words of inspiration paint a very vivid picture of hell as an eternity of unrest, divine retribution and punishment (I Thess. 1:7-9) and a fire unquenchable (Mt. 3:12).

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As terrifying as these word pictures describing the nature of hell may be, perhaps the most sobering of all is Peter’s description of the punishment of hell as a ***“mist”*** or ***“blackness of darkness forever”*** (2 Peter 2:17). Deep in the heart of the earth at the Glenwood Caverns in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, a group of friends were on the “wild tour” and were instructed by their guide to turn off their lights. To his amusement the group began to describe how they could make out the “outline of the cave,” but with the absence of light this was impossible”. The tour guide informed them, “Your mind is continually replaying the last captured image, trying to find it again.”

Imagine standing in awe before the glory of God and in the presence of His angels only to be cast into the blackness of darkness forever—the images of heaven’s eternal glories being searched out and replayed in your mind over and over and over, as you endure eternal death and destruction! Hell is the eternal consequence of sin, a prepared place for an unprepared people.

—Ronnie Scherffius

### ***Prayer Request***

**Bill Butler** has decided to go ahead with the aggressive chemo treatments; he received encouragement from his doctor. Please continue to keep Bill in your prayers that these chemo treatments will eliminate his cancer.

**Letha Hooper** fell two weeks ago while at the doctor’s office and broke her hip and is now in Madison Medical Resort—room #318-B. Letha is still struggling with Leukemia also. Please keep her in your prayers especially during this very difficult time in her life.

**Betty Brooks** (Brian Weakland’s mother-in-law) fell early Monday morning, June 24th at her home and broke her hip. Due to her low heart rate no surgery can be done at this time. Brian is Allen’s brother who lives in South Carolina. Please keep Betty in your prayers that she will be able to have her surgery soon.

**Conchida Williams** will undergo back surgery on July 15th. She will have two spacers put between two vertebrae. Keep her in your prayers. She is Devida’s sister.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Sylvia Campos** will have her eye surgery on Monday, July 8th. Please keep her in your prayers that the surgery will go well.

### ***Prayer List***

Crissy Arroyo; Brian Basaldua; Don Blackwell; Bill Brown; Bill Butler; Cindy Campbell; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Emma Craig; Ronald Dement; Bessie Diaz; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Letha Hooper; Debbie Howard; Betty Leeth; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Patsy Mitchell; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Juanita Orosco; Caydon Parker; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Paisleigh Grace Shepherd; Charles & Susan Simmons; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Beth Ann Warren; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Jay Wesson; Sondie Williamson; John Wood.

### ***Eisenhower’s Shut-ins***

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

### ***Youth***

#### **Bible Quiz Question...**

Was Mordecai, Esther’s father, cousin or uncle?

#### **Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer...**

Paul and Barnabas parted from one another (Acts 15:39). However, in parting, they doubled their ministry because each man chose another to go with him on an evangelistic tour.

### ***Events***

Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the “*Speaking the Truth in Love*” program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

## Office News

### Mailing Address for:

Letha Hooper—#318B  
Madison Medical Resort  
5001 Office Part Dr.  
Odessa, TX 79762

LaDonna Chism  
P.O. Box 69393  
Odessa, TX 79769

### YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?

In the beginning there was nothing. And suddenly for no reason nothing exploded and created everything. You expect me to believe that?

At some point, by chance, the right chemicals happened to float together at just the right moment to be struck by an electrical charge and become life. You expect me to believe that?

Somewhere two non-human mothers each gave birth to a human child. They were born at the same time and in the same place, one was male and one was female. These two new “humans” gave birth to the human race. You expect me to believe that?

One of the descendants of these first humans was born with knowledge of right and wrong. No longer driven by instinct, this person suddenly was making decisions based on a morality for which there is no real explanation. You expect me to believe that?

I’m sorry. I don’t have that much blind faith. It’s all just too farfetched to be anything more than a fairy tale. I can’t believe intelligent people claim it is “science” (I Timothy 6:20).

“*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1) I can believe that without stretching my imagination into the realm of the impossible. The universe was created by an all-powerful, all-knowing God. That I can believe!

—Phil Gear

### June 30th, 2019

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Sermon  
Opening Prayer  
Scripture  
Second Prayer  
Closing Prayer

### A.M.

Allen Weakland  
Craig Wesson  
Allen Weakland  
Allen Weakland  
Bill Ryan  
Jr. Munoz  
Oliver Hernandez

### P.M.

Allen Weakland  
Jacob Carson  
Allen Weakland  
Allen Weakland  
Clint Titlow  
Craig Wesson  
Bill Brown

### Lord's Supper

(Scripture Reading)  
West...

Doug Guynn  
Josh Weakland  
Rudy Ochoa  
Kevin Wilcox

Cody Wesson  
Communion  
(In Library)

East

Gary Loving  
Don Easlon  
Josh Wells

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder* : Allen Weakland 254-8209 *Deacon* :: Bill Ryan 352-4871 *Pulpit*; David Ryan 512-924-0983  
*Table*: Cody Wesson 934-4646— *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Sermons*; Scot Straw 288-4533 *Collections*: Scot  
Straw 288-4533

**Sunday AM**

*"If God be for us"*  
(Romans 8:31-39)

**Sunday PM**

*"Cup Runs Over"*  
(Psalm 23)

**Our Records**

*Bible Class... 41*  
*Morning Worship...102*  
*Evening Worship...90*  
*Wednesday...72*  
*Contribution...\$5,305.00*