

# Beliefs/Doctrine

## 2. After You Die

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**A grave mistake to die without Jesus**

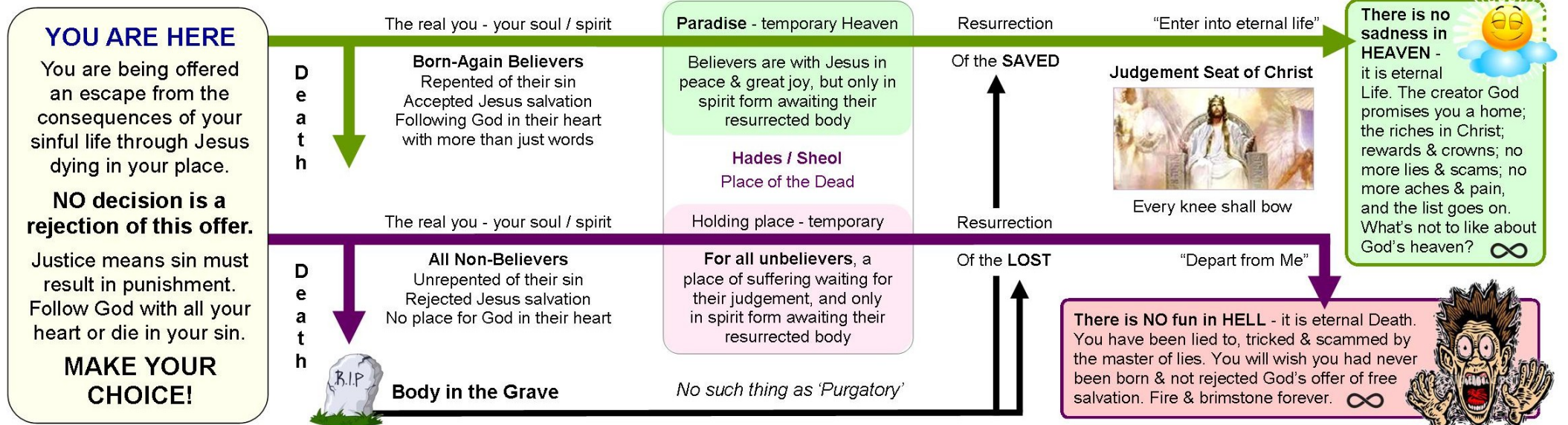


The Bible tells us that, yes, there is life after death. This world is not all there is, and mankind was made for something more. The fact of life after death does not mean everyone will go to heaven, however. People will continue to exist after they die, and there will be a resurrection someday, but God makes a distinction between the resurrection of the just (those who are in Christ) and the unjust (those who die in their sin): "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt". Paul put it this way: "There will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked".

Each person must make a choice in this life, a choice that will determine his or her eternal destination. It is appointed for us to die once, and after that will come judgment. Those who have been made righteous by faith in Christ will go into eternal life in heaven, but those who have rejected Christ as Saviour will be sent to eternal punishment in hell. Hell, like heaven, is a literal place. It is a place where the unrighteous will experience the never-ending, eternal wrath of God. Hell is described as a lake of fire where the inhabitants will be tormented day and night forever and ever. In hell, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, indicating intense grief and anger. Follow the Creator to heaven, not the Deceiver to hell.

For **the believer in Jesus Christ**, the Bible tells us that after death believers' souls/spirits are taken to heaven, because their sins are forgiven by having received Christ as Saviour. For believers, death is to be "away from the body and at home with the Lord". However, other passages describe believers being resurrected and given glorified bodies. If believers go to be with Christ immediately after death, what is the purpose of this resurrection?

It seems that while the souls/spirits of believers go to be with Christ immediately after death, the physical body remains in the grave "sleeping." At the resurrection of believers, the physical body is resurrected, glorified, and then reunited with the soul/spirit. This reunited and glorified body-soul-spirit will be the possession of believers for eternity in the new heavens and new earth.



For **those who do not receive Jesus Christ as Saviour**, death means everlasting punishment. However, similar to the destiny of believers, unbelievers also seem to be sent immediately to a temporary holding place, to await their final resurrection, judgement, and eternal destiny. Luke 16:22-23 describes a rich man being tormented immediately after death.

(Text based on [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org))

Revelation 20:11-15 describes all the unbelieving dead being resurrected, judged at the great white throne, and then being cast into the lake of fire. Unbelievers, then, are not sent to hell (the lake of fire) immediately after death, but rather are in a **temporary realm of judgement and condemnation**. However, even though unbelievers are not instantly sent to the lake of fire, their immediate fate after death is not a pleasant one. The rich man cried out, "I am in agony in this fire".

Therefore, after death, a person resides in a "temporary" heaven or hell. After this temporary realm, at the final resurrection, a person's eternal destiny will not change. The precise "location" of that eternal destiny is what changes. Believers will ultimately be granted entrance into the new heavens and new earth. Unbelievers will ultimately be sent to the lake of fire. **These are the final, eternal destinations of all people—based entirely on whether or not they had trusted Jesus Christ alone for salvation.**