

Notice how in verse 28 Jesus assures us He will raise all people when He returns, and everyone will face His judgment—not a single person will be overlooked. At that point there will be two final destinations: heaven or hell.

- Why do you think some people prefer to believe in reincarnation or the final dissolution of body and soul at death and not the judgment Jesus teaches so clearly?
- Why does God think it's important to give us such dread alarms of judgment?

Reading this passage out of context can give the false impression Jesus will judge us based on how we lived our lives, i.e. those who do good will earn heaven and those who do evil will earn hell (Matthew 25:34-46 is another passage often misinterpreted that way).

- Why did Jesus speak this way if we are saved only by faith and not by our works?



[A Statement on Death, Resurrection and Immortality](#)

Jesus gave a graphic description of the fire of hell, as He spoke of the rich man and Lazarus. In other places He describes hell in terms of utter darkness, being bound hand and foot, where there is torture, sorrow and gnashing of teeth.

- Why do you think many people, even Christians, reject hell and consider it a myth?
- How does Jesus' description of hell match the sufferings He endured on the cross for our sins?
- How do Jesus' sufferings help answer those who reject the reality of hell because they refuse to believe a loving God would ever make a place like that?

- Why is it essential to trust Jesus as the final authority when it comes to heaven and hell?



[Frequently Asked Questions about Heaven and Hell](#)

Many Christians reject the idea of hell. Instead, they stress God's love and ignore His holiness and justice. God's holiness makes it impossible for Him to permit anything or anyone impure to stand in His presence, and His perfect justice will not permit Him to overlook a single sin we commit—no matter how insignificant it may seem to *us*. God could not remain just and holy if He simply pardoned our sins without any punishment. Instead, His great love provided a way to satisfy both His holiness and His justice. He offered His own Son as our substitute. Jesus' innocent suffering and death completely satisfied God's wrath at our sins and guilt. Since He took all our sins on Himself, Christ gives us His perfect obedience. Because of this we can live forever in the presence of our holy God.

- When we can honestly trust what Jesus says about heaven and hell, how does that transform our life and the way we face death?

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for caring enough to give us the straight story about hell. Uproot our misguided notions and help us trust You as our only Savior from sin, death and hell. Strengthen our faith to trust Your promise to deliver us from death and hell and bring us into Your glorious Kingdom. Amen.



Additional links and resources available at lhm.org/death

[The Five Stages of Grief](#)

[Myths about Death: Why Easter Matters](#)

[Paul's Use of the Imagery of Sleep](#)

[A Heavenly Reunion](#)

[Yes, Virginia! There Are Angels](#)