

HOW LONG IS HELL

THE DURATION OF ETERNITY AND PUNISHMENT IN HELL

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

~ Romans 6:23

1. Time and Duration

- a. When you give too much time to scripture, universalists tend to go away.
- b. Unsaved damned suffering torment and destruction in judgment (hell) is accepted.
- c. Universalism's true complaint boils down to length of time and duration of such.
- d. *How long is hell? How long are people damned? How long will they suffer?*
- e. You cannot believe in 'for ever' 'everlasting' 'eternal' and be a universalist.

2. Describing How Long

- a. **!WARNING!** Universalism requires retranslating every Bible, questions every lexicon
- b. Concordant Bible changes 'for ever, everlasting, eternal' to 'eon, eons, eonian'
- c. Eon ~def. age, duration of unspecified length (i.e. may be for ever)
 - i. Webster ironically mentions Platonists and Gnostics
OED says immeasurable period, the whole duration, eternity, everlasting
Dictionary.com adds re: astronomy - one billion years.
 - ii. Eternity ~def. Duration or continuance without a (specified) end
- d. The Bible is the best dictionary. The inspired context can give an inspired definition:
 - i. Ages (eons) referring to all time - Eph 2:7, 3:5, 3:21, Col 1:26
 - ii. Duration identified as for ever - Rev 1:18, Heb 13:8
 - iii. 'for ever' defined as 'no end' in the context - Luke 1:33
- e. Darkness for ever - Jude 11-13, 2 Pet 2:17; torment for ever - Rev 14:10-11, 20:10
 - i. 'eternal judgment' Heb 6:2, 'eternal damnation' Mark 3:29
 - ii. Vengeance of God = Punishment with the *everlasting* destruction - 2 Th 1:9
 - iii. OT speaks of *everlasting* life or *everlasting* shame/contempt - Dan 12:2
 - iv. Everlasting fire /punishment - Matt 25:41,46 (they do not get life eternal)
- f. Immortality ~def. Life that never ends, life w/o death - 1 Tim 1:17, Rom 2:7
 - i. In mortality, life ends in condemnation - 2 Tim 1:10
 - ii. Without immortality corruption lasts forever - 1 Cor 15:53-56
 - iii. Not temporary = permanent = eternal - 2 Cor 4:18
- g. You cannot be a KJ (or ESV, NIV, NLT, NASB) Bible believer and a universalist

3. Deserving Eternity

- a. *How can God justly punish for eternity? Eternal punishment for temporal finite sins?*
- b. Punishment not determined by speed of crime but cost to repair (God's Son to die)
- c. Punishment reflects the dignity of the one grieved (infinite holy eternal God)
- d. Punishment reflects the height of the power and authority of the rule (Most High)

- e. Punishment not only determined by quantity, but by class/kind (felony vs. infraction)
 - i. Most heinous sins are spiritual: pride, idolatry, deception, dishonesty, anger
- f. Punishment must fit the crime: sin against life in time, life is taken away for all time.
- g. Some outcomes unaffected by time (divorce, deport, decay, death, disqualify, loser)
- h. Time does not remove guilt, especially time in hell. Guilty get punished. Pro 11:21
- i. If sins (blasphemy, idolatry, pride) continue in hell, then wouldn't the punishment?
- j. Damned do not deserve heaven, cannot earn heaven, do not want heaven.
- k. Wrath can harden heart; so they choose to remain and reject God - Rev 16:9
- l. Things do not change for the better in hell (time leads to corruption, decay)
- m. There is no way out of hell, you don't come back from it (next week)
- n. It shows the treachery of rejecting God's grace, and the glory of God's salvation.

4. How Long is Life in Christ

- a. The same Lord, word, scripture gives life/salvation for the same duration.
- b. Salvation is eternal. Life in Christ is eternal. (But not universally applied)
- c. You can't believe the 'hope' of 'eternal' life from man Jesus in the Concordant Bible
- d. If God does not give eternal life in Christ, then it is a different gospel.
- e. "This is life eternal... " Jesus is not giving out life of unspecified duration - Jn 17:2-3
- f. "justified by grace... according to the hope of eternal life" - Titus 3:5-7
- g. "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" - Rom 6:23

You can believe the word of God in your King James Bible
and receive the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus by grace through faith