



“Go To Hell”— “OK”!!

II Peter 3: 1—18

I’ve heard the phrase the world is going to Hell unless something changes. Daily when anger mounts in a conversation the term “go to Hell” is shouted to send the person to a horrible destination. Apostles and spiritual leaders throughout the ages have tried to prevent people from ending in Hell as a final destination. The term “Hell” is portrayed as a place or condition to be avoided at any cost. No one, in his or her right mind, wants to go to hell. Hell signifies the ultimate “final destruction” of one’s life journey.

With the fear of going to Hell being so very real in the Christian culture, I questioned why are so many determined to go to Hell. Why are well informed, Bible believing converts avoiding the obvious steps to avoid going to Hell. In a moment of rage, you say, “Go to Hell” and the response to your statement, “OK what else do you have to say.” This frightening disregard for Hell, as a final destination, should encourage people to change their life’s journey and destinations.

To want to avoid a disaster, one has to have some knowledge of what the disaster is and what it will do. What is Hell? Where is Hell? What does Hell mean for my life? How can I avoid going to Hell? These and countless other questions should be asked and responded to for the person trying to avoid Hell.

In II Peter 3: Peter writing to Christians scattered all over the Northern part of Asia Minor said; “I’m writing this letter to encourage you to do some honest thinking, some deep soul searching so you won’t forget His promise to those who remain obedient and faithful.” Peter goes on to say, in the final days people won’t care about going to Hell, they will be consumed by their own selfish desires. They will even make fun of you and tell you that with all of your holiness the world hasn’t changed a bit. (II Peter 3: 3,4) In other words enjoy yourself now and forget this hereafter Heaven and Hell debate.

Remember this that God wants to redeem you back to Him, give you an eternal home, and help you avoid going to Hell. Hell, so what, its just a place!!

The place Hell has been defined as the abode of the dead especially as a place of eternal punishment for unbelievers. Hell is an Anglo—Saxon word used to translate one Hebrew word and three Greek words in the KJV of Old and New Testaments. The Hebrew word for Hell is Sheol. It occurs 65 times in the Hebrew Bible. It refers to a place in the depths of the earth. Sheol in the O.T. was simply a place people went when they died.

The Greek words hades, gehenna, and tartaroo all in the New testament meant Hell. Hell was a place of torment. A place where souls burned forever. It’s where the power of evil, the underworld ruled. A place for the wicked!! A place to avoid!!

If this final destination is so terrible, why do Christians take its punishment so lightly and does God place obstacles in our paths to help us avoid going to Hell?

Let’s briefly study obstacles which God has placed to prevent us from going to hell.

1. A sound Evangelical Church — Luke 12: 48
2. The Gospel of Jesus Christ — I Cor. 15: 1-4; Mk. I: 15; Acts 2: 38;
3. The ever present Bible
4. Your own conscience
5. Your better judgement and Common Sense
6. The Sorrows and Shadows of Life
7. Refusing to Accept, Obey, and Follow the Holy Spirit

God does not want you or me to take the destruction of Hell lightly or the essential quest for Heaven for granted. God placed one final obstacle to prevent us from going to Hell. It is Mount Calvary where Jesus shed His blood for our sins.

1. Invitation from God — Isaiah 1: 18
2. Believe in Jesus — John 3: 36
3. Come unto me — Matthew 11: 28
4. Jesus will receive you — John 6:35-40

How do we overcome these obstacles?

1. Hear the Word of God — Romans 10: 17
2. Believe the Word of God — Hebrew 11: 6
3. Repent from what you are doing — Acts 17: 30
4. Confess that Jesus is the Son of God. Matthew 10: 32
5. Be baptized — Acts 2:38

You have the plan from the Word of God how to not only avoid Hell, but how to receive eternal life. Your next response to someone when they tell you to “Go to Hell” don’t jokingly say “OK,” but defiantly say- -“**No way—I’m on my way to Glory.**”

Pastor Gerald L. Durlley