

## Why Does God Send People to Hell

It may surprise you, but nowhere in Scripture does it say that God sends people to hell. Jesus did say, "... fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

Jesus did teach that God has the power of eternal destruction on a soul; but He nowhere taught that God sends people to hell.

God desires men to live and be forgiven. In fact, "... As I live, saith the LORD GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die ..." (Ezekiel 33:11).

Furthermore, Peter said, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Some say that Romans 9:22 teaches otherwise – God does send people to hell. But listen to the verse they use: "What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction."

Their error can be found in the phrase "fitted to destruction." They commit two grave errors with this phrase: first, they take out of context vv. 1-29; and second, they misinterpret the phrase. Their position is that God has determined to send some to hell – they are fitted for it. But that is not what that phrase means at all.

The phrase "fitted to destruction" means they "are ripe for destruction because of their own actions." Scholars of the Greek language tell us that the verb here is passive and God isn't even in on it. These people are fitted to destruction because of their own rejection of the truth.

One writer said it like this, "God accepts the responsibility of salvation and gives man all the responsibility of damnation. Always in Scripture that's man's responsibility."

I think Jesus said it best:

"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life" (John 5:40).

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not" (Luke 13:34).

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God” (John 3:18-21).

It isn't God sending people to hell; man does that himself. When men refuse Jesus Christ they are sending themselves to hell.

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