

# If God is Really “Love” – Why Don’t the Churches Teach That?

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The very first words of the Book of Revelation are:

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ. . .” Rev 1:1

The entire Book of Revelation reveals the Character of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, “God is invisible and Jesus is the image of the invisible God.” Jesus is the Visible form of the Invisible God.

God is invisible because “God is Love” (1 John 4:8). No one can see “Love.” We can only see the results of “Love” - just like no one can see the wind, we can only see the results of the wind.

That’s why God had to come to earth in the form of a human being, Jesus, so we could actually witness what a life of love looks like. Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, and children flocked to Him. He never hurt anyone, and when He was crucified in the most cruel and humiliating way as a result of false charges, He forgave those who orchestrated His death.

The Bible says that we are “made in the image of God” (Genesis 1:27). If parents lose a child, there is a hole in their heart for the rest of their life. Could you be blissfully happy for eternity in heaven and/or in the earth made new, if even one of your children were not there? And even worse, what if your child was burning in hellfire forever, as so many churches teach will happen to those who aren’t saved?

The Bible says, “God will wipe away all tears from our eyes” (Revelation 21:4). Is God planning to give those who are saved a lobotomy so they won’t know their loved ones are burning in hellfire?

Jesus said, “Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you” (Luke 5:27). Then why doesn’t that work for God? Why do virtually all churches and denominations teach that God is going to destroy **His** enemies! They believe that is God’s only option for eliminating sin: to utterly destroy the Sinners!

**Properly Understanding the Book of Revelation**

Because the disciple John, the author of the book of Revelation, tells us that the whole book is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ,” then the whole book must reveal the character of Jesus as it is revealed in the entire Bible. The four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are historical accounts of the life of Christ from the perspective of four different followers of Jesus. Two of them, Matthew and John, were His disciples and knew Jesus personally. As already stated, in all the Bible writings about the life of Jesus, there is no indication that He ever harmed anyone – not even those who hated Him.

### **Yet the churches teach Hellfire, condemnation and damnation – for those who don’t love Him**

Virtually all denominations teach that those who don’t love Jesus, mainly referring to those “outside” the church, are going to Hell! Some churches may avoid preaching that fact directly, because it makes people uneasy, but that’s still what they believe. However, in a conversation the Pope recently had with a well-known Italian journalist, Eugenio Scalfari, the Pope was quoted as saying, “There is no hell. There is the disappearance of sinful souls.” Apparently sinful souls don’t burn in hell (anymore), according to the Pope, they just “go poof!”

Either way, they’re still gone forever, according to the churches! And the churches also teach that if those people died without “being saved,” they have “No Second Chance” for salvation. They will be dead forever.

### **We are created in the image of God**

Why would God decide to create billions of people, knowing ahead of time (since God knows everything) that the vast majority of those people would not believe in Him and He would have to Burn them in Hellfire (or annihilate them permanently In some other way)? God refers to us as “His children.” Would YOU keep bringing children into the world if you knew with certainty, ahead of time, that they would end up burning in Hell for eternity? Of course not! No parent in his or her right mind would do such a thing! Yet, according to the churches, God has no problem with that.

### **Yet the Bible tells us we are “created in the image of God!” (Genesis 1:27)**

If we, who are mere human beings, would not do that to our own children, why would God do that to His children? After all the Bible tells us that God’s way are HIGHER than our ways – not lower.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts (higher) than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9

God also tells us that the thought of burning a human being alive has “never entered His mind.”

God was strongly rebuking the Israelites for falling so far into apostasy that they had adopted the appalling ritual of their neighboring pagan nations by sacrificing their children to the heathen gods Baal and Molech.

“And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, **neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination**, to cause Judah to sin.” Jeremiah 32:35

### **Is there really a “Hell” - or was the doctrine of “Hellfire” manufactured by Theologians?**

In the Bible, there are four words that are translated as Hell: *sheol*, *hades*, *Tartarus*, and *Gehenna*. The Hebrew word *sheol*, in the Old Testament, is translated as “hell” about 20% of the time. The rest of the time (approximately 80% of the time), it is translated as “grave.” But in the “grave” – the person is **dead**. Yet, in “hell” the person is **alive** – and burning! It’s impossible for the word *sheol* to mean “alive” in some instances, and “dead” in others. That’s like saying the word “red” sometimes means “red” and sometimes it means “green.” That cannot be!

The words *sheol* in the Hebrew (Old Testament) and the words *hades* and *Tartarus* in Greek (New Testament) all mean **grave**. They have nothing to do with fire or burning. The translators translate those words properly as **grave** about 80% of the time. But when they want to make God look harsh, they arbitrarily and incorrectly translate those words as “hell.”

We must remember that the authors of the Bible were **inspired by God**, but the translators of the Bible were **hired by man**!

The fourth word often mistranslated as hell is *Gehenna*, a word that **is** associated with fire. Gehenna was the garbage dump right outside of Jerusalem. Garbage dumps are there to burn up garbage, not to burn up what is of value. Many churches teach that since God is unable to separate the sin from the sinner, He must burn up the sinner with the sin.

But in the Bible, God has clearly told us that He **can** separate the sin from the sinner. When the Israelite brought the sheep to the Temple Court as a sacrifice for sin, the Israelite would put his hands on the head of the lamb and symbolically transfer his sin to the lamb. What was burned up? The lamb (symbolically) carrying the sin – **not the Israelite sinner?**

God is showing us that He **can** – and **will** – separate the sin from the sinner. God “refines” us (Malachi 3:3) with His “fiery law” (Deuteronomy 33:2) to remove the sin from our life through trials and tribulations.

The disciple Peter says, “Do not be concerned about the **fiery trials** that will try you. . .” (1 Peter 4:12).

We are saved – not lost – through fire: through **fiery trials**.

“If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: **but he himself shall be saved; yet so as through fire.**” 1 Cor 3:15

Trials and tribulations strengthen us, they help us to learn to cast our cares upon the Lord, and they teach us that we need Jesus Christ to run our life.

### **God gives us “keys” to understanding the Bible**

There are important principles in the Bible that teach us how to interpret the Word of God, including the following:

#### **The First is physical; the Second is Spiritual**

“And so it is written, The **first man Adam** was made a living soul; the **last Adam (Christ)** was made a life-giving spirit.

“However, **that was not first which is spiritual**, but that which is natural (soulish, physical); and **afterward that which is spiritual**.

“The **first man (Adam)** is of the earth, earthy; the **second man (Christ)** is the Lord from heaven.” 1 Cor 15:45-47

Again, this Bible passage is telling us that the First is physical, and the Second is spiritual.

In the Old Testament, the Israelite brought a lamb for sacrifice. In the New Testament, the “Lamb” has not been spiritualized: it is Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, there was a physical Temple – a building. In the New Testament, Jesus said, “Your body is the temple” (1 Corinthians 6:19). The “temple” has been spiritualized.

In the Old Testament, physical **fire** burned up Sodom and Gomorrah. Later, God speaks of His “fiery law” (Deuteronomy 33:2) that burns the sin out of our life through “fiery trials” (1 Peter 4:12). God “refines us as gold and silver in the fire” (Malachi 3:2-3) and so we are “saved – not lost - through fire” (1 Cor 3:15).

## **But what about the “Lake of Fire” in Revelation, Chapter 20?**

vs 14 “And death and hell (the grave) were cast into the **lake of fire**. This is the second death.

Vs 25 “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the **lake of fire**.” Revelation 20:14-15

It is impossible to cast death and the grave into a literal lake of fire. So, the “lake of fire” in verse 14 has to be symbolic. In the next sentence, in verse 15, it is the same “lake of fire” into which those whose names are not “written in the book of life” are cast - - the **same symbolic “lake of fire”** where God will “burn the sin out of the sinner’s life” in order to SAVE him “through fire.”

The Satanic pagan gods Baal and Molech required human burning sacrifices. God called that an **abomination**. If God is going to require human burning sacrifices in the end, then He is no different from Satan!

Conclusion: The word “hell” is not in the Bible. It has been “written in” by the translators.

## **If there is no “hell” – then how will God eliminate sin from the earth?**

### **What Happens at the Judgment?**

The righteous will be taken to heaven when Jesus Christ returns at the Second Coming. That is the First Resurrection. Then there is the 1,000-year Millennium, after which comes the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:11-15) for Judging of those who are unsaved, those who will be resurrected in the Second Resurrection. Most Christians are taught that is when God will “judge” them to be unrighteous, and cast them into hellfire!

But since we have learned there is no hellfire, what will happen at the Judgment? How will God eliminate sin from the world?

First, let’s discuss how you discipline your children. All of your disciplines of your children are remedial – to turn them back to right-doing – not to destroy them. A loving parent would never discipline a child just to watch him or her suffer – with no good goal in sight. Only psychopaths would do that.

God is the most loving parent of all, and the Bible confirms that by telling us what happens at the Judgment:

“But judgment shall return unto righteousness.” Psalm 94:15

“For when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.” Isaiah 26:9

Judgment is designed to turn the sinner back to right-doing (righteousness) through his “reaping what he has sown. “

“Be not deceived; God will not be mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Galatians 6:7

God says everyone will “reap what he has sown.” How many people do you know who have burned another person to death? Probably none. So why do the churches teach that sinners will burn in hellfire? Also, why, according to the churches, does every sinner get the same punishment? If a 19 year old boy stole a car, he will get the same punishment – Burning Forever – as a serial murderer of children!

How can that be fair?

All those who have not reaped, in this life, what they have sown, will be resurrected in the Second Resurrection, to begin their “reaping.” No one will get away with anything. But the “reaping” is not to destroy them, but to turn them back to right-doing – to righteousness. Through their “reaping” of the consequences of their sinful acts, eventually they will recognize their need to have Jesus Christ run their life.

**But what about the really wicked people, and all those who don’t want to be saved?**

The Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, was on the Road to Damascus to arrest, persecute and kill Christians. He certainly didn’t **want** to be saved! He described himself as the “**worst of sinners**” (1 Timothy 1:15). Yet, when Jesus, who had already been resurrected and ascended to heaven, came down and intercepted Saul on his journey, it only took about 30 seconds for Saul to be converted, and eventually become the apostle Paul, an ardent follower of Jesus Christ, who wrote most of the New Testament.

**God has not lost control of His creation**

All churches teach that human beings have Freewill. If that is true, then how could God “harden Pharaoh’s heart”? (Exodus 7:3) How could God “set kings up and take them down”? (Daniel 2:21) How could God answer a single prayer?

“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it whichever way He wishes.” Proverbs 21:1

How can God do that if the King has Freewill?

“For God has put it into their hearts (the hearts of the ten kings of the ten kingdoms) to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.” Revelation 17:17

How can God do that if the Ten Kings of the Ten Kingdoms have Freewill?

Is God only able to save a person – if that person “Let’s God do it”? Is man’s will stronger than God’s will? Can man tell God what God Can – and Cannot – do? If so, then man’s “will” is stronger than God’s will, and man has become his OWN god.

But God says:

He is “operating ALL in accord with the counsel of HIS OWN WILL” (not OURS) (Ephesians 1:11).

And His Will (actually the word is much stronger: it is *intention*) is that “NONE should perish, but ALL should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9)

Well then, you may say, if we don’t have “freewill” we are nothing more than robots! Or else God is going to force people to love Him! But neither of those suppositions is true.

God has another way of accomplishing **His** will.

God is in control of all the circumstances of our life. God knows exactly what each person must go through before he understands that he needs the Lord to run His life. That’s why Jesus said,

“In this world you WILL have trouble (tribulation).” John 16:33

If everything is going fine, we don’t need God. It’s only when we have real trouble that we recognize our need for God to run our life. In fact, usually a person must reach the depths of destitution in order to turn to God. And again, God knows how to get us where He wants us.

A perfect illustration is that of a mother and her 2-year old. Mom tells her 2-year old, “It’s time to go to bed.” It’s not unusual for the 2-year old to lie down on the floor kicking and screaming, “I don’t want to go to bed.” But all the mother has to do is walk into the bedroom and within about 20 seconds, that 2-year old will be right in the bedroom with Mommy because a 2-year old doesn’t want to be away from Mommy. Did the mother force the 2-year old into the bedroom? No! But did the mother **know** how to get the 2-year old into the bedroom? Certainly! Did the 2-year old **think** he came into the bedroom of his “own freewill”? Of course!

God is a whole lot smarter than we are. He knows how to get us where He wants us – without any force, because He is in control of the circumstances of the life of everyone in the world.

### **Why would anyone even want “Freewill”?**

Do you know what’s going to happen a year from now? A month from now? An hour from now? Of course not. But God does! Why would anyone even want to run his or her own life – when his life could be run by Someone who **does know everything** that is going to happen!

When John the Baptist introduced Jesus on the banks of the Jordan, He said,

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who TAKES AWAY the sin of the WORLD.” John 1:29

Will Jesus fail in His mission? Was the death of Christ on the cross inadequate to “take away the sin of the world? Was Christ’s death insufficient to save the whole world?

Can Satan win God’s children away from Him – and God doesn’t know how to win them back? If so, that makes Satan the Big Winner – and God the Loser!

But that CANNOT be!

Satan is a created being, and even he (Satan) admits that **he doesn’t have “freewill.”**

In the book of Job, chapters 1 and 2, Satan is in heaven talking to God, bragging that he (Satan) controls the earth. But God knows He has some faithful followers, and asks Satan, “Have you considered by servant Job? An upright man in all His ways, who fears God and shuns evil.” Satan responds, “But you have put a hedge around Job and his household and his possessions so I can’t reach him. If you remove the hedge, and let me at him, Job will curse you to your face” (Job 1:8-11).

There it is! Satan admits that he can’t do anything unless God allows it. So even Satan, the second smartest being in the Universe, ADMITS that he does **not** have Freewill!

### **Could you be happy for eternity if even ONE of your children was not with you?**

Of course not! And neither could God be happy if even ONE of His children is not with Him for eternity – because WE are “made in the image of God.” He tells us repeatedly, in the Bible, that He is the “Savior of ALL mankind.”

**The Bible tells us that God “shall wipe away all tears from our eyes.”**

**“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Rev 21:4**

Will God give wipe away everyone’s memory so they won’t remember their lost children, or other loved one, whom they will never see again – forever?

**No way!**

In the very next text, Rev 21:5, God gives us the answer to **how** He will wipe away ALL tears from our eyes. He promises:

**“Behold, I make ALL new.” Rev 21:5**

We must remember that God’s way are Higher than our ways, and His thoughts are Higher than our thoughts. The Bible tells us:

“God is the Savior of ALL mankind.” 1 Timothy 4:10

“God will reconcile ALL to Himself.” Colossians 1:20

“The Lord Almighty has sworn, Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen.” Isa 14:24

“Behold, the Lamb of God who TAKES AWAY the sin of the (whole) world.” John 1:29

“Wherefore Hee is able also to save them to the uttermost. . .” Hebrews 7:25

“Is anything too hard for the Lord?” Genesis 18:14

“I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for Me?” Jer 32:37

“God has given ALL into the hands of the Son. (John 3:35), and Jesus says, “ALL that the Father has given Me (which is ALL) SHALL come to Me. . . And this is the will of Him who sent Me – that of ALL He has given Me, I should lose **nothing**.” John 6:37-39

“Death will be abolished. . . and God will be ALL in ALL.” 1 Corinthians 15:26-28

“The Son of man came NOT to destroy men’s lives – but to SAVE them.” Luke 9:56

“ALL is of God.” Romans 11:36

“Behold, I make ALL new.” Revelation 21:5

### **The word “Gospel” means “Good News”**

Why don't churches teach the Good News of the Gospel? They believe the “Gospel” is Good News for them - - - and the others “had their chance.” But since THEY didn't “make the right choice” they deserve what they get.

The problem is, as the Bible clearly tells us, that we see God through our OWN character and not through His. We worship a “god” just like ourselves!

Speaking of God, the Bible says:

**25** With the merciful, you will show yourself to be merciful; with an upright man, you will show yourself to be upright;

**26** With the pure, you will show yourself to be pure; and with the froward (perverse), you will show yourself to be froward (perverse). Psalm 18:25-26

If you think you are better than others because “you made the right choice,” and they “had their chance” - you believe the “wicked” **deserve** to burn in hell. And you will be worshipping a god who is just like you.

The god **you** worship reveals your **own** heart, **not** the heart of Jesus Christ.

**You are not safe to save until the salvation of everyone in the world is as important to you as your own!**

The Bible tells us that eventually,

**“Every** knee shall bow, and **every** tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the GLORY of the Father.” Philippians 2:10-11

It doesn't glorify God if the “bowing and confessing” is done through force or through gritted teeth. No, the “bowing and confessing” will be done willingly and with great joy!

That is the “Good News” of the Gospel!

This is the “Good News” about God!

This is the “Hidden Mystery” of the Bible that is only revealed to those who are “searching for God with all their heart.” If you are not “searching for God with all your heart” – you will find this hard to believe!

“This is the Mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.” Colossians 1:26

“You will seek Me, and you will find Me (you will find out who I really am) (but only) when you search for Me with ALL your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

**God truly IS Love.**

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