

Eternal Judgment



virtual**DISCIPLEMAKER**

Eternal Judgment



NIV **Matthew 25:46** Then they will go away to **eternal** punishment, but the righteous to **eternal** life.

GNT **Matthew 25:46** καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν **αἰώνιον** οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν **αἰώνιον**

Matthew 25:46 makes clear that Jesus teaches there is an eternal punishment, as sure as there is an eternal life. The word eternal is highlighted in bold print in both the English and the Greek text. Although you may not read Greek, **you can see the word is the same when used to modify both punishment and life.**

NIV **Romans 3:21** But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, {²⁵ or as the one who would turn aside his wrath, taking away sin} through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Please notice in the above verses that we are made righteous by faith in Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

NKJ **John 3:36** He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

NIV **Jude 1:7** In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

^{NIV} **Revelation 21:8** But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

^{NIV} **Acts 10:42** He **commanded** us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

^{NIV} **Acts 17:30** In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he **commands** all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

^{NIV} **Revelation 20:11** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Note: *In verse 15 above, the grammar reveals that no one appearing before the Great White Throne had his name written in the book of life. All appearing were unbelievers. Believers will appear before Jesus to be judged for a final time also. At that judgment each will receive a reward for the good that has been recorded in the book of their life and pardon for the sin recorded in that same book. See 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10. The pardon for sin is received because each believer's name is recorded in the Lamb's book of life because they believed in Jesus.*

Luke 16:19-31 below reveals the picture of eternal torment.

^{NIV} **Luke 16:19** There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In hell, {23 Greek Hades} where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in **agony in this fire**." ²⁵ But Abraham replied, "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ **And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can**

anyone cross over from there to us.” ²⁷ He answered, “Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to **this place of torment.**” ²⁹ Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.” ³⁰ “No, father Abraham,” he said, “but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.” ³¹ He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”

Why is **Eternal Judgment** foundational?

^{NIV} **Proverbs 27:12** The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.