

Ten Reasons to Reject Eternal Torment

Many ministers believe that when the wicked die they pass immediately into hellfire, there to suffer endless torture by a vengeful God. Here are ten reasons why Christians who study the Scriptures should reject such a doctrine.

1. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE IT CLAIMS THAT THE LOST WILL CONTINUE LIVING FOREVER, WHICH IS CONTRARY TO SCRIPTURES' PLAINEST TESTIMONY: “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:12). “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4,20). “No murderer hath eternal life abiding in him” (1 John 3:15).

2. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE IT ROBS US OF OUR GOD OF LOVE AND SUBSTITUTES A BEING WHOSE WRATH IS NEVER APPEASED. God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

3. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE IT CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH THE PICTURE THE BIBLE GIVES OF CHRIST. Jesus said “Suffer [Allow] little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). Could this Jesus, who gathered little children in His arms and blessed them while here on earth, torture other little children, the unsaved children, throughout eternity?

4. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE THE REDEEMED, WHO WILL HAVE A PART IN THE FINAL JUDGMENT, COULD NEVER CONDEMN THEIR FELLOW CREATURES—their relatives, grandparents, parents, husbands, wives, and children—to unending torture. Their sense of justice could never permit such an atrocity. “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy

to judge the smallest matters?” (1 Corinthians 6:2) (See also Revelation 20:4).

5. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE IT IMPOSES A PUNISHMENT ALL OUT OF PROPORTION TO THE CRIMES COMMITTED and thus violates the infinite justice of God. “But we are sure that he judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things” (Romans 2:2). “I judge, and my judgment is just” (John 5:30), Christ tells us. The wicked will be destroyed in hellfire, not tormented there eternally.

6. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE IT WOULD FOREVER CAST A SHADOW OVER THE HAPPINESS OF THE REDEEMED to know that somewhere in the universe their own relatives—their flesh and blood—were being tortured, tormented, and toasted over undying flames. But “God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes” (Revelation 7:17; 21:4).

7. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE IT DEMANDS THAT AN ETERNAL PLAGUE OF SIN TAIN GOD'S UNIVERSE and makes it impossible for God to eradicate sin completely from His domain: “Through death he [Christ] might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil” (Hebrews 2:14). “And then shall the Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming” (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

8. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE IT PERPETUATES AND IMMORTALIZES SIN, SUFFERING, SORROW, AND PAIN, and thus it contradicts and nullifies God's promises that these things will no more exist: “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” (Revelation 21:4).

9. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE IT VILIFIES [MAKES APPEAR EVIL; DEFAMES] GOD'S CHARACTER AND TURNS HIM INTO A MONSTROUS AGENT OF SATAN—a miracle worker who keeps the wicked alive moment by moment in a fire that burns but cannot consume, that hurts but cannot destroy. God would have to miraculously sustain the lives of the lost in an aimless and endless punishment. Hence God would in reality become worse than Satan himself. Instead of this picture of God that the devil wants us to believe, the Bible tells us, “good and upright is the Lord” (Psalm 25:8)

where God will torture but not destroy sinners, has caused untold thousands, like Robert Ingersoll, to turn their backs on God and become His bitterest opponents.

Moreover, it has caused thousands of others to do unspeakable things to their fellow humans in the name of God. Many who led out in the infamous inquisition of Europe and the witch-hunts of early American were religious men who believe they were carrying out the will of God. Those devout persecutors tortured heretics in order to save their souls from eternal damnation in the flames of hell.

10. WE REJECT THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORMENT BECAUSE OF THE FRUIT IT HAS BROUGHT FORTH HERE ON EARTH. The doctrine of an eternally burning hell



Here are ten reasons why we reject the doctrine of an eternally burning hell. The Bible clearly sets forth that there will be a literal hellfire, which will cause the wicked to die the “second death” (Revelation 20:14,15). No where in Scripture does God ever promise eternal life to the wicked, either in hellfire, or in any other place. The “wages of sin” is not eternal life in hellfire, but “death” (Rom. 6:23)—the “second death” (Revelation 20:15). The Biblical hellfire will punish the wicked “according to their works” (Revelation 20:12,13), and then will annihilate them, leaving “neither root nor branch.” (Malachi. 4:1)

“For evildoers shall be cut off.” (Psalms 37:9)

“The wicked shall not be; yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.” (Psalms 37:10)

“But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.” (Psalms 37:20)

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” (Malachi 4:1)

“And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 4:3)