

DEFENDABLE FAITH - ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

How Could a Loving God Send People to Hell?

OBJECTION: A good and loving God would not send people to hell.

FALSE _____ OR IMPRESSIONS THAT LEAD TO THIS OBJECTION:

- **ASSUMPTION # 1 - No one _____ to go to hell.**
 - This thought comes from the philosophy of the world that says that all people are basically _____.
 - The Bible, however, tells us just the opposite. The Bible says in **Romans 3:10** *“As it is written: **“There is _____ righteous, no, not one;”***
 - Adam and Eve’s choice to sin allowed sin to enter the human _____.
 - Every person is now born with a sin _____, inherited from his father.
 - Thus sin has spread through the entire human race. **Romans 5:12** *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—*
 - The Scriptural description of man (apart from Christ) stands in stark contradiction to man’s self-appraisal in our modern world.
 - His spirit is _____. **Ephesians 4:17-18** *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;*
 - His soul is debased. **Ephesians 4:19** *who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*
 - His body is diseased. **Romans 7:24** *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

- His conscience is _____. 1 Timothy 4:2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,
 - His heart is _____. Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”
 - He is _____ in sin. Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
 - He is condemned to wrath and _____. John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
- People in this condition cannot dwell in the eternal Kingdom of God. 2 Corinthians 6:14b-15 ... what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?
 - And why are people in this condition? Because we have all _____ to sin!
- Rather than the truth being “No one deserves to go to hell,” it really is “_____ of us deserve to go to hell.”
- **ASSUMPTION # 2 - God made hell to punish _____.**
 - Actually, God made hell for the devil and the _____ who followed him in rebellion against the Almighty. Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:’
 - People go there when they choose to do what the _____ did, rebel against God and refuse to repent.
- **ASSUMPTION # 3 - Some go to hell through no _____ of their own.**

This false assumption leads the question Christians dread.

How can a just, righteous, loving, merciful God pour out His wrath on people who have had no _____ to know the truth about Him?

The question is phrased a lot of ways, but the root of the inquiry is always the same.

How can God condemn people to hell for not trusting in Jesus when they have never heard the _____ or even the name of the Savior?

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

In the final clause of this sentence and the explanation of it that follows, God gives a clear and convincing answer.

- **People are ungodly and _____.**
- **They also _____ the truth in unrighteousness.**
 - **These words can be rendered “_____ are suppressing the truth by persisting in their sin.”**
 - **The problem is not that men and women _____ nothing of God and truth.**
 - **The problem is that they _____ the truth from themselves and others because they love sin.**

The Lord Jesus offered the same explanation. John 3:19 **And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men _____ darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

And now Paul (and the Spirit) proves that this is the case here in the latter half of Romans, Chapter 1.

- **All people everywhere have _____ opportunity to know God and the truth.**

Romans 1:19 **because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.**

God has shown *it* (the _____ of God) to them.

What may be known of God is manifest in them means literally “clearly known” in them. In other words, this knowledge of God is both clearly _____ and inside of them, because God has shown *it* to them.

How has God done this?

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

For since the creation of the world

The _____ inducing nature of the created order has been present for every person to observe since the creation of the world.

Even the men and women who lived long _____ our modern scientific age could look into the expanse of the night sky and have their breath drawn away in fascination and wonder. Those who observed more carefully noted _____ in the movement of the stars; heavenly bodies shifting in orderly progression.

On the earth, the same _____, beauty, and intricacy was also seen, literally everywhere. The pear tree bloomed and produced its fruit. Inside the fruit were seeds. Inside the seeds was a white mass, mixed with browns. But if the seed were left intact, when dropped into the ground and watered, it grew into a _____ of the tree that bore it!

Even _____ some of **the workings of the universe** began to be _____, the observation of these wonders **produced a common question: “_____ made these things?”**

The clear evidence of _____ caused them to ask, internally if not externally, **“Who is the Designer?”**

Modern technology and scientific understanding has not reduced the mystery but _____ it. We understand something of how a tree replicates itself by plant DNA stored in the cells of a seed that then instructs those cells to reproduce and manufacture all of the other types of cells needed to make the tree, and to do it in a logical progression that allows it to move from seeding to a mature tree. But our understanding does not diminish our fascination, nor does it answer the question.

Now we ask, “Who put all the _____ coded into DNA into the chemical composition of the molecule?” Our common sense understanding that **the _____ of that information must be greater than the information encoded** means that it must be far beyond human ability, for **we cannot even fully _____ the code, much less _____ one on our own.**

His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead,

So, here is the point, Paul says.

The _____ attributes of God, especially His eternal power and deity, **are clearly seen by means of the things that God has _____**. The revelation of His own divine nature and majesty is not only

for the astute, but for everyone. The revelation is _____ seen. This is what David was speaking of when he wrote,

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

- **What happens when a person is _____ to this revelation?**

What happens when they see the testimony of God's power and divinity and conclude, "There must be a God who created these things?"

Is that sufficient to save them? The answer is "____!"

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

When people respond properly to God's self-revelation through creation, God does not promise them _____.

He promises them _____ revelation.

Jeremiah 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

The promise of the Almighty to every person is that if they will _____ Him with their whole heart, _____ will see to it that they find Him. The Lord spoke through Ezekiel in **Ezekiel 33:11** Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live... Peter testified in **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

God does not cause people to be born in places where there is no knowledge of Himself and no gospel so that He can then throw them into hell.

In the most _____ place, God provides a _____ through the things He made in the creation that say to each man and each woman, "There is a God, and He is all powerful." **If they then seek God with all their _____, God sends them more revelation, ultimately the _____.** If they continue to seek, they will come to _____ in Jesus Christ and be saved.

We see that exact scenario with the Ethiopian eunuch.

- **He was _____ God.**

- Somehow, **God had allowed him to have** a copy of the **scroll of _____**, which shows the lengths God was going to in order to save this man who was seeking Him.
- The eunuch came to the place where **he became _____ for the gospel.**
- **God sent an _____ to Phillip** and
- **sent Phillip to the _____** where the Ethiopian was reading Isaiah in his chariot. Then
- **the Holy Spirit directed Phillip to the Ethiopian.** Meanwhile,
- **the Spirit has directed the Ethiopian's attention to Isaiah _____**, which speaks of the Suffering Servant Messiah.
- **His question about the passage opens the door to the sharing of the _____**, and the
- **Ethiopian _____ and is baptized.**

Cornelius was a centurion in the _____ army. The Bible describes him as

- **devout and as one who prayed often.**
- **He was a God _____**, and
- **God sent _____ to him to explain the gospel**, and
- **Cornelius was _____.**

_____ of Thyatira was a

- **God-seeking _____.**
- **The Lord sent _____ to share the gospel**, and
- **she was saved.**

Paul used this very approach with the lost men of _____ who had no knowledge of the One True God at all.

Acts 17:23-28 23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not

dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being...'

Paul

- **begins by declaring God as the _____ of the universe and the creator of all life.**
- He then **says that God created man to _____ the Lord** and offers the hope that they will find Him and
- **points out that He is not far off.**

Let us return to the question that was asked.

- **The answer to the question Christians dread**

How can a just, righteous, loving, merciful God pour out His wrath on people who have had no opportunity to know the truth about Him?

There is no such thing as a person who had _____ opportunity to know the truth about God.

- _____ person has the revelation through creation of the divinity and power of the One True Creator God.
- If that person rightly _____ to that revelation he or she is given, God will get the gospel to them.
- Therefore those who go to hell are only those who either refuse the witness of God given by _____ or who refuse to trust the _____ of the gospel.

How can God condemn people to hell for not trusting in Jesus when they have never heard the gospel or even the name of the Savior?

- **Because if a person will _____ the God of Creation with all their heart**
- **God will _____ them more revelation, ultimately the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

- Those who go to hell have _____ the witness of creation or the witness of the gospel or both.

so that they are without excuse,

Therefore, the Holy Spirit says to the Romans and to us, they are without _____. No one will ever be able to rightly accuse God of injustice or unfairness. He will never be guilty of capriciousness. It has been said, and rightly so, that the only ones who go to hell are those who choose to go there. **God has lovingly and longingly _____ Himself as the Almighty Creator to everyone He created.**

Those who respond by seeking Him with all their heart will _____ Him in the person of Jesus Christ who died on the cross to give them forgiveness of sin and eternal life.