

What God Has Done to
Keep Us Out of Hell

Introduction

- From time to time we remind ourselves of the reality of eternal torments for the unsaved.
- Any careful study of the Bible sees that hell is a reality. And studying facts about it are sobering and motivate us to do all we can to avoid being eternally condemned there.
- As we study scripture, we also learn that God does not want anyone to go there (**2 Peter 3:9, Ezekiel 33:11, 1 Timothy 2:4**). However because of His nature, most will be lost.
- But my focus in this lesson is to consider what God has done to keep people out of hell.

What God will NOT do

He will not remove your freedom of choice

- Man has always had a choice – **Deuteronomy 30:19, Joshua 24:15, on Pentecost – Acts 2:40**
- God will never force obedience –
 - Contrary to Calvinism and other such doctrines
- But salvation is available to everyone – Romans 10:13
- He gives us choices and it is up to us to choose wisely
- **HOWEVER**, whatever choice you make comes with consequences

What God will NOT do

He will not save you if you refuse to obey

- **Hebrews 5:9**
- **Mark 16:16** – he who does not believe will be condemned
- **Matthew 7:21** – not enough to say, 'Lord, Lord'

What God will NOT do

He will not change His eternal covenant

- Covenants have always been important to God.
- **Genesis 3:15** – the first promise. **Genesis 6:18, 9:11ff** – He continued His covenant through Noah
- **Genesis 15:18, 17:2ff** – with Abraham
- **Exodus 19:5-9** – at Mt. Sinai with Israel through Moses
- Christ fulfilled His covenant – **Hebrews 7:22, 8:6ff.**
A NEW covenant that replaced/fulfilled the other(s)
- We are now under that new and final covenant!

What God will NOT do

He will not change the gospel plan

- The plan is a part of God's covenant.
- Scripture is clear what God expects us to do to be saved.
- **Galatians 3:26-27** – Baptism puts us into Christ and in contact with His blood – **Romans 6:3-4, Revelation 1:5**
- Since the day of Pentecost, this has not changed
- Man has attempted to change God's plan, but He has not, nor will He as long as this world remains.

What God will NOT do

He will not give you a second chance after death

- While alive you have every chance to obey His gospel and to make yourself right.
- But after death, your destiny is sealed – **Hebrews 9:27**.
- The rich man and Lazarus illustrates this – **Luke 16:19-31**
- Furthermore, He will NOT accept salvation by proxy – that is someone else cannot obey the gospel or buy your salvation. Salvation is always described as an individual thing – **Romans 14:10-12**.

What God has done:

He provided the necessary and adequate sacrifice

- **John 3:16, Romans 5:6-8, 3:23-26** – through His Son, He provided a sufficient sacrifice like no other.
- Animal sacrifices were inadequate
- Our personal actions are inadequate
- The fact of the cross demonstrates the greatness of His love for us – **Isaiah 53:3, 1 Peter 2:21-24**

What God has done:

He made a covenant with us

- AS previously discussed, He has made promises that He will keep IF we comply with said conditions.
- Addressing these covenants, **Hebrews 6:18** tells us it is impossible for God to lie

What God has done:

He has made the gospel available to everyone

- **John 3:16** – whoever believes in Him.
Titus 2:11 – His grace has appeared to all men
- When we say, “all” we mean EVERYONE! **Galatians 3:27-28**
- **1 Timothy 1:12-15** illustrates this as Paul acknowledges his salvation though he is highly unworthy.
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** – such were some of you
- **Acts 17:30** – now He commands “*all men everywhere to repent.*”

What God has done:

Through His goodness

- **Romans 2:4** – His goodness leads to repentance
We find that God genuinely cares.
- This is contrasted with many of the gods of mythology of that day and today.
- He is a personal, merciful and gracious God.
- **Ephesians 1:3**, every spiritually blessing comes from Him.
- The goodness of God realized ought to humble us toward obedience – **1 John 4:19** – We love Him because He first loved US.

What God has done:

Through His patience

- **2 Peter 3:9** – the longsuffering of God
- We often wonder why God continues to tolerate this degenerate age and world. It seems to be getting worse and worse, but it goes on and on.
- WHEN will He return and judge?
- Understand that the longer He waits means more opportunities for repentance and someone else to be saved.
- **2 Peter 3:15**, *and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,*
- This is why He waited 120 years before the flood. This is why He waited and warned Israel over and over and over and...
- BUT understand that His patience WILL end – **Acts 17:31**

What God has done:

By extending the invitation to us

- **2 Peter 1:3** – through His word we have *“all things that pertain to life and godliness.”*
- He in His word has told us everything we need to do to be saved – **Romans 1:16.**
- As recently noted, you cannot separate the gospel and His invitation!
- Every time an invitation is offered, be it through reading the scriptures or at the conclusion of a study or service, it means there is an opportunity!
- **Revelation 22:17**, *And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

What God has done:

Through warnings about eternal condemnation

- **Luke 13:3** – *“Unless you repent you will all likewise perish”*
- Sadly, not all will be saved. There is a place of eternal punishment awaiting the lost. **Matthew 25:46,**
2 Thessalonians 1:6-9
- But we know about it so there will be no excuse. The doctrine of hell is a warning and can serve as motivation for one to turn to God. **Matthew 10:28**
- **2 Corinthians 5:10-11**, it ought to also serve as a motivator to us to try and reach the lost

What God has done:

By being will to restore the fallen

- God's love and mercy are seen in His willingness to take us back when we fall (away).
- **Matthew 18:22**, Peter asked how often should we forgive. Note the answer of Jesus.
- ALSO not the follow-up parable – **Matthew 18:23-35**
- Many Biblical examples show this about God – David, King Manasseh (**2 Chron. 33:12-15**), Peter, etc.
- This is perhaps the greatest example of His longsuffering, grace and mercy.
- **James 5:19-20**

Concluding thoughts

Yes God has done His part to keep us out of hell!

- Sadly, in spite of all He does and has done, most will be lost. Not because of God, but because of us!
- The choices we make will determine our spiritual, eternal destiny.
- God has done His part, will you do YOUR part?

Will you let Him keep
you out of hell?