

## What Believers Will Gain and Escape

### Part 2 – What Believers Will Escape

Matthew 25:30-46

#### Introduction:

● When might someone say:

1. *You don't know what you're missing.*
2. *You don't want to know what you're missing.*

● Why does Jesus tell believers about eternal punishment?

1. To let us know from what we are s\_\_\_\_\_.
2. To enable us to better appreciate the g\_\_\_\_\_ of eternal life and His love.

#### The general picture (Matt 25:30-46)

● The scene is the time when Jesus sits on His glorious throne and has gathered before Him all the n\_\_\_\_\_ (Greek word is ethnos – all ethnic groups) – vv. 31,32

1. He separates everyone into two groups, like a s\_\_\_\_\_ separates the sheep from the goats – vv. 32,33
2. The sheep represent true b\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Jesus the King gives them the full inheritance of the kingdom (right now we only have the kingdom in a s\_\_\_\_\_ sense) – v. 34
  - b. In the future kingdom, we will not struggle with sin. There will be no sickness, pain, or d\_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The earthly life of the true believer will be one of l\_\_\_\_\_ toward fellow-believers (*when you did it to the least of these brothers of Mine, you did it to Me*) – vv. 35-40
3. The goats represent un\_\_\_\_\_ (possibly those who claim or think they are unbelievers but are not)
  - a. Jesus the King tells them that they did not practice l\_\_\_\_\_ *the least of these* – vv. 42-45
  - b. They are condemned to eternal f\_\_\_\_\_ which were originally prepared for the d\_\_\_\_\_ and his angels (v 41).

● The scene ends with a contrast – v. 46

1. Unbelievers go away into eternal p\_\_\_\_\_
2. Believers enter into eternal l\_\_\_\_\_ (in body, soul, and spirit).

## The details of the punishment believers will escape

- The punishment is e\_\_\_\_\_
- 1. Some cannot fathom a loving God torturing a person for eternity and wrongly teach annihilation – an eternal state of n\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Some teach the immortality of the s\_\_\_\_\_, but it is wrong terminology.
  - a. Jesus stated in Matt 10:28 that God will destroy b\_\_\_\_\_ body and soul in hell (Greek word for hell is gehenna). Therefore, the soul is not immortal.
  - b. Presently, there is only \_\_\_ who is immortal (1Tim 6:16), which means that He cannot die.
  - c. Presently, we who believe in Jesus are m\_\_\_\_\_ (we can die).
  - d. At Christ's coming, only believers will be made immortal (Rom 8:11; 1 Cor 15:53)
    - 1) Before we accepted Christ, we were spiritually d\_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 2:1)
    - 2) When you accepted Christ, you were made spiritually a\_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 2:4,5)
    - 3) When you die, your spirit s\_\_\_\_\_ from your body (Jms 2:26)
      - a) When Jesus's spirit separated from His body, it went to h\_\_\_\_\_ (I Pet 3:18,19)
      - b) On the third day His spirit rejoined with His body, thus rising from the d\_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. On judgment day
    - 1) Everyone, believer and unbeliever will be r\_\_\_\_\_ from the dead (Jn 5:28,29)
    - 2) The believer will be resurrected to life, but the unbeliever to j\_\_\_\_\_.
- The place of judgment is the Lake of F\_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 20:11-15)
- 1. Two different Greek terms
  - a. Hades (Matt 11:23; 16:18; Lk 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27,31; 1 Cor 15:55; Rev 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14) – this is the place the s\_\_\_\_\_ of an unbeliever goes at the moment of death.
  - b. Gehenna (Matt 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15,33; Mk 9:43,45,47; Lk 12:5; Jms 3:6) – this an unbeliever's f\_\_\_\_\_ destination and corresponds to the Lake of Fire.

2. Gehenna (the Lake of Fire) is:
  - a. A place where the f\_\_\_\_\_ is unquenchable (Mk 9:43)
  - b. A place where the whole b\_\_\_\_\_ goes (Matt 5:30) where only the spirit goes to Hades (Lk 16:22,23)
  - c. A place where the s\_\_\_\_\_ will be destroyed or perish (Matt 10:28).
  - d. The second d\_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 20:14)
    - 1) An unbeliever d\_\_\_\_\_ physically when the body is burned up – physical death
    - 2) The spirit remains but is s\_\_\_\_\_ from God forever – spiritual death
3. The unbeliever never l\_\_\_\_\_ awareness
  - a. Rev 14:11 – they are t\_\_\_\_\_ day and night and have no rest from that torture.
  - b. There is w\_\_\_\_\_ and gnashing of teeth (Matt 25:30).
4. Many argue over the symbolism, but the teaching is clear – we will escape a punishment of eternal misery.
  - a. We d\_\_\_\_\_ this punishment (Rom 3:23; 6:23)
  - b. But we will become immortal in our b\_\_\_\_\_, soul, and spirit (I Thess 5:23,24).

### **Conclusion:**

- The Bible does not present the doctrine of eternal punishment to s\_\_\_\_\_ people into believing.
  1. People come to Him because they are d\_\_\_\_\_ to Him (Jn 6:44).
  2. People come to Christ because they realize how much God l\_\_\_\_\_ them (Rom 5:8; Jn 3:16).
- The Bible presents the doctrine of eternal punishment to
  1. To show us believers what we have e\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. And to enable us to l\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord even more.
- This is my prayer for you – Eph 3:18,19

*I pray that, with all of the saints,  
 You'd be able to grasp love's breadth,  
 To grasp its length, also its height,  
 As well as to grasp its depth.*

*I pray that you would be able  
 To realize Christ's love instilled  
 Which surpasses understanding  
 So with all God's fullness, you're filled.*