

Romans 1:18-32

“Will God Send You to Hell”

Can you justify your belief that God will allow anyone to go to Hell? We all know that God is just and that God cannot look at sin. We also know that God will give us all multiple chances of acknowledging our sin nature and asking forgiveness and accepting His plan for salvation. We also know that as humans we often do not listen to His voice and just go on our own way. Stubborn and stupid. So that raises the question whether or not God will truly send someone or let someone go to hell. This passage in Romans is the best and clearest discussion about this part of the nature of God. What does God really say and what does God really believe and mean. But before you can believe what Paul wrote in Romans you must believe a few things about who God is. First you must believe that God created mankind and everything else in the earth. Second you must believe that God is the ultimate ruler of all. Third you must believe that sin exists and that God will punish sin. Fourth you must believe that God has provided a way for us to not pay that penalty for sin. Fifth you must believe that God will give you the power to avoid sin.

1. *God Exists and is Powerful - verse 20*

There is a need in everyone to worship some god. A need for some spiritual being in each life. Gen. 1:1 clearly acknowledges that God Almighty is the only true God, and He created this earth and the Heavens. His power is evident in all things and His existence is evident in all creation. Regardless of what the unbelieving world says, God does exist. Also that God's “external power and divine nature” has been “clearly seen”. Col. 1:16-17

2. *Conscience - verse 19*

God made man with a God consciousness. Gen. 2:7; Gen. 3:8-10; We cannot ignore the fact that God created us to worship Him and without Him we can never fill the void in our lives. It is through our conscience that we are convicted of our sin nature and our daily sins. When we continue to sin, we dull our conscience and then we are less likely to do the right thing until we no longer know what is right or what is wrong.

3. *We are without excuse - verse 20*

This is probably one of the hardest passages to really believe in the entire Bible. It clearly states that we are all without excuse for not knowing who God is and what His nature is. No one is exempt. Paul says that the “invisible attributes”, which are God's Omnipresence, Omnipotence, and His Omniscience, are “clearly seen”. That is why even the darkest most remote part of the world has no excuse. Job 12:7-10; Ps. 139:13-14

4. Foolish Ideas - verse 21

If we do not believe God and Honor Him, all of our ideas and plans are foolish. As far back as the children of Israel, mankind has been blowing it with God. Jeremiah 10:6-15

5. Created Idols - verse 23

The problem with not believing in God and worshipping Him is that the only other choice is the worship idols. As Paul and already said, it is foolish and futile, but mankind has done it for years. 2 Kings 17:15-16

6. Result of Sin - verse 24

The word "Therefore" gives us a real explanation of why the previous verses were there. God will allow you to go your own way if you insist hard enough, long enough, and loud enough. If you ignore the evidence of God's existence in creation, the power and wisdom of God in creation, and exchange the knowledge and proof of God for foolish and vain idols, God will let you continue to sin until you "come to your senses". Jeremiah 10:6-15; The way of sin always leads to the pig pen. If we are really honest, that the place we always end up. Just like the prodigal son. Luke 15:14-16.

Let's look again at the progression of this. There are several things we know to be true here and if we believe them and keep them in mind we will know better how to share the truth of God with others.

If you don't believe that God is real then you will
... Not have much of a conscience.
.... If you don't have much of a conscience you will.
..... Not believe that you need an excuse to be saved.
..... If you don't believe you need salvation you will.
..... Be foolish in your thinking.
..... If you are foolish in your thinking, you will.
..... Create idols in your life.
..... If you create idols in your life your actions will.
..... Result in sin.