





Structure /Format

- Traditional view + Annihilationist view (TODAY)
- Quarantine view + Purgatorial view + Universalist view (NEXT)
- How are these views supported in Scripture?
- What are their good points? How can these perspectives 'speak to' our lives today?



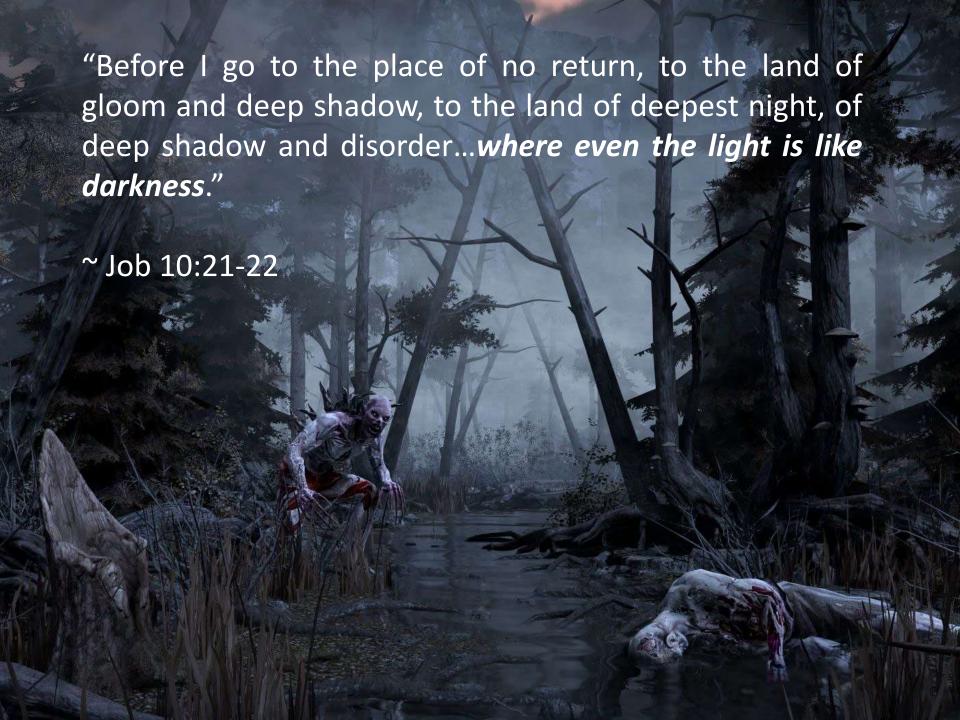


<OT>

"Sheol"

- Used 65 times in Old Testament
- A 'realm of death below' (Deut 32:22), implying a punishment by fire inflicted on unsaved persons after death
- Describes place of darkness (Job 10:21-22)
- A place of eternal retribution (Isa 14:9-10)
- Translated to 'Hades' in New Testament





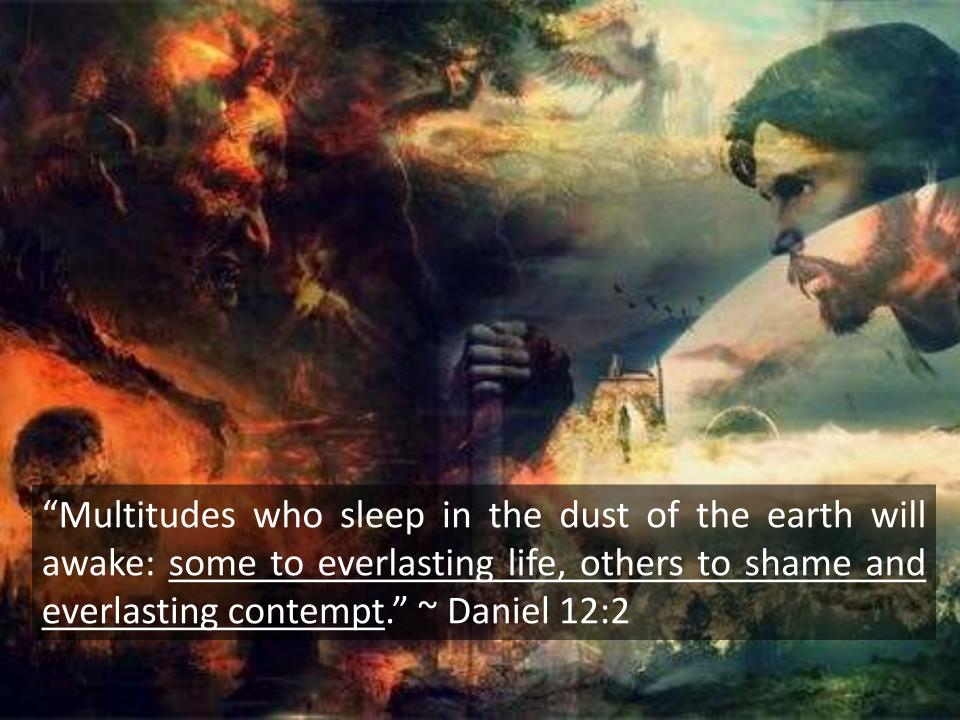
"(They) will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."

Isaiah 66:24



"For exposed corpses to be eaten by worms or burned was a disgrace...(usually) the maggots would die when they had finished their foul work, and the fire would go out once its fuel was consumed. But (in Isaiah), the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched! The punishment and shame of the wicked have no end; their fate is eternal."

[~] Robert Peterson



<NT>

"If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where...everyone will be salted with fire."

Mark 9: 47-49



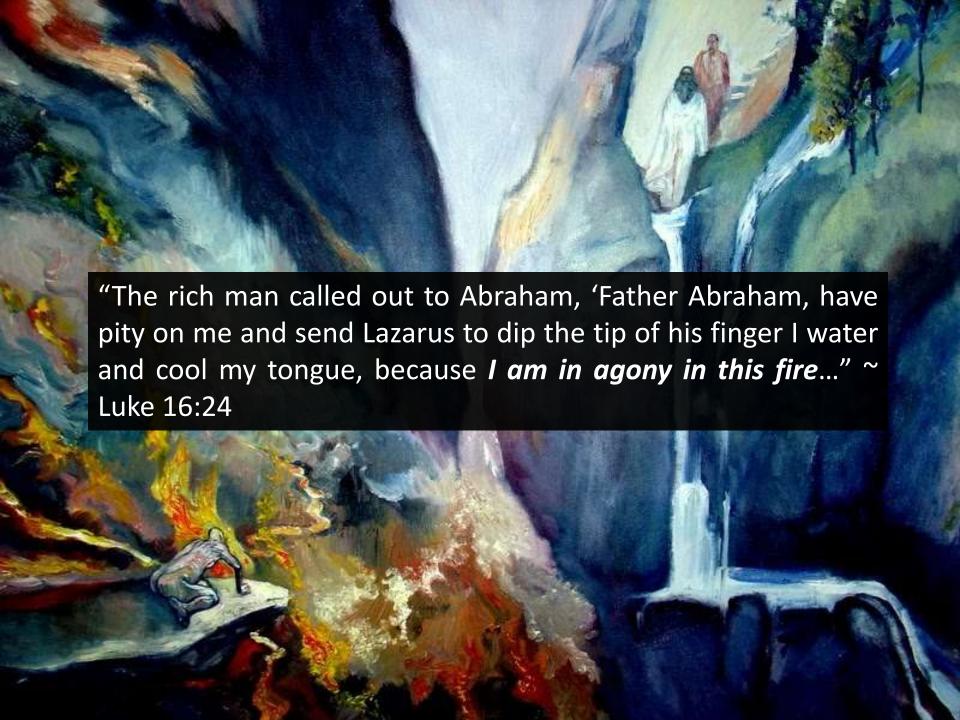
"Salted with Fire" received a Second Place Award in the 2002 Computer Graphics Art Show, Technical Communications Department, Houston Community College.

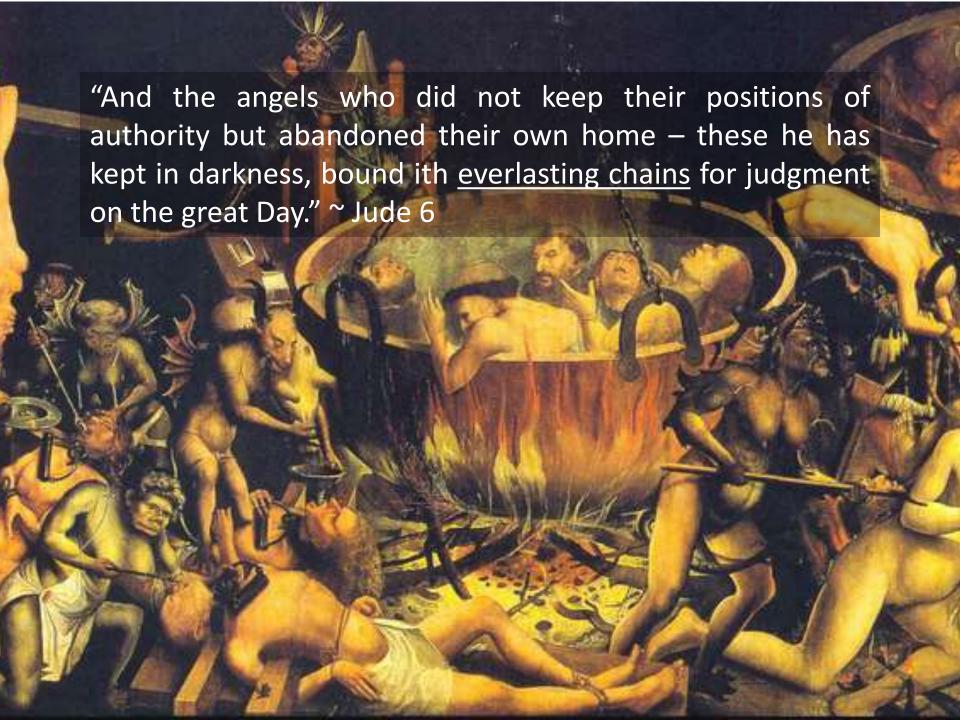
The artwork is based on two scriptures found in Old Testament text, which include the phrases "Salted with Fire" and "Refiner's Fire."

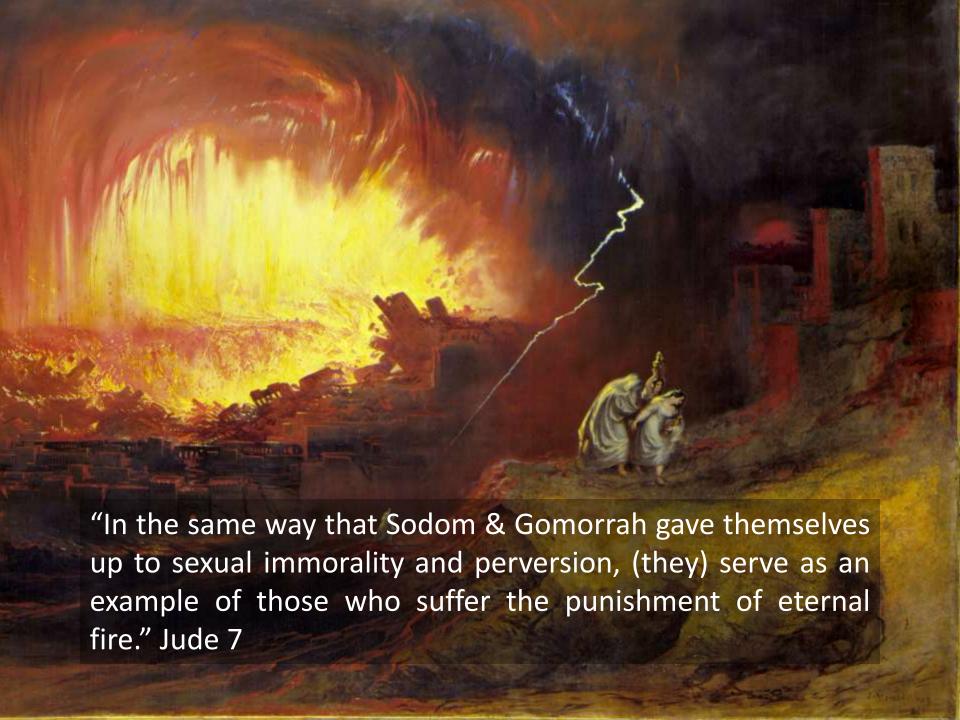
The artwork represents challenges and refinement. I scanned pictures, and my own hands for the composition.

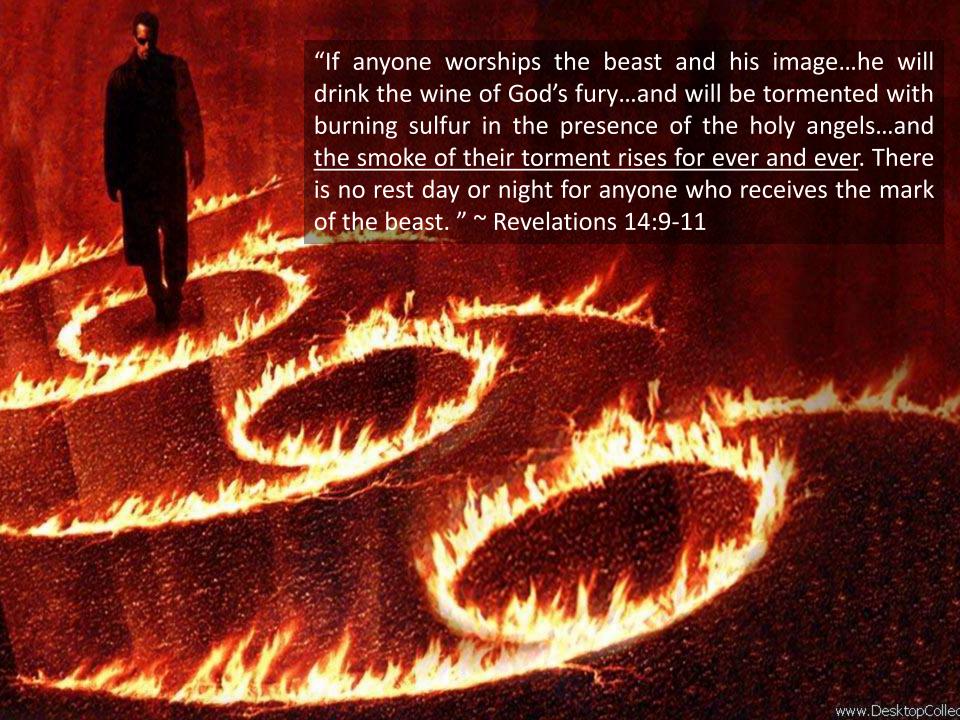
I created this collage in Photoshop 6.0.

"Then (the King) will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." ~ Matthew 25:40-46













Summing up the Traditional view

 Punishment is consciously felt and its everlasting i.e. it never stops

 The pain and suffering are extreme; fire is real!

 It's a fate worse than death (Matt 11:20-24, 18:6; Mark 14:21) "What's the punishment for sinning against an infinite God? Infinite damnation."

~ Anselm

"Our potential for good is <u>proportionate</u> to our potential for evil...if I can choose love for eternity, then I should be able to choose the *opposite* for eternity too" ~ Gregory Boyd







Good points

Takes Biblical warnings very seriously

 Emphasizes severity and danger of sin; evil has serious consequences!

Doesn't take God's holiness for granted



< Bible speaks of total destruction of the wicked >

OT Verses

- Obad 16, "...they shall drink and drink and be as if they had never been."
- Dan 2:35, "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace."
- Nahum 1;10, "They will be entangled among thorns and drunk from their wine; they will be consumed like dry stubble."
- Psa 1:4, "(the wicked) are like chaff that the wind blows away..."
- Psa 37:10, 20, 36, "A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found...but the wicked will perish; The Lord's enemies will be like the beauty of the fields, they will vanish vanish like smoke...I have seen a wicked and ruthless man (but) he soon passed away and was no more..."

chaff¹

noun

the husks of corn or other seed separated by winnowing or threshing.

synonyms: husks, hulls, pods, shells, bran, shucks

"separating the chaff from the grain"

- chopped hay and straw used as fodder.
- worthless things; trash.
 synonyms: garbage, dross, rubbish, trash; More

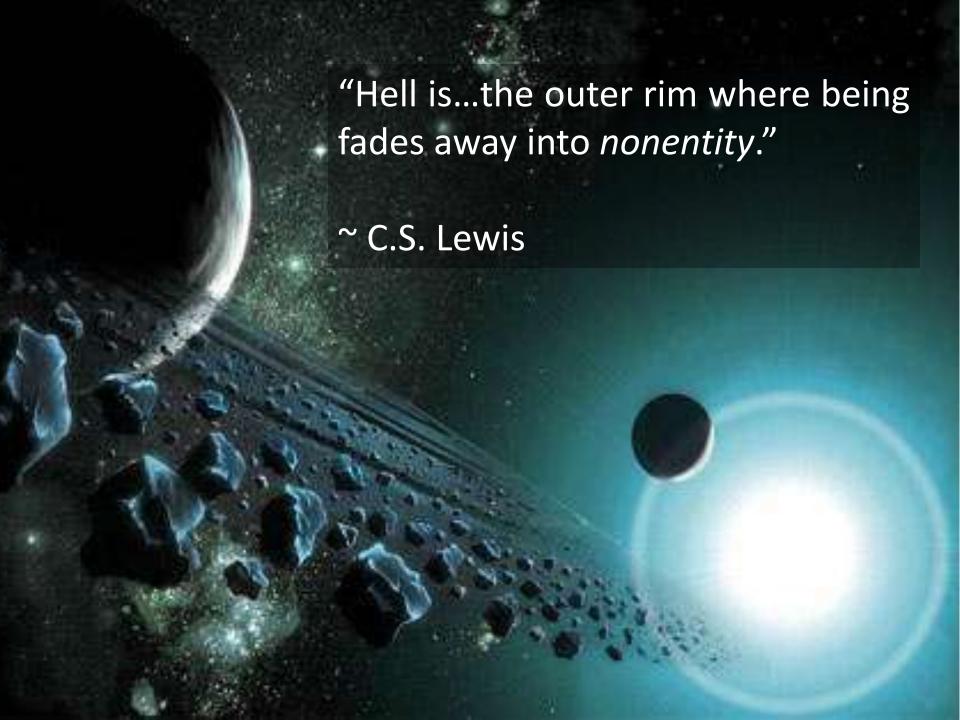


NT Verses

- Matt 3:12, "...He will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and <u>burning up</u> the chaff with unquenchable fire."
- Heb 10:27, "...only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."
- Phil 3:18-19, "...Their (the enemies of Christ) destiny is destruction." (cf. 1:28, "...they will be destroyed.")
- 1Cor 3:17, "If anyone destroy God's temple, God will destroy him..."

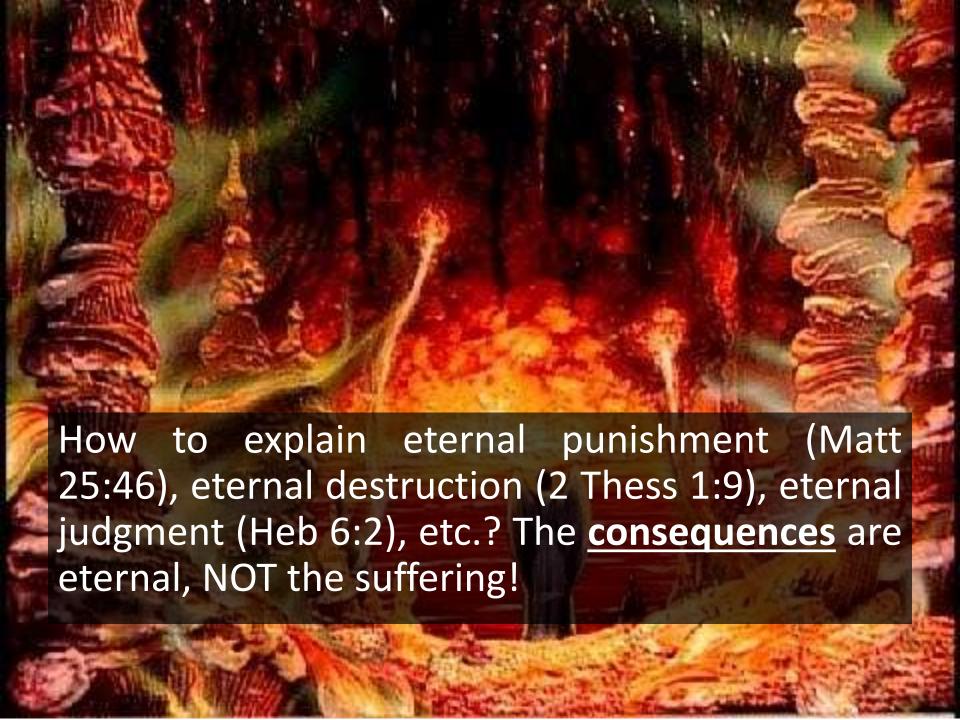
"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell" -JESUS someecards





"Hell is not the beginning of a new immortal life in torment, but the <u>end</u> of a life in rebellion."

Clark Pinnock



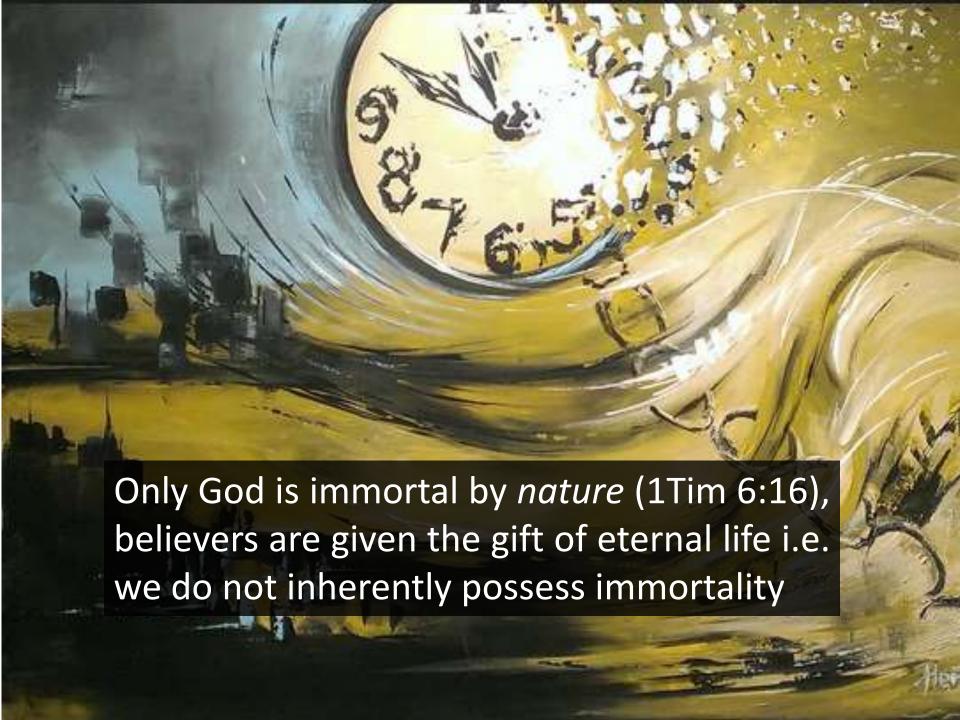
"Everlasting life is existence that continues without end, and everlasting death is destruction without end i.e. destruction without recall, the destruction obliteration...From that death there can be no return to life."

Philip Hughes

"It would be hard to imagine a concept more confusing than that of death which means existing endlessly without the power to die."

Philip Hughes

...For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must CLOTHE itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been **CLOTHED** with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, THEN the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'" ~ 1 Cor 15:52



God's COMPLETE Victory

- God will be 'all in all' (1Cor 15:28) and 'have His fullness fill everything in every way' (Eph 1:10) – how does this jive with the existence of Godhating souls existing forever and forever?
- 'All creatures in heaven and earth bowing before the throne (Phil 2:10-11!) and 'all things being reconciled to God' (Col 1:20) or 'restored to Him' (Acts 3:21) – how does this jive with the idea of a torturous never-ending existence of condemned souls

Of the 264 Scriptural references to the fate of the lost...

- 108 cases (41%) refer to unforgiven sin
- 59 cases (22%) refer to destruction, perdition, utter loss or ruin
- 26 cases (10%) refer to burning up
- 4 cases (4%) refer to Gehenna
- 20 cases (8%) refer to separation from God
- 25 cases (10%) refer to death in its finality, sometimes called the 'second death'
- 15 cases (6%) refer to anguish

In only ONE verse is there an allusion to unending torment (Rev 14:11) which is increasingly read as *symbolic hyper-bole*.

Good points

 Seeks to consolidate severity of final judgment with God's character of love

 Removes problem of eternal conscious torment (or 'torture')

 Offers new way of reading selected words in Scripture, e.g. 'immortality', 'everlasting', etc.





NOTHINGNESS

It seems like it goes on forever.

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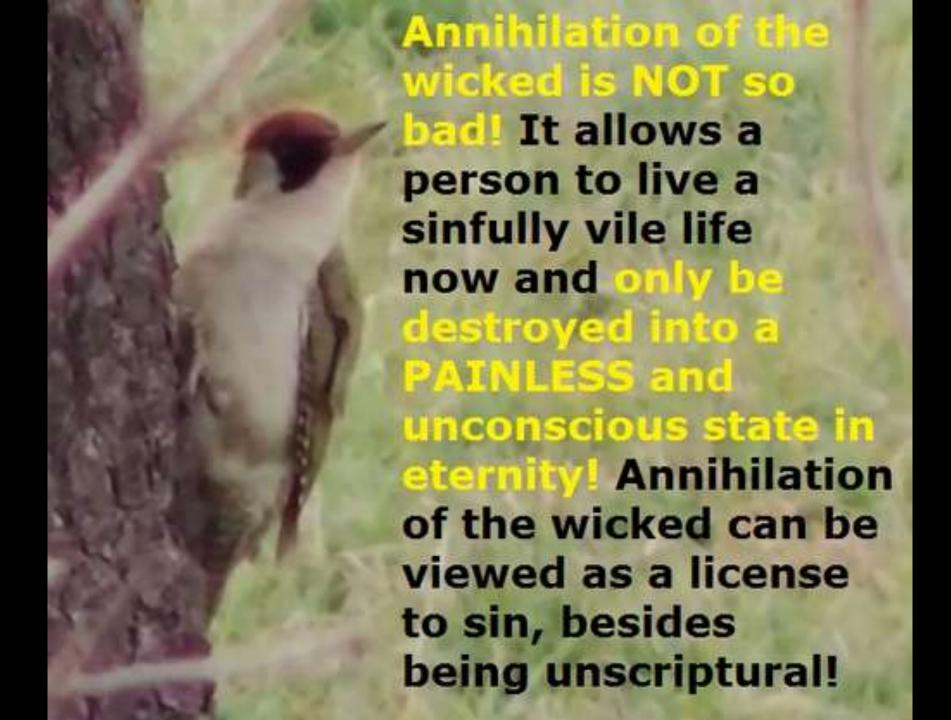


NIRVANA, n. In the Buddhist religion, a state of pleasurable annihilation awarded to the wise, particularly to those wise enough to understand it.

(Ambrose Bierce)

"Everything is more beautiful because we are doomed. You will never be lovelier than you are now. We will never be here again."

Homer, The Iliad



I had nothing to say And I get lost in the nothingness inside of me I was confused And I let it all out to find That I'm not the only person with these things in mind



<The Significance of Symbols>

Symbolic / Hyperbolic language in the Bible

- "If anyone comes to me and does not <u>hate</u> his father, mother, wife and children, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26)
- "If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell" (Matt 5:29)
- "Take the <u>plank</u> out of your own eye" (Matt 7:5)
- "If anyone says to this mountain, 'Go throw yourself into the sea'...it will be done" (Mark 11:23)

Fire is often non-literal in Jewish writings

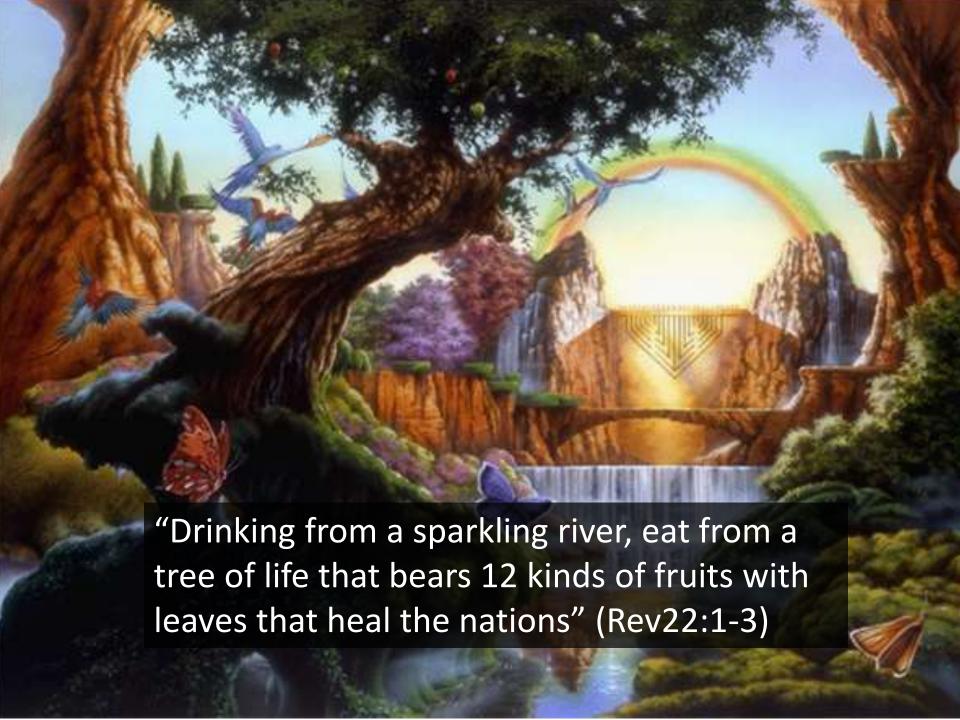
- The Torah was written with 'black fire on white fire' (Jerusalem Talmud)
- Tree of life is gold in the form of fire (2 Enoch)
- There are moutains of fire (Pseudo-Philo), rivers of fire (1 Enoch), thrones of fire (Apocalyptic Abram), lashes of fire (T. Abram), angels and demons of fire (2 Baruch)
- God is a consuming fire (Deut 4), with a throne of fire with a river of fire underneath (Dan 7)
- Jesus has eyes like blazing fire (Rev 1:14)
- Fire used figuratively for discord (Lk 12:49), judgment (1 Cor 3:15), sexual desire (1 Cor 7:9) and unruly words (James 3:5-6)



"There seems no more reason for supposing that the fire spoken of in Scripture is to be a literal fire, than that the worm that never dies is literally a worm."

~ Charles Hodge





< Relational condemnation >

"The Bible describes hell **primarily in relational terms**--it is 'away from' God. Therefore, it involves banishment from his presence, his purposes, and his followers.

Like heaven, hell is a freely chosen destination. What we decide to believe and do in this life sets us on a road leading to a final destination in the next...Hell is also a place of shame, sorrow, regret, and anguish."

[~] Habermas & Moreland

"The pain suffered will be due to the **shame and sorrow** resulting from the punishment of final, ultimate, unending banishment from God, his kingdom, and the good life for which we were created in the first place. Hell's occupants will deeply and tragically regret all they lost.

[~] Habermas & Moreland





"The state of cold obstinacy has become eternal. They have become impervious to God, love, goodness, Christ and fellowship...To be lost means to be entirely closed in on oneself, without contact with others or with God. This is the punishment, the 'second death' (Rev. 20:14).

Scripture uses terrifying words to express it: darkness, gnashing of teeth, fire. They need not be taken as literal descriptions. They are apt expressions nonetheless of the dismay at having missed the end and object of existence."

Seabury

The primacy of 'weeping and gnashing of teeth'!

I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (matt 8.11ff)

As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (matt 13.40)

Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. 49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 13.47)

Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (matt 22.13)

But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' 49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (matt 24.48ff)

Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (matt 25.28ff)

There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. 29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. (Luke 13.28ff)



Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth

 This is a description of sorrow and anger, NOT mind-numbing pain!

 Weeping occurs when the damned witness their own exclusion i.e. it's caused by separation, NOT by fiery torture! "Since God cannot force his love on people and coerce them to choose him, and since he cannot annihilate creatures with such high intrinsic value, then the only option available is quarantine.

And that is what hell is."

Moreland & Habermas



< Hell is Nothing New? >

C.S. Lewis' view

- People in hell are living more or less the way they were living on earth
- No more 'obligation' to be good or to care for others
- No more opportunity for personal change and development
- They go through the motions of being entirely selfish, become 'less real' and 'less personal'

"Those in hell may be almost happy, and this may explain why they insist on staying there...they experience a certain perverse sense of satisfaction, a distorted sort of pleasure...Another way of making this point is by noting that something like happiness may be defined, at a very basic level, as getting what one wants.

They wants to maintain a feeling of superiority over other persons. They want to hold on to the feeling that they have been treated unfairly. This gives them a feeling of power and indignation which they relish..."

[~] Jerry Walls



SOME PEOPLE ARE SO POOR, ALL THEY HAVE ISMONEY



5 Ways Emotional Pain Is Worse Than Physical Pain

Why emotional pain causes longer lasting damage to our lives



Posted Jul 20, 2014

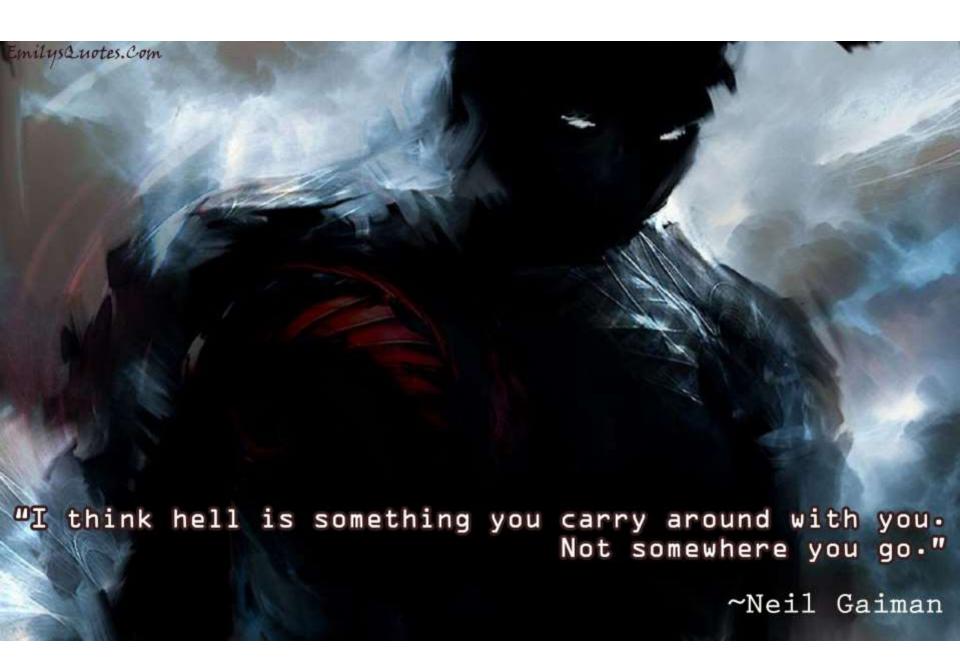
We tend to monitor our bodies and our physical health far more than we do our emotional health. For example, we get yearly physical check-ups but the idea of getting a 'psychological check-up' is completely foreign to us.



We know that if a small physical injury like a cut becomes more painful over time it is a sign of a more serious infection. But if failing to get a promotion at work is still emotionally painful after several weeks we are unaware that we might be getting depressed.

We tend to react to physical pain much more proactively than we do to emotional pain. Yet, short of catastrophic injuries or "Hell exists.
it's here.
3 a.m.
awake and
without you."

Beau Taplin, "Hell exists."







"Roman Catholics have traditionally viewed purgatory as a place of temporal punishment for sins that have not been repented of before death, whereas Eastern theologians view it as a process of growth and maturation for persons who have not completed the sanctification process." ~ Jerry Walls

Is suicide a shortcut to perfection?

 Are we 'magically' made perfect at the moment of death? What about our freedom and temporality?

 Our faith gets us "out of prison", but our character still has to be reformed

 Suicide is not the answer: We are still called to be salt of the earth and light of the world.



"You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat."

Rom 14:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

2 Corinthians 5:10



"If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames." ~ 1 Cor 3:11-15

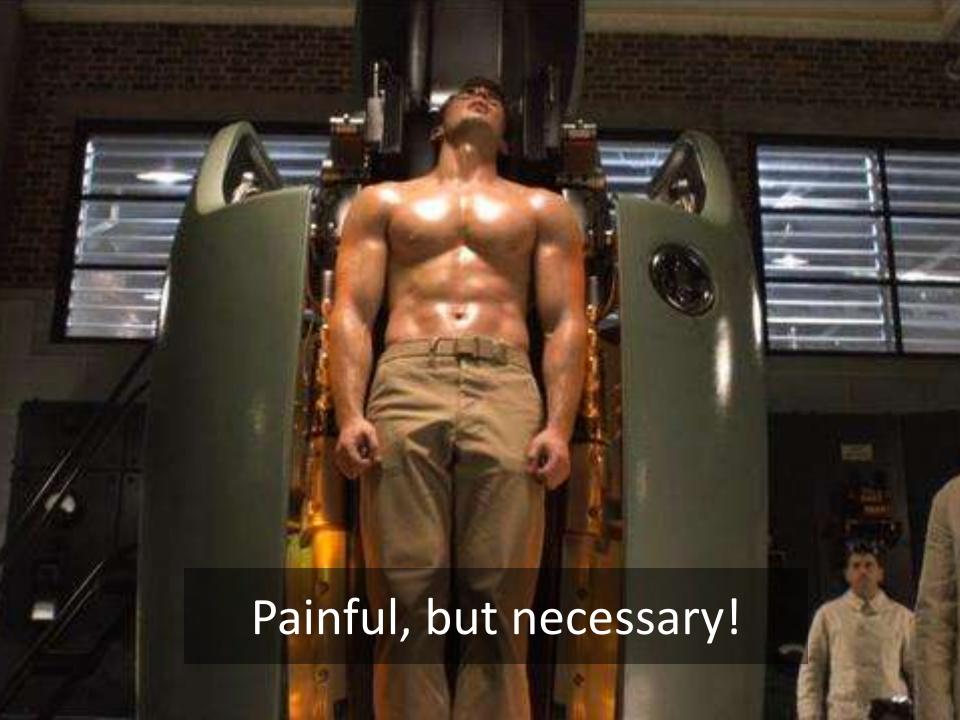
"This fire refines everything that is built on the foundation of Christ but burns up everything that is not...this refining fire (or "prison," or "beatings") takes place at the "judgment seat of Christ" that all *believers* must face.

The judgment is NOT about whether or not a believer belongs to God. It's about a believer receiving whatever punishment they need and whatever reward they deserve as a prelude to their life in the heavenly society."

[~] Gregory Boyd

"Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

2 Corinthians 7:1



"The doctrine of purgatory also reminds us that the most pervasive and deadly sins are sins of the spirit. Spiritual sins are not cured merely by dropping our old bodies and receiving new ones."

~ Jerry Walls



"Between death and resurrection, we will 'read' our lives like a book, and our reading will be done in *Godlight*." ~ Richard Purtill



HELL IS EMPTY AND ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

"There is no hell for any of us to fear outside of ourselves." Quillen Hamilton Shinn Universalist minister

Argument from God's pleasure

- God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Eze 33:11)
- God's pleasure will prosper in Christ's hand (Isa 53:10)
- God's pleasure will be accomplished (Isa 55:11)
- "I will do all my pleasure" (Isa 46:10)

"Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."

Luke 6:35

"Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God."

Romans 14:11

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth..."

Philippians 2:10

"By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrit a word that will not be revoked:

Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear."

Isaiah 45:23

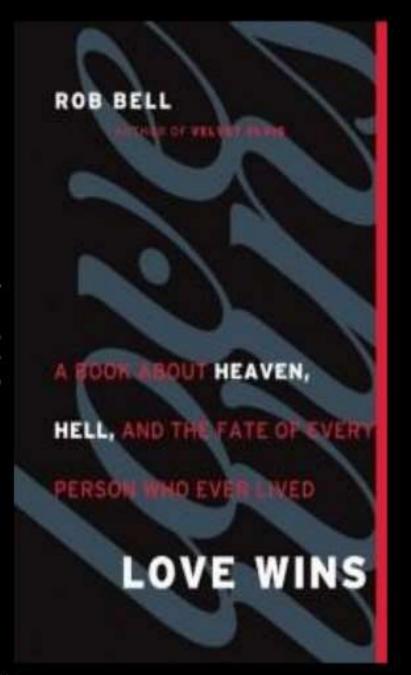
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PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11 | ROMANS 14:11-12 | ISAIAH 45:23

REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

"No one can resist God's pursuit forever because God's love will eventually melt even the hardest hearts."
-Rob Bell (pg. 108)



Arguments from the Power of Christ's Work

- "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the MANY were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the MANY will be made righteous." (Rom 5:18)
- "As in Adam all die, in Christ ALL will be made alive" (1 Cor 15:22)
- "Jesus Christ gave Himself as a ransom for ALL..." (1 Tim 2:6)

"God (wants) all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people."

1 Tim 2:3-5

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide; neither will he keep his anger forever."

Psalms 103:8-9

< Another Idea >

"I love all religions. ... If people become better Hindus, better Muslims, better Buddhists by our acts of love, then there is something else growing there."

"All is God--Buddists, Hindus, Christians, etc., all have access to the same God."

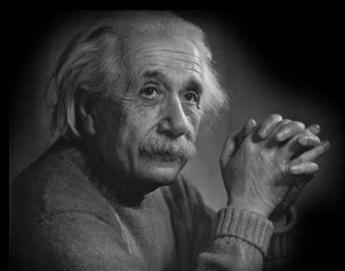
"If in coming face to face with God we accept Him in our lives, then we are converting. We become a better Hindu, a better Muslim, a better Catholic, a better whatever we are. ... What God is in your mind you must accept."



Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa

ALL RELIGIONS, ARTS AND SCIENCES ARE BRANCHES OF THE SAME TREE.



Albert Einstein

German Theoretical-Physicist (1879-1955)

QuoteHD.com

"Christians can consistently recognize that some traditions encompass religious fulfillments different from the salvation Christians seek..."

The Depth of the Riches

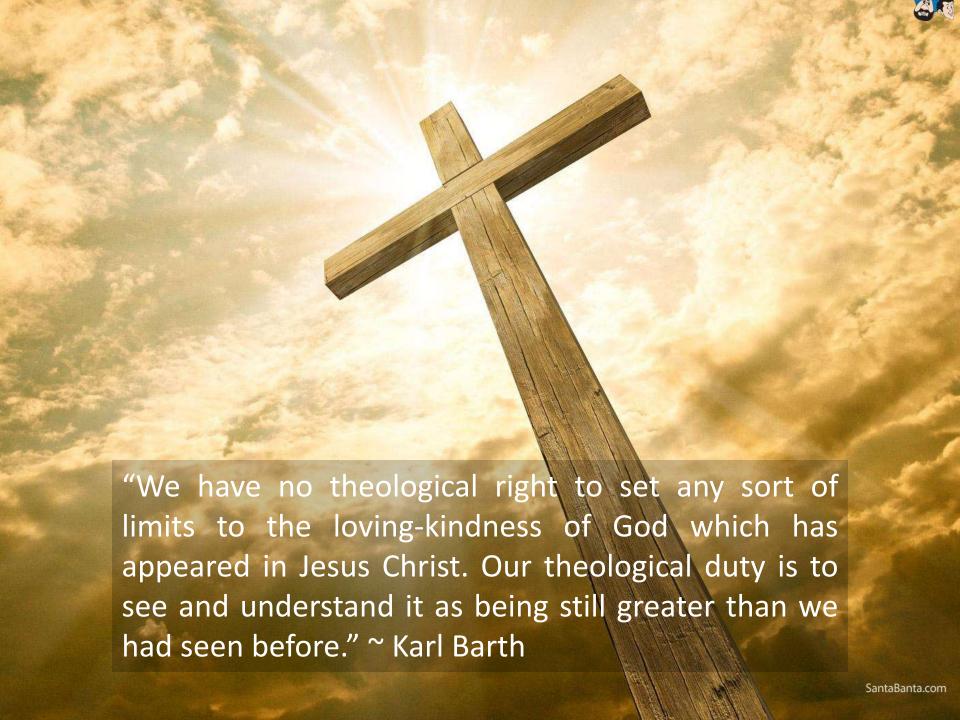
A Trinitarian Theology of Religious Ends



S. MARK HEIM

"Religious traditions truthfully hold our religious ends which their adherents might realize as alternatives to communion with God in Christ. These are not salvation, the end Christians long for. But they are real."

S Mark Heim



A final verse in closing...

"Do not despair; one of the thieves was saved.

Do not presume; one of the thieves was damned."

St. Augustine