Overview

This week we examine something that can be difficult to discuss - the reality that not everyone makes it to heaven. Heaven is the reward of the believer whose sin has been washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ. This cleansing and salvation is offered to all but sadly, many do not accept it and therefore do not receive it.

The Bible makes it abundantly clear that God loves His creation; in a way that goes beyond even our imaginations. But the Bible is also clear that God is righteous and just - a God that is not righteous and just cannot be fair or merciful; He would operate on a whim. God's love and God's righteousness and justice cannot be separated. Look at *Psalm 36:10-12*

Into the Word

First off, is hell real?

Yes, hell is very real and it is a place of torment. In <u>Luke 16:23</u> Jesus tells about the rich man who dies and is <u>in</u> hell and <u>in torment</u>. Hell is not simply a state of mind but a real place and a real condition.

<u>Does a God of love really send people to hell?</u> <u>Revelation 14:9-11;</u>

Much has been made of the idea that since God is a God of love He wouldn't send anyone to hell. Christians even state, "God doesn't send anyone to hell, they go there themselves." But is that correct? See *Matthew 8:12* - To be cast out is an action - God is casting them out

Is it fair that people go to hell? 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2;

Some may think of God as mean for sending people to hell. Mean? Is it mean to become man and die for the very people who rejected him?

Our sins separate us from God Read Isaiah 59:2

All have an opportunity - "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:13

Many, many people go to hell and miss heaven.

Hell has enlarged itself and many miss the gate - <u>Isaiah 5:14-15; Matthew 7:13-14</u>
Many will be surprised as they expect differently. Read Matthew <u>7:21-23; Matthew 25:31-46</u>

Knowing this, what is our response?

As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. **John 9:4**

But many will be RESCUED from hell and its torments

"After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God," *Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation* 19:1