

QUESTION 28

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH TO THOSE NOT UNITED TO CHRIST BY FAITH?

THEY WILL BE CAST OUT FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD, INTO HELL, TO BE JUSTLY PUNISHED, FOREVER.

READ JOHN 3:16-8, 36

God is loving.

God gave his precious Son up to death on the cross because he loved the world.

God will give his people eternal life.

What does this passage say will happen to those who do not believe in Jesus—who are not united to Christ by faith?

Verse 16 says all who are not united to Christ will perish. Verse 18 says that those who will perish are those who are condemned. They are condemned because of their sin, their rebellion against God, and their rejection of God's laws. They are people who will be judged by God and face the just punishment of God.

In the Bible, perishing does not mean that you cease existing, but that you exist in eternal separation from God. Many people live as if God doesn't exist. They ignore him and fail to acknowledge the many blessings that he provides to everyone on earth. They are blind to the fact that God's presence and grace are blessing them and that he is also holding back and restraining evil.

In eternity, people who have lived as if God doesn't exist will be separated from him forever. The main thing that characterizes hell isn't flames or devils. It is separation from God. We can't really imagine what that would be like, but it is the worst thing that could ever happen to someone. Hell is a real place! Even though people have come up with various pictorial representations of hell, no one can truly comprehend what it is like. Remember God doesn't want people to perish (**2 Pet. 3:9**), which is why he sent his Son to save us.

MEMORY VERSE

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that Whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)