



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

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Heaven: The Ultimate Punishment

What do you believe will happen to those who are eternally damned? Have you been taught that they will be sent to a very hot place where they will burn alive forever and ever or for however long is necessary to atone for their sins? And God does this to them because he is just and righteous in his judgments?

One of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was a woman named Ellen White. Many people believe that she was a prophetess who was inspired by God. Below are two passages that she wrote describing what heaven would be like for the wicked if they were to be allowed entry into heaven.

The sinner could not be happy in God's presence; he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings. Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him. The spirit of unselfish love that reigns there – every heart responding to the heart of Infinite Love – would touch no answering chord in his soul. His thoughts, his interests, his motives, would be alien to those that actuate the sinless dwellers there. He would be a discordant note in the melody of heaven. Heaven would be to him a place of torture; he would long to be hidden from Him who is its light, and the center of its joy. – *Heaven*, page 65

It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven; they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden

from the face of Him who died to redeem them. – *Steps to Christ*,
pages 17, 18 and *Heaven*, page 66

Now let's use our brains here. If God was the vindictive killer that christianity has taught him to be, then why would he send anyone to hell? He wouldn't need to do that. According to Mrs. White all God would need to do to punish the wicked is to send them to heaven.

As I've stated earlier, the Bible doesn't teach there is an eternally burning place where the wicked are thrown. Revelation states that the wicked are thrown into the lake of fire, then it later identifies the lake of fire as the second death. By that we can know that God doesn't torture anyone with hell-fire. By his character of love we can know that he recognizes there is no way for the sinner to be reached and he simply removes his life-sustaining presence. It is the sinner's own choice to die rather than to be tormented by living in an atmosphere that is pure love for one-another and the people aren't motivated to act in ways to promote themselves.

That, my friends, is Love.

Hannah