



## The TRUTH About – Eternal Destinations 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

### Connect:

1. What does cultural inheritance mean?
2. When it comes to heaven and hell (our eternal destinations), we all have a strong cultural inheritance about these subjects which have been passed down from generation to generation. What is your cultural inheritance on this topic?
3. What do you think of when you hear the words heaven and hell?

### Engage:

4. Read [1 Corinthians 12:1-4](#)
5. **Universalism** – teaches that in the end all will be saved and be in God's Presence. The arguments for it are twofold:
  - The logical argument that God's purposes in creating the world will fail if even one intelligent creature should finally be separated from God
  - And the supposedly scriptural based arguments on Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:22, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." [Col 1:19-20](#), [Rom 5:18](#), [Rom 11:32](#)

➤ Both are straightforward to refute – the logical challenges the very nature and character of God as holy and just. And the second by just putting scripture back into context and using good translations of the Bible.
6. Do you believe things because it is how you feel?
7. How much does the truth matter to you?
  - Jesus died for all, that all may be saved. But contextualising His actions in the bible will show us that only those who accepted that fact, repented of their sin (said they were sorry), trusted in Jesus' shed blood only for their for salvation, and committed their life to the Lordship of Jesus would receive the benefits of this salvation.

The Truth may be uncomfortable for you today, but our discomfort today will lead to action and everlasting comfort for others.

Pastor Brian Greenaway

## Framework:

8. When we truly believe something then we act upon it. Why do missionaries give up jobs, income, relationships, comfort and go halfway across the world to tell someone about Jesus?
9. Why do millions of Christians face daily harassment, persecution, hunger, suffering and even martyrdom if in the end we all get to go to Heaven or those who don't, cease to exist?
10. How do we make an impact today?
11. Read [1 Corinthians 15:28](#)
12. The Bible does not find the co-existence of heaven and hell as problematic, so why do we?
13. Read [Matthew 18:18](#) and [Matthew 25:46](#)
  - New Testament references to 'eternal fire' and 'eternal punishment' require us to explore the meaning of the adjective 'eternal' (*aionios*).
14. We have texts that are very clear – Read [Revelation 14: 11](#) - The quantifiable term here is 'forever and ever'.
15. In the Bible there is a clear message of people's accountability for their actions, for which they deserve judgement. Their only hope is if they turn away from that behaviour and turn to God's mercy and forgiveness. We are told that there is a day of judgement when Jesus returns and people will be separated into two destinations.
16. Read [Galatians 3:22](#)
  - To help us see what Hell might be like Jesus uses an illustration of something that would be very relevant and understandable to the people of His day. In the New Testament Jesus used the term Gehenna for hell. This was an actual location, it is also called the Valley of Hinnom, just outside the walls of Jerusalem to the South. In [2 Chronicles 28:3](#) we see that area was used for child sacrifices to the god Moloch. In Jeremiah 7 it was a symbolic place for judgement and fire.
  - Other images are the 'lake of fire'. The dead are raised and the unrighteous thrown into it. There are metaphoric terms here - you can't have both fire and darkness – so these words are used by the Bible to help us understand how terrible hell is.
  - It's hard for us to understand because there are not words available in any language to describe just how bad hell is, but also how wonderful heaven is and what eternal life with God is like.
17. Read [2 Thessalonians 1:8-9](#)

“- the doors of hell are locked on the *inside*... they enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded, and are therefore self-enslaved: just as the blessed, forever submitting to obedience, become through all eternity more and more free.”

C.S. Lewis

18. Read [John 14:1-6](#)

**Prayer:**

*“Lord, please help me to realise that I can have an assurance of eternal life through Jesus, and have an urgency to tell others. In Jesus Name Amen.”*

**Extra Resources:**

[Click here](#) to read *“The Road to Hell”* by David Pawson