





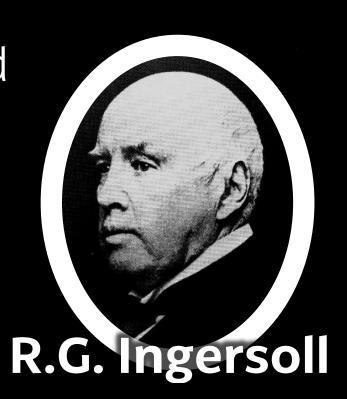
If there is a God who will damn his children forever, I would rather go to hell than to go to heaven and keep the society of such an infamous tyrant...

I despise that doctrine. It has covered the cheeks of this world with tears. It has polluted the hearts of children, and poisoned the imaginations of men.

R.G. Ingersol

For the first time in my life my imagination grasped the height and depth of the Christian horror.

Then I said, It is a lie, and I hate you religion. If it is true, I hate your God



Heaven, Hell and the **Christian Hope**















Eternity without God

part 2

What's it going to be like? Who's going to be there?



What's it going to be like? Is it just? Who's going to be there?



What's it going to be like?



in other words:

Is hell* compatible with an all-good, loving, just God?

Objection:

Tormenting people forever is monstrous!

We shouldn't think of hell in terms of horrific medieval imagery.

Biblical imagery of hell may be metaphorical.

This doesn't minimize the magnitude of dying lost!

The emphasis is on separation from God.

Objection:

Hell is incompatible with God's justice

How is it just to punish finite sins with infinite punishment?

Some attempt to address this by advocating some form of annihilationism.

Let me say at the outset that I consider the concept of hell as endless torment in body and mind an outrageous doctrine. ... How can Christians possibly project a deity of such cruelty and vindictiveness whose ways include inflicting everlasting torture upon his creatures, however sinful they may have been?

Clark Pinnock

Surely, a God who would do such a thing is more nearly like Satan than like God.

Clark Pinnock

But does this fit with the Scripture?

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

matthew 25:41, 46

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can **destroy** both soul and body in hell.

matthew 10:28

"Destruction" suggests loss, not of being, but well-being.

revelation 17:8,11; 20:10

Existence in hell may not be measured in terms of our thinking of time.

The lost are punished "according to their works"

matthew 16:27; romans 2:6 revelation 22:12

But the lost are separated from God for rejecting God which they continue to do forever.

"The Door to Hell is locked from the inside."

Objection:

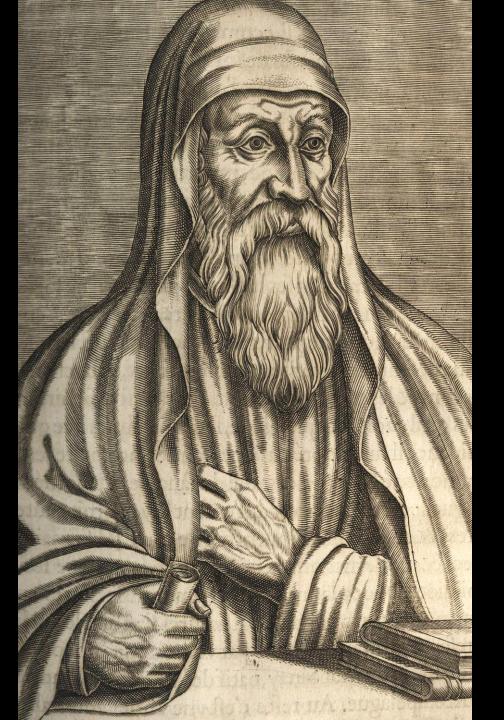
Hell is incompatible with God's love

Some attempt to address this by advocating universalism.

Punishment, they argue, is temporary, purifying.

As with the doctrine of Purgatory.

Eventually, all will come to accept to God's love and be finally saved.





Franciscus Bartolozzi fe.



DAVID BENTLEY HART

Translator of The New Testament

shall be

HEAVEN, HELL & UNIVERSAL SALVATION

With a New Preface

"A scathing, vigorous, eloquent attack on those who hold that there is such a thing as eternal damnation."—Karen Kilby, Commonweal

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH







But does this fit with the Scripture?

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

matthew 25:41, 46

Enter by the narrow gate.
For the gate is wide and
the way is easy that leads to
destruction, and those who
enter by it are many.

matthew 7:13-14

For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

matthew 7:13-14

People have a selective view of God.

And a selective view of themselves.

Hell shows the magnitude of my sinfulness

How does universalism fit with the warnings about God's coming wrath?

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God,

and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay."

And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

God wills all to be saved.

ezek. 18:23, 32; 1 timothy 2:4; 2 peter 3:9

God made us to love us, for us to love him.

That allows the possibility of rejecting him.

God is not so much "sending us to hell" as we are sending ourselves.

Heaven is when we say to God:

Not my will, but thine be done.

C.S. Lewis

Hell is when God says to us:

Not my will, but thine be done.

C.S. Lewis

The choice is ours.



Your fate is in your hands.



The cross is where God's love and justice meet.



The cross shows the magnitude of my sin, of God's love.



The love of God draws us



The fear of God draws us



The fear of hell impels us



