

THE
ADVANTAGES
OF BEING A
CHRISTIAN



Or the
DISADVANTAGES
of NOT BEING a CHRISTIAN



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THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

Or the Disadvantages of Being an Unbeliever

Have you ever stopped to consider what it costs a person not to be a Christian? Many people assume becoming a Christian means giving up too much, or that following Christ is unnecessary or unimportant. But Scripture shows the opposite is true. Rejecting Christ carries a devastating cost - both now and for eternity. My hope is that this message helps believers grow in gratitude for salvation and awakens unbelievers to the seriousness of their decision.

Have you ever stopped to realize what it costs a person **by not being a Christian?**

If you have never yet decided to accept Christ as your personal Savior because you have felt it was not worthwhile or it was unimportant to be a Christian, let me mention a few things that **it has and will cost you.**

I hope this will help those who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ to be thankful for our salvation and all the blessings we have received from God.

1. First of all, it costs peace of mind.

The Lord said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid," John 14:27.

There is nothing in this world that will bring peace in the heart of man outside of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

IN CHRIST we have peace. Not only do we have peace with God, but we also have the peace of God.

Life is really not worth living if you do not have peace of mind. It is only IN CHRIST that we find this peace. Failing to accept Christ as your personal Savior costs you your peace of mind.

2. It costs having true Joy and Happiness that can be known on this Earth.

We find in 1 Peter 1:8, speaking of our Lord, “Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.”

It costs you a joyful life, the joy that the Lord can only give through trusting in Him, rejoicing in Him. So, when you reject Christ as your personal Savior, it not only costs you peace but also joy.

Biblically speaking there is a difference between Joy and Happiness.

An unbeliever can be happy because of certain events in their life, but this type of happiness is temporarily based on certain conditions.

It will not last. They can never have the Joy that God gives to believers. This Joy never fades. Why, the Joy God gives is not based on conditions, but an inner peace that comes from Him.

3. It costs you hope. Without Jesus Christ you have no hope. In Ephesians 2, we find that the Gentiles have no Messiah, no Christ and “they are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, HAVING NO HOPE, and without God in the world.”

So, rejection of Christ costs you any kind of hope or joyful anticipation in the future. Titus 2:13 says, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” Hope for the future is much more important than any possession of today. When you reject Christ as your personal Savior, it has cost you all possibility of not only having peace but also joy and hope.

4. It costs you eternal life. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life,” John 3:16. We find also in Romans that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. You have no eternal life. Your life consists of only a few years that you live here on this earth, and then you have a Christless eternity. Which means life without the Lord through all eternity.

It costs you peace of mind because you are not a Christian. You have given up any chance for hope because you are not a Christian and you have given up eternal life. I do not think that anybody with any degree of intelligence at all would want to do something that would cost them all of that. Peace, Joy, Hope, and Eternal Life.

5. It costs you a heavenly home, a home throughout all eternity. In John 14, Jesus Christ said, “Let not your heart be troubled: Ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.

I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” Just stop and ask yourself if it is worthwhile to be a Christian. Consider what it has cost you in rejecting Christ as your personal Savior.

You have no peace of mind. You have no overflowing joy. You have no hope. You have no eternal life. You do not have a heavenly home being prepared for you. Let me ask you once more, is it worthwhile? I would have to say based on this, NO! You become a Christian simply by putting your faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, the fact that He died on the cross for you, and when you accept that fact, which is your salvation.

It is a shame that people do not realize what it is costing them to reject the Lord Jesus Christ. Too many people feel that they are going to have to give up so much in the world. But just take Christ as He is. If you do not, look at what it is going to cost you. You will not have any hope, eternal life, or a heavenly home. You do not have One to intercede for you now, in your hour of need and weakness.

Our Lord is seated at the right hand of God the Father interceding for the believers IN JESUS CHRIST. If you have rejected Christ as your personal Savior, you have no help for the present. Is it worthwhile to be a Christian?

It certainly is. (Hope – Joy – Peace - Eternal Life - Heavenly Home) Those who have rejected Christ as their personal Savior are without hope, without joy, without peace, without eternal life, and without a heavenly home, all within this life and they are of most men most miserable.

Revelation 14:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.**’ “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

Key Facts about Eternity

- 1. Everyone will exist eternally either in heaven or hell.** (Daniel 12:2,3; Matthew 25:46; John 5:28; Revelation 20:4, 5).
- 2. Everyone has only one life in which to determine their destiny.** (Hebrews 9:27).
- 3. Heaven or hell is determined by whether a person believes (puts their trust) in Christ alone to save them.** (John 3:16, 36, etc.).

The Disadvantages of Being an Unbeliever

Now – The Really Bad News for the Unbeliever

The final judgment of Hell will be a shocking moment for those who have rejected Christ. All the non-believers, with Satan, with Antichrist and with the False Prophet and Satan's angels will be together in Hell. It will not be a time for grand reunions. It will be a time for eternal torment!

Hell is known as the lake of fire, (Revelation 20:14-15), the fiery lake, (Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10; Revelation 21:8), and the fiery furnace (Matthew 13:42, 50). Hell is a place of burning sulfur, (Revelation 14:10; Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10; Revelation 21:8).

It is described as gloomy dungeons (2 Peter 2:4), the pit (Job 33:16-30; Psalm 28:1; Psalm 30:3, 9; Psalm 69:15; Psalm 88:4; Psalm 103:4; Psalm 143:7; Proverbs 1:12; Isaiah 14:15, 19; Isaiah 38:17-18; Ezekiel 26:20; Ezekiel 28:8; Ezekiel 31:14, 16; Ezekiel 32:18-30), and the depths (Psalm 63:9; Psalm 71:20; Psalm 86:13; Proverbs 9:18; Isaiah 14:15; Lamentations 3:55; Ezekiel 32:23; Matthew 11:23; Luke 10:15), and it contains dead bodies (Isaiah 66:24).

Those sent to hell are outside (Matthew 8:12) and shut out from the presence of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Luke 16 Gives Us Some Insight About Hell

1. **A place of consciousness.** The illustration in chapter 16 of Luke indicates that the unsaved dead are conscious.

Those in hell suffer shame (Isaiah 1:29; Daniel 12:2), disgrace (Isaiah 1:29), and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:2), because God's wrath remains on them (John 3:36).

2. **A place of torment.** This same illustration by Christ indicates the intense suffering, the desperation just for a tiny drop of water to ease the suffering.

They are in agony (Luke 16:24-25) and torment (Luke 16:23, 28; Revelation 14:10-11; Revelation 20:10).

In hell, everyone is salted with fire (Mark 9:49) and is burning (Isaiah 1:31; Isaiah 33:14).

They are cut to pieces (Matthew 24:51).

3. **A place of darkness.** Both Matthew 8:12 and 22:13 indicate that Hell is a place of darkness. In Jude 13, we are told that the "gloom of darkness" has been "reserved forever" for those outside of Christ (Matthew 8:12; Matthew 22:13; Matthew 25:30) or, more specifically, blackest darkness (2 Peter 2:17; Jude 1:13).

No doubt, there is smoke in hell (Revelation 14:11), because it is a place of fire (Matthew 5:22; Matthew 18:8-9; Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43; Luke 16:24; Jude 1:7, 23)--blazing fire (Daniel 7:11), consuming fire (Isaiah 33:14), unquenchable fire (Isaiah 1:31; Matthew 3:12), to be exact.

Have you noticed how the mood of people changes just on a cloudy day? Imagine, eternal darkness! What a picture of hopelessness!

4. **Eternal separation from loved ones.** Think about this for a moment. If you are an unbeliever and some of your best friends and relatives {a husband or wife) are BELIEVERS ... they will go to Heaven ... and you will be eternally separated from them! Luke 13:28.

5. **Not the slightest hope of release.** Many places in Scripture tell of Hell being a place of eternal judgment from which there is no turning back. In Hebrews 6:2, we learn that hell is a place of "eternal judgment." In Matthew 25:46 it is revealed that the unbeliever will "go away into everlasting punishment. . .!"

6. **The torment of memory In Hell.** This could be the most agonizing aspect of those in Hell ... the torment of memory ... a memory that will evoke continual anguish. This is brought out so clearly in Luke 16:27, 28 where the rich man implores Abraham to: " ... send him (Lazarus, who is in Heaven) to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment" (Luke 16:27, 28). What an insight into Hell!

Imagine if those unsaved dead right now could speak to us for just a moment ... what a warning they would give ... and yet, sad to say, would anyone pay attention? Thus, the unbeliever in Hell must go through an eternity in torment with a searing, ever-present memory!

7. **The torment of unsatisfied lustful cravings. In Hell, the unbeliever will never gain satisfaction.**

Sin will continue in Hell, but it will be a constant craving, without fulfilling!

8. Duration

As horrible as hell and its suffering is, it gets worse. For once one goes to hell, there is no end to it. In hell, the worm does not die (Isaiah 66:24; Mark 9:48). The fire never goes out (Mark 9:43); indeed, it is not quenched (Isaiah 66:24; Mark 9:48). The horrors of hell last day and night (Revelation 20:10), forever (2 Peter 2:17; Jude 1:13), and ever and ever (Revelation 14:11; Revelation 20:10). Hell is eternal (Matthew 18:8; Matthew 25:41, 46; Jude 1:7) and everlasting (Isaiah 33:14; Daniel 12:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Warning to Avoid at all Costs

Jesus gives us serious warnings about avoiding hell. He tells us it would be better to be thrown into the sea with a millstone around the neck than to risk being sent to hell (Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2). Indeed, He warns us it would be better to forfeit parts of our bodies rather than to risk going to hell (Matthew 5:29-30; Matthew 18:8-9; Mark 9:43-47). And we are warned not to fear others but to instead fear God, who has the power to throw into hell (Luke 12:5).

Why Do People Go to Hell?

The rich man in Luke 16 did not go to Hades because he was rich or to "balance the scales", but because he rejected the truth. (see Luke 16:27-31 "hear Moses & the prophets...believe")

All those who have never come in faith to God, trusting His provision for their salvation will be eternally separated from Him in hell.

Some question God's love, compassion, and justice in "sending" people to hell. God does not send anyone to hell, they choose it when they refuse His multitude of witnesses in nature (Romans 1:20), His work in time and His people, and His word.

No one will be able to tell God, "But I would have believed if given the chance." Romans 3:19 says that every mouth will be closed.

Erroneous Views of Hell

1. The second-chance view – after death there is still a way to escape hell. (there will not be a second chance after death)

Answer: "It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

2. Universalism – all are eternally saved. (not true) Only those who except Jesus as their personal Savior.

3. Annihilationism – hell means a person dies like an animal – ceases to exist.

As a Christian we will receive a resurrected body that will live in the presence of God for all eternity in Heaven.

The unbeliever will receive a resurrected body that will live forever in Hell.

How Can We Avoid Hell?

God's desire is for all to be saved. (1 Timothy 2:4; John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9)

1 Timothy 2:4 - who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

This is why Jesus came and died. Luke 19:10 records His words, "*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*"

The most convincing argument for the reality and severity of hell is the suffering of Jesus on the cross.

Our responsibility is first to *believe His witnesses*.

Acts 16:30–31 (NKJV)

³⁰ And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,** you and your household."

Titus 3:5–7

⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Believe, Plus Nothing
The Only Biblically Correct Way to Salvation

Will you accept the Lord Jesus as your own personal Savior?

This invitation is biblically correct. Accepting (receiving) the Lord Jesus as my Savior is belief that He died for me and paid the penalty for my sin (Romans 5:8). Because He loves me, He died for me. Placing my personal trust in His death for me is God's only requirement for salvation (Romans 3:24).

Trusting Christ is personal. Christ died for me, and I personally trust Him to save me from the penalty of my sin. ***"As many as received Him" (John 1:12)*** is the open invitation to anyone to be saved. ***"Receiving" results in immediate salvation.*** Christ died for your sins. Believe it personally. That is all you need to be saved. This is the heart of the gospel (***Romans 5:8***).

The Bible uses believe as an absolute trust in the work of Christ for me (John 3:18). Christ died for my sins and demonstrated His victory over sin by His physical resurrection from the dead (***Romans 4:24-25***). The work is all done!

Our Savior lives to assure the believer that He can and will complete our salvation (***Philippians 1:6***). The payment is complete for the penalty of my sin. (***1 John 2:2***). Knowing my guilt of sin, all that I can do is believe that He died for me and trust that payment to be all I need for salvation (***Romans 4:5; 6:23***).

Conclusion: One day it will be too late. There are no second chances.

Certainly, part of the anguish of hell is realizing that the purpose for which I was created has been missed. Missed not by "accident" but by choice.

By rejecting God's grace and ignoring His invitation to accept His Provisions to spend eternity with Him by accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You sacrifice the Eternal things of God for the temporal things of this world.

If we use all these descriptions of hell to make a mental image of the eternal place of punishment, it is hard to imagine why anyone would risk going there. Why would anyone risk such endless torment when God has provided a way to avoid it-through the blood of His only Son, Jesus?

What we do know is that either eternal torment in hell or eternal joy in heaven awaits all people after death, based on whether they trust in Christ's payment for sin or reject Christ.

And you will regret not making the decision to spend eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ!

As I have often said: "It takes no decision to go to Hell BUT it does take a decision to go to HEAVEN.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

¹ We then, *as workers together with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For He says: "*In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.*" Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

In life we make many decisions, some good, some bad – but there is one decision we should fail to make, and that is: "Will I accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior or will I reject Him."

God loves you so much that He will not violate your will or decision if you choose to reject Him. If you do – it will be the most devastating decision you have ever made.

Remember you make that decision – Here is what God wants - 2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”.

If you have personally excepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior you will spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus and all believers.

To make it simple – all you must do is pray and say, God I accept Jesus as my personal Savior – I believe He died for me.

In Jesus Name

We Can (you can) Have Assurance of your Salvation

1. The testimony of the Word of God; the external evidence and testimony, 1 John 5:1-2; 2:3, 13-14, 20-21, 29.

1 John 5:1–2

1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

1 John 2:3

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1 John 2:13–14

13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. **14** I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

1 John 2:20–21

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. **21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

1 John 2:29 - **29** If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

2. The testimony of the Holy Spirit; the internal evidence, 1 John 5:9-12; 3:19; John 16:8; Rom 8:16; Gal 4:6; 2 Cor 1:2.

1 John 5:9–12 (NKJV) — **9** If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. **10** He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. **11** And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 John 3:19 (NKJV) — **19** And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

John 16:8 (NKJV) — **8** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Romans 8:16 (NKJV) — **16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Galatians 4:6 (NKJV) — **6** And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

2 Corinthians 1:2 (NKJV) — **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. The testimony of a clear conscience; (another inner witness), Acts 24:16; Rom 9:1; 1 Peter 3:21.

1 John 5:9–12 (NKJV) — **9** If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. **10** He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. **11** And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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2 Corinthians 1:2 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. The testimony of the Christian life; the outward evidence, living in harmony with the Word of God, the inner Christ like life, 1 John 3:14; 2 Cor 13:5.

1 John 5:9–12

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. **10** He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. **11** And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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Finding a Church

Deciding to follow Christ is the most crucial step you can take. If you have accepted Him as your Savior, the next wise move is to connect with a **church** where Scripture is central, and the gospel is clearly proclaimed.