# Reasons to Serve the Lord – Hell

*These documents were used heavily in the creation of this outline:*

<http://www.biblestudyguide.org/topical/hell.htm>

<http://lavistachurchofchrist.org/LVSermons/DoesHellExist.html>

<http://lavistachurchofchrist.org/LVSermons/IfIDontPreachOnHell.htm>

* + - 1. Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-32
1. Introduction
	* + - 1. Many people respect the wisdom found in religion

They see the value in following a set of morals

A code for keeping peace and order

There is wisdom present to help one be better at communicating, managing their finances and relationships

* + - * 1. However, many of these same people, though even profound Bible scholars, reject the miraculous sections of the Bible

Thomas Jefferson's Bible is an extreme example of such a person

Thomas Jefferson was a very wise man and respected the Bible for its wisdom and guidance

But what he considered “contrary to reason” or the recordings of untrustworthy correspondents he literally removed

The contents of the removed sections primarily contained the miraculous acts of Jesus

Feeding the multitude with 2 fish and 5 loaves

It kept the crucifixion and burial of Christ but deleted his resurrection

Can be guilty of the same thing today?

* + - * 1. We are not in the time of miracles

Some say we are and always know of someone, somewhere who saw something that was undeniably a miracle

Or they know a person who was called to preach in a foreign country and learned the language in only two weeks

I think these “miracles” contribute to discounting the inspired words recorded miracles

These so called miracles are **insulting** to the power of God

* + - * 1. We need to be careful ourselves to ensure we do not dumb down God’s power

Often things amazing or beautiful are called "a miracle"

An example is birth

A newborn baby is truly a beautiful, amazing thing to behold

But the miracle of birth was performed several thousand years ago on the 6th day of creation, since the miracle of creation, birth is creation following the makers plan—not a miracle

Words have meaning

They are what we express ourselves with and communicate to others using

We need to be careful to use the right words to describe the situation

* + - * 1. There can be many motivators to be a follower of God (like those mentioned earlier) but one of the most powerful and specifically used by Jesus and his disciples is fear, specifically the fear of Hell.

One area that I see being slowly and carefully removed from the Bible today is Hell

The promised end to those who do not follow God’s word is Hell

Jehovah’s witness teach:
“The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true, mainly for four reasons: (1) It is wholly unscriptural, (2) it is unreasonable, (3) it is contrary to God’s love, (4) it is repugnant to justice.” [Let God be True, Watchtower Society, Second Edition, p. 99]

We will use this as our outline…

1. Hell Described Through Scripture
	* + - 1. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9

Hell is everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord.

Hell is the promised, eternal punishment reserved for those who do know God and those who do not obey the gospel of Christ

The ungodly will be in hell (2 Peter 2:4-9).

Cowards, unbelievers, the abominable, murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars will be in hell (Revelation 21:8).

We should not fear those who can only kill the body, but we should fear God who can destroy both the body and soul in hell (Matt. 10:28).

* + - * 1. Matthew 22:13 – Hell is outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 25:30).
				2. Hell was prepared for the Devil and his angels – Matthew 25:41-46.

but we can also find ourselves there

If Heaven is real then so is Hell, if Hell isn’t real, than neither is Heaven

* + - * 1. Mark 9:47-48 – In hell, the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.
				2. Revelation 14:9-11 – Hell is God’s wrath, punishment in Hell lasts forever without rest

Revelation 20:10 – forever and ever tormented

Revelation 4:9 – God is forever and ever

Revelation 22:5 – Saints reign in Heaven is forever and ever

* + - * 1. Revelation 20:14-15 – Hell is the lake of fire, everyone not found written in the Book of Life will be in Hell.
1. Hell is Reasonable
	* + - 1. Man’s problem is that he doesn’t accept the gravity of his crime.

How serious is the crime of sin?

Hebrews 10:26-31

Sin deserves death – Romans 6:23

* + - * 1. If man claims that it doesn’t make sense to him, does it follow that it is truly unreasonable? – Isaiah 55:8-9

As an example, atheists claim that the scheme of redemption is unreasonable.
“The whole scheme of redemption is foolishness to me. Because our parents and forefathers disobeyed God, he would not be on good terms with us until his son was nailed on a cross. This is not reasonable.” [Oliphant - Smith Debate, p. 61]

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

1. Hell is not Contrary to God’s Love
	* + - 1. Man tends to shape God in his image – Psalm 50:21
				2. God is love, but He is also just – Romans 11:22
				3. The need for punishment doesn’t show a lack of love on God’s part, but a lack of love on the wicked’s part – John 14:23-24

God doesn’t want any to perish – II Peter 3:9

But man must repent or perish – Luke 13:3

There isn’t a reason from God’s view to remain in sin – Ezekiel 18:21-23

* + - * 1. John is called the disciple of “love” due to his teachings in John, 1, 2, & 3 John yet it is his writings in Revelation that discuss eternal torment of the soul in Hell – inconsistent? No!
1. Hell is Just
	* + - 1. Justice is the idea of a fair and impartial reward or punishment as a person deserves.
				2. God argues that His way is just – Ezekiel 18:25-32
				3. God fairly bases His judgment on our deeds – Romans 2:2-11
				4. Consider: If Hell is unjust, then Heaven is too good for us as well.
2. Conclusion
	* + - 1. No one has to go to hell. God doesn’t want anyone in hell. But justice demands that a fair punishment be given for the heinous crime of sin.
				2. Ezekiel 18:30-32

Repent (Acts 2:38)

Throw off your transgressions and put on a new heart and spirit (Ephesians 4:22-24, Romans 12:1-2)

Why die? There is no pleasure in death. (John 3:16)

* + - * 1. Do not be misled and enticed by those who preach “Peace, Peace! When there is no peace.” (Jerimiah 6:14)
				2. Hell is real and a fear inducing reason to wholly follow the Lord your God!
				3. If you have need of the saints here to help you avoid Hell or if you are ready to start your walk with God so you can truly come to know him, let it be known by coming forward as we stand and sing!
			1. 2014/08/03 Oak Ridge coC w/o PowerPoint