

Autumn 1

Beliefs and Meaning

Christianity/ Salvation

KEY QUESTION – Is anything ever eternal?

LEARNING OBJECTIVE - We are learning to evaluate different beliefs about eternity and to understand the Christian perspective on this.



Q: Do you think it is possible to forgive someone who was about to kill you like Jesus did?

Q: What have we learnt about love from these Bible readings? Jesus taught that love should be eternal and unconditional. Q: Is this possible? Did Jesus do this?



The Christian word 'agape' means unconditional love.

Lesson 3 – Investigation

WALT - I can make links between different Christian beliefs and their views on whether anything is ever eternal.

Heaven is... Hell is...

Q: What do these two concepts mean to you?



Christians believe that because of Jesus' resurrection, Christians will also be able to have life after death (eternal life) **John 3: 16.**

John 3:16 ▾ New International Version ▾

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Use resurrection appearances e.g. **The walk to Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13) and Jesus at the beach barbecue (John 21: 1-14)** to illustrate this.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2021%3A1-14&version=NIV>

Mark 16:12 ▾ New International Version ▾

12 Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.



The Sheep and the Goats

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Qu: How do Christians get to Heaven?

Qu: Can everybody go to Heaven?

Read the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46)



Can people who haven't done good deeds go to heaven? How do you feel about this?

Now read 'Jesus forgives the criminal crucified next to Him' (Luke 23: 32-43)



³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."^[a] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."^[b]

⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Have your thoughts stayed the same after reading this or changed. Why?