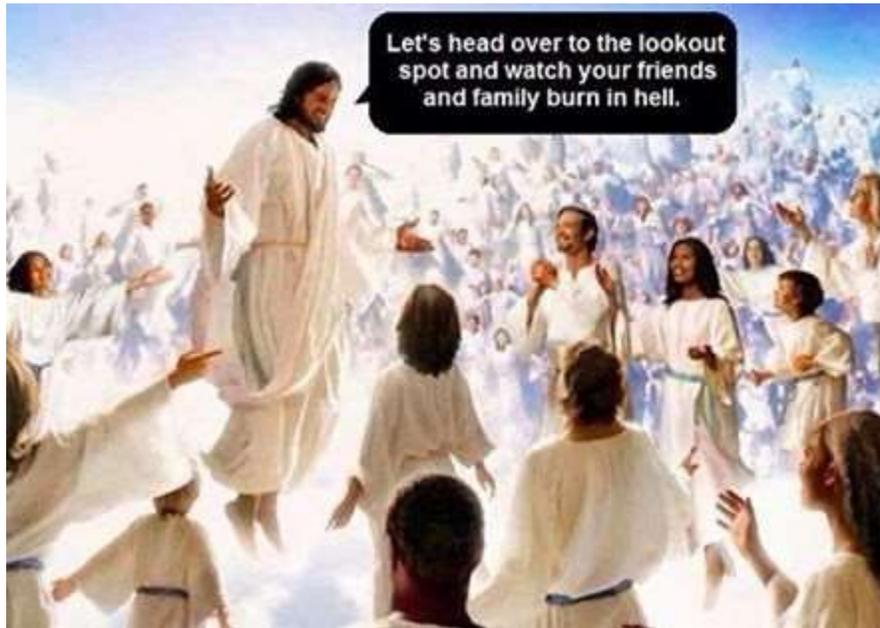


Consider the following cartoon.



When we get to Heaven how are we to deal with the awareness of our “lost” loved ones who are suffering eternal torment in Hell?

The most common answer by evangelicals to the above question is that we will somehow be lobotomized and our memories will be erased, so we will no longer be aware of those who are lost in Hell. A common argument of Calvinists is that the awareness of those who are suffering agony in Hell will only serve to enhance our enjoyment of Heaven. Viewing people being tortured in Hell will be cause for rejoicing for two reasons. First, the suffering of people in Hell will make our enjoyment of Heaven seem all the greater by comparison. Second, we will rejoice to see the triumph of God’s justice whereby all those evil people will be getting their just desserts.

Obviously, God takes great pleasure in the destruction of the wicked, right? (Please, do not read Ezekiel 33:11).

Obviously, any enemy of God is also my enemy, right? (Please, do not read Matt. 5:38-48)

Obviously, there is no sense worrying about something that can’t be changed. God would save those people in Hell if He could, right? (Please, do not read Luke 1:37)

Obviously, Christian Universalism is just wishful thinking, right? (Please don’t read Luke 15:4 or John 1:6-7 or John 1:29 or John 3:17 or John 3:35 or John 6:37-39 or John 6:33 or John 12:32 or Romans 1:18b or Revelation 1:18b or Revelation 5:13 or Ephesians 1:9-10 or Acts 3:21 or Romans 5:18 or Romans 5:15b or Romans 11:25-31 or Romans 11:36 or Romans 14:11 or 1 Corinthians 15:22-28 or Ephesians 1:9-10 or Colossians 1:19-20 or Philippians 2:10-11 or 1

Timothy 2:3-6 or 1 Timothy 4:10 or 1 Peter 4:6 or 2 Peter 3:9 or Hebrews 1:2 or Hebrews 2:14-15 or Hebrews 9:26b.)

Obviously, Christian Universalism is especially not taught in the Old Testament, right?

(Please don't read Genesis 22:18 or 2 Samuel 14:14 or Job 5:17-18 or Psalms 13:5 or Psalms 16:10 or Psalms 30:5 or Psalms 68:18a or Psalms 72:17-20 or Psalms 86:9 or Psalms 102:19-20 or Psalms 119:75 or Psalms 139:8 or Psalms 145:3-17 or Isaiah 14:24,27 or Isaiah 26:9 or Isaiah 46:9-10 or Isaiah 48:10 or Isaiah 45:22-24 or Isaiah 54:7-8 or Jeremiah 30-23-34 or Lamentations 3:31-33 or Ezekiel 18:23 or Ezekiel 33:11 or Joel 2:28, 3:21 or Zephaniah 3:8-9.)

Obviously, I'm just pulling your leg, right?

Richard Goyette