

## **Will anyone be going to Hell because I have misled them?**

On an internet chat board, I was accused of being the possible cause of people dying without believing, and presumably ending up in Hell instead of Heaven. Here are his words:

*“If the devil himself tried to convince me he was not who I thought he was I would say the same thing "It is written" and like Jesus use the scripture to interpret scripture. Of course Jesus died once for all. His death and grace are sufficient for all. However it is as clearly written that not all believe but those who do believe reap the benefit. Reading a book that only deals with one side or a Bible written by a man trying to prove his point will not change what scripture makes clear. Go ahead sir and believe this lie. MY problem is that I cannot stand by and watch you misleading people with the possible result that some will even die without having believed.”*

Here, is my answer:

Friend, you need to read the Bible more carefully. The price was paid for all. It was fully paid. There is no need to pay the price again. God's judgments are not vindictive or retaliatory. Jesus didn't come to condemn but to save. Humans don't punish people for being sick or mentally insane. The same is true of God. Sin is a sickness and we are helpless to overcome it without God's help. One huge symptom of the sickness of sin is that, like many forms of mental illness, the sufferer is not aware that he or she is sick. So can you blame them if they do not turn to God for help? Especially if they view God as excessively harsh and vindictive as do most fundamentalist evangelicals. Because we cannot help ourselves, Christ died for us and saves us by grace, which is undeserved love. There is nothing we can, or are required, to do to deserve or earn it in any way. Faith in Christ is a gift that God gives to us, it is not of ourselves (read Eph. 2:8,9). There is no time limit on God's grace. After death, many will meet Christ for the first time and receive Him. Nowhere in the Bible does God put a time limit on this. God's love and mercy are unfailing. Everything else will eventually pass away, only love endures. Like the Galatians, you have indeed been "bewitched" by the devil into believing in a false gospel, a gospel of works, whereby we must somehow "qualify" for a gift that God has already given to all humanity on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus said that after he is resurrected he will draw ALL men to himself. He won't rest until all the sheep are back into the fold. Please, friend, read your Bible and believe it. Yes, many will die without having believed. A lot of the blame for that lies squarely in the laps of negative fundamentalists who portray a false picture of what God is like. Nobody will be going to Hell because of anyone else's sin or bad advice. No human being will be held responsible for another man's eternal destiny. God is sovereign. It is He who makes these decisions, and I am so thankful that I serve a loving God who has promised in His word that He is the Savior of ALL, especially (but not exclusively) of those who believe.