

Condensed Version of Doctrinal Beliefs

1: Two Gospels:

A: This is foundational to understanding that the gospel that Paul preached brought us completely new and previously unknown truths about many subjects. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus changed everything.

B: First, we need to understand that Jesus came to Israel as a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

1: God promised Abraham, Moses, David and many others that the Jewish nation would become great and have a land and a king of their own.

2: Jesus told His disciples and many others that He had come to fulfill those promises.

A: See Mat.10:5-7 (Jesus sends the 12), Mat.15:22-28 & Mar.7:25-30 (Canaanite woman).

3: Jesus called His gospel, "The Gospel of the Kingdom" (GOK) because He was fulfilling the Kingdom prophecies of the Old Testament.

C: Paul agrees with Jesus that He came for Israel only: Rom.15:8

D: GOK is based on repent and be baptized: Act.2:38 and many others.

E: We call the gospel that Paul preached "The Gospel of the Grace of God" (GOG), because it's based on God's merciful grace, freely given to us.

1: This gospel is based on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus: 1Co.15:1-4

F: These 2 gospels are not the same and cannot be mixed together.

1: Compare Act.3:21 & Rom.16:25 - One gospel was preached and one was kept secret "since the world began".

2: Universal reconciliation:

A: There are many verses that state that Jesus' sacrifice was for all mankind.

1: Joh.12:32, 1Jo.2:2

B: Rom.5:18&19, 1Co.15:22 both compare the lost to the saved. They both indicate that the same ones that die will also live because of Christ.

C: Rom.11:32 says that God causes all to be in unbelief so that He can have mercy on all.

D: 1Ti.4:10 says in part "...because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

1: "specially of those that believe" does not mean exclusively of those that believe. Believers in this life are special, we get life earlier than non-believers, but all will get life.

E: Paul says in Php.2:10&11 that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Isn't that, after all, what is required for salvation?

3: The Eons: (This goes hand in hand with Aion mistranslations below)

A: God created vast periods of time called eons. Heb.1:1&2 state that God made the eons.

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B: These eons serve a purpose. Eph.3:8-11 make this clear. The purpose is to make known the wisdom of God.

C: There are 5 eons discussed in the Bible.

1: The 1st eon started "in the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth". This eon ended with some sort of disruption (mentioned several times in the New Testament). Gen.1:2, in many translations, states that the earth "became" void and waste, it was not created that way. Isa.45:18 establishes that. This disruption is most likely the war that happened at the rebellion of Satan and his angelic followers. It apparently laid waste to the entire Earth and caused great chaos in the Heavens.

2: After this disruption, God recreates the Earth and the 2nd eon begins. It ends at the flood.

3: The 3rd eon, the one we're in right now, Paul calls the "present evil eon" in Gal.1:4. This eon ends at the end of the tribulation.

4: The 4th eon begins at the 1000 year reign of Christ. It is called "the coming eon" in Mar.10:30 and Luk.18:30. It ends with the fiery destruction of the Heavens and the Earth. (2Pe.3:10)

5: The 5th and final eon begins with the creation of the new Heavens and the new Earth. It is called the "eon of the eons" by Paul in Eph.3:21. This is the eon that comes out of the previous eon, thus the name "eon of the eons".

6: It is interesting to note that every eon ends in violence and destruction.

4: Aion/Aionios

A: There has been a tragic misinterpretation of the Greek word Aion (Aionios is the adjective).

B: This Greek word has been translated forever, everlasting, ever and ever and eternal in most modern translations.

C: It has also been translated world, course and age because the idea of eternity wouldn't fit the context of the passage. One example is (there are many others):

1: Titus 1:2 says: "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"

2: "eternal" life and "world" are the same Greek word aion. The translators arbitrarily changed the meaning of the 2nd aion because it doesn't make sense to say that anything could be promised before "eternity" began.

D: Another glaring problem with the interpretation of aion as meaning forever:

1: Compare Rev.11:15 (Jesus will reign "for ever and ever") with 1Co.15:25 (Jesus reigns "until He has put all enemies under His feet"). Which verse is true? They both are, if you correctly translate aion.

E: There are many, many other instances where the idea of eternity (the absence of time, no beginning or ending) doesn't fit the context. If you substitute the word eon, or age (meaning time that has a beginning and an ending) the word fits the context, every time. No need to "play around" with the meaning.

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5: Death

A: Gen.2:7 indicates that we **are** a living soul, we don't **have** a soul.

B: God told Adam that he would die if he ate of the fruit. There is more to this than most people know.

1: The Hebrew text uses the word "muth" (die) twice in Gen2:17. That verse should be translated, "to die shall you be dying". Obviously, Adam didn't immediately die. The dying process started at the fall.

C: **Man is mortal** - Job.4:17: **Souls can and do die** (they are not immortal) - Eze.18:4, Exo.1:5: **Only God is immortal** - 1Ti.6:16: **We receive immortality through the gospel** - 2Ti.2:7

D: Death is equated to sleep in many Bible verses: Job.14:12, Psa.13:3, Dan.12:2, Act.7:60

E: Those "which sleep in Christ" will be resurrected. 1Th.4:13-16

F: The dead are not conscience:

1: Psa.115:17 "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence."

2: Psa.146:4 When a man dies, "in that very day his thoughts perish."

3: Ecc.9:5 "The dead know not anything."

4: Ecc.9:10 "There is no work... nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave."

G: We have fallen for the first lie Satan ever told, to a human at least:

1: Gen.3:4 - "You shall not surely die".

2: We have been deceived into believing that we don't really die, we move on to another life. The truth is, without the cross, all mankind was doomed to obliteration. That is the true meaning of death.

6: Hell

A: We have been taught all of our Christian lives that God will punish, in eternal torment, all who don't believe, in the pits of a fire that burns forever called Hell.

B: My first question on this subject is, which Hell?

1: Hell is an English translation of 3 very distinct and very different words in the N.T.

A: **Tartarus** - Only used once in scripture. Not in the King James or the NIV because it's been (mis)translated Hell, but is in any concordance.

B: Tartarus is used in 2Peter and it refers to the place where God has imprisoned the Angels that sinned.

C: **Gehenna** - The name of an actual place that the Jews of the day knew all about. This is where we get the idea of fire associated with hell.

D: Jesus said in Mat.5:29&30 and in Mar.9:43-48 that it would be better for a person to cut off their right hand or pluck out their right eye if they caused them to sin because it would be better than their whole body being "cast into Hell" where "the worm never dies" and the "fire is not quenched".

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- E: This is one of the most used verses in the Bible to show that Hell exists. But let's look at what's really being said here. Jesus is obviously referring to this place called Gehenna as the place of judgment referred to in Isaiah 66:23&24. The same terminology ("eternal" fires and worms) is used in both passages.
- F: The first thing to notice is that corpses or carcasses are put here, not souls or spirits. This is a place where "men that have transgressed against Me" will be put to death.
- G: Their BODIES burn, not their souls. This would of course be a matter of great shame to any good Jew and something to be avoided.
- H: The worms will have plenty to eat and the fires will keep burning because they have plenty of fuel (again, bodies not souls).
- I: Also interesting to note, the passage does not say the worms can't die or the flames can't go out. It doesn't say they are eternal. It says they won't go out, presumably because of all the bodies that will; be put there. Another misconception that has to be read into the passage.
- J: Gehenna will be used as a form of capital punishment during the 1000 year reign of Christ.
- K: A good example of this thinking, when an emergency room doctor says that your child is OK and shall not die, he isn't saying that he'll never die. It's the same thought with the fire and worms of Gehenna. The Greek doesn't insinuate that they will never die, just that they don't die. When the previous bodies are burned up, more will be put there.
- L: One last note - Gehenna was also already known to the Jews of Jesus day as an abominable where their ancestors sacrificed their babies to a pagan god named Molec. That sacrifice included heating a metal disk with fire and tossing their babies on it.
- M: **Hades** - simply means unseen, hidden or covering. Put your hand in your pocket, and it's in Hades. This is where we get the idea of separation from God. Hades is also translated grave, in several verses. The grave, isn't a fiery, eternally burning place.
- N: The English root word for hell is also used in many other English words. In old English literature we read about the HELLING of potatoes which meant the putting of potatoes into pits or root cellars where they were concealed or hidden from view until they were brought out to eat. When the HELLING of a house was spoken of it meant covering the roof with a suitable roofing material. It also means to heal meaning to cover over an old wound. We also have the word HELmet to cover your head.