

CatClub: Question 28



1. Recap. Last week we learnt that only people who have been chosen by God from before the world was created and are united by faith to his Son, Jesus, are saved. We also learnt that, although many people go their own way and reject God, nevertheless he is good to them in providing the things needed for life; he also holds back sin by giving us such things as government, law and order, hospitals, and families in which we can experience love.

Q28 now asks a difficult, but logical next question: What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith? **Answer:** **At the day of judgment they will receive the fearful but just sentence of condemnation pronounced against them. They will be cast out from the favourable presence of God, into hell, to be justly and grievously punished, forever.**

Note: This answer tells us that God's is a moral universe where, in the end, no-one will be able to escape justice. And the important question that everyone will have to face on that day is whether they have trusted Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and lived their lives accordingly.

2. Investigation

Please look up:

a) (In the New Testament) Matthew chapter 13, verses 40-42. Here we learn something that should make us all shudder: **hell is a real place to which people who have rejected Jesus will be sent after they die - and it is a place of horrifying and never-ending punishment**. We must remember that God is not only loving (in sending his Son to die for sinners who trust him), **but also just and fair** (in ensuring that justice will finally be done when he sends Jesus back to judge the world).

b) (In the New Testament) Acts chapter 17, verse 31. This tells us that **God the Father has set a date when there will be a judgment to be carried out by Jesus on his return to earth in glory**. We don't know when this will be, but we can be absolutely certain that it will happen.

c) (Again, in the New Testament) Luke chapter 19, verse 10. This verse tells us what Jesus came to earth 2,000 years ago to do, i.e. **to seek and save the lost**. 'The lost' are those who will go to hell unless they trust Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. It is the mission of Christian churches to proclaim Jesus' message – that spiritual safety is only to be found in acknowledging that we are sinners in need of Jesus' forgiveness. Otherwise we will be eternally lost.

>>>Next week's question: [How can we be saved?](#)

This week's songs: 'By thy mercy' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzvDkChgcVE>

'Lo! He comes in clouds descending'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=en0sv1jeDws>

[N.B. in this song "passion" means "suffering"; "saints" means "Christians"]

Matthew 13:40-42

⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Acts 17:31

³¹ because he (God the Father) has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man (Jesus, God the Son) whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

(Note: Jesus often referred to himself as ‘The Son of Man’.)