

The Death Penalty for Mankind and for Christ

What Does It Involve?

1. The Bible clearly teaches that the penalty for sin is death.

“For the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

“Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:15)

“In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:17).

“The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezek. 18:4).

“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things [the list of sins in verses 29-31) are worthy of death” (Rom. 1:32).

2. The Bible clearly teaches that Christ paid the death penalty for us when He died in our place as our Substitute.

“He died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3).

“God commendeth His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

“Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:8).

3. The death penalty that men will face involves two things: 1) separation from God; 2) punishment by God.

Separation From God	Punishment By God
Matthew 25:41	
Depart from me	into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels

Separation From God	Punishment By God
Matthew 25:46	
These shall go away	into everlasting punishment
2 Thessalonians 1:8-9	
...from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power	taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ who shall be punished with everlasting destruction...
Matthew 7:19,23	
I never knew you; depart from Me	...cast into the fire
Revelation 19:20	
...cast alive	into a lake of fire burning with brimstone
Revelation 20:14-15	
cast into the lake of fire	...the lake of fire. This is the second death.
Luke 16:19-31	
seeing Abraham afar off... between us and you there is a great gulf fixed	being in torments... I am tormented in this flame... thou art tormented this place of torment
<p>Note on Luke 16:19-31. Many seek to rob this passage of its obvious meaning by insisting that it is a parable. If it is a parable, then it is totally unique and different from other parables found in the Bible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would be the only parable in the Bible that describes certain things that are outside of the realm of human experience. All the other parables talk about things that we are familiar with such as birds, seed, fields, pearls, wheat, barns, leaven, fish, etc. (see Matthew 13, etc.). This passage is different because it talks about what happens to two men after death, and this is a realm where none of us have had any personal experience. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly or spiritual significance but Luke 16 transcends the realm of the earthly. 2. It would be the only parable in the Bible that uses a proper name (Lazarus). 3. It would be the only parable in the Bible that makes mention repeatedly of a historical person--Abraham. Moreover, this historical person actually carries on a dialogue with the rich man! Indeed, mention is also made of Moses in this parable, another historical character. What other parable speaks of real, historical persons? 	

4. It would be the only parable in the Bible that describes the places where the dead go (Hades, Abraham's bosom, a place of torment).

5. It would be the only parable in the Bible that makes mention of angels. Compare Matthew 13 verses 24-30, 36-43, 47-49 where angels are mentioned in the explanation of the parable but not in the parable itself.

6. If Hades is not really a place of torment then this would be the only parable in the Bible where the Lord Jesus taught error instead of truth. GOD FORBID!

Even if it were a parable, it is certain that the Lord would not have used it to teach error.

Other passages speak of God's punishment upon the ungodly who refuse to receive the salvation that is offered in Christ. Among many such verses are these:

Mark 9:42-48 ...to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched, where their worm dieth not, etc. (See all these verses.)

Romans 12:19 Vengeance is Mine; I will repay.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

Romans 2:8-9 Unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil...

Ephesians 5:6 For because of these things (see verses 3-5) cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Colossians 3:6 For which things' sake (see verse 5) the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.

Note also that 2 Peter chapter 2 and the book of Jude both contain very strong warnings about the judgment that will befall the ungodly.

4. The death penalty that Christ suffered as a Substitute for sinful men involved two things: 1) Separation From God; 2) Punishment By God:

Christ's death involved separation from God	
Psalm 22:1	“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me? Why art Thou so far from helping Me, and from the words of My roaring?”
Matthew 27:46	“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”

Christ's death involved punishment by God	
Isaiah 53:4	We did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
Isaiah 53:5	He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.
Isaiah 53:6	The LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
Isaiah 53:7	He was afflicted [by God—cf. verse 4]
Isaiah 53:8	He was stricken [by God—cf. verse 4]
Isaiah 53:10	It pleased the LORD to bruise Him.
1 Peter 2:24	Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree...by whose stripes we are healed.
1 Pet. 3:18	Christ hath once suffered for sins, the Just (the Righteous One) for the unjust (the unrighteous ones). He did not suffer for sins He committed; He suffered for sins we committed, as He bore the judgment which should have fallen upon us.
1 Cor. 15:3	Christ died for our sins (He paid the penalty that our sins deserved).
2 Cor. 5:21	He was made sin for us (punished as if He were the sinner, even though He Himself knew no sin).
Romans 8:3	<p>God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.</p> <p>Condemnation refers to God's judgment coming down upon a person. God's judgment for sin came down upon my sinless Substitute when He died on the cross so that it would not come down upon me (Rom.8:1). The fire of God's judgment burned the cross and the ground around it, so</p>

Romans 8:3	when I take my place (by faith) at the foot of the cross the fire of God's judgment will not burn me (the fire will not burn the same area twice).
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May we eternally thank our God that the death penalty which we earned for ourselves because of our sins was paid in full by our sinless Substitute! We deserved to be forever separated from God and to be forever punished by God, but Christ was separated from God and punished by God in our stead so that we might be delivered from “so great a death” (2 Cor. 1:10).