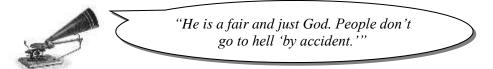
## Letters From a Skeptic Lesson 11: Eternal Separation from God

"There is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12



## Correspondence 24: "Do all non-Christians go to Hell?"

### Father <<mark>pp. 188-189</mark>>

- 1. "People will believe in other books so long as it's part of their upbringing and culture"
- 2. "These are the sorts of things heaven and hell hang on"
- 3. "How can heathen children go to hell just because they weren't born into a Christian home?"
- 4. "I have always found the Christian doctrine of hell, and the belief that all non-believers are going there, to be one of the most ludicrous aspects aspect of the entire religion"
- 5. "Maybe you can straighten out some of this"

**Son** <**pp. 189-193** (to save time, <u>touch on important points rather quickly</u>)

- 1. "There is a lot of disagreement...So if you're looking for absolute certainty in resolving the issue, you're probably going to be disappointed"
- 2. "Work from the known to the unknown"
- 3. "[the Bible may] transcend my own rationality"
- 4. "[we] have to trust that God will do the wise and just thing"
- 5. God is revealed in Christ. However God may appear at time, He cannot be other than He is in Jesus Christ
- 6. "There is no salvation outside Jesus Christ" (see Acts 4:12 above)
- 7. "some people who did not know Jesus personally or consciously, but who were nevertheless saved"
- 8. "He is a fair and just God. People don't go to hell 'by accident'"
- 9. "Your only concern should be that you are not among those who reject Christ of their own free will"
- 10. "Let hell be God's problem, not your problem."

# Correspondence 25: "How could an all-loving God torture people in an eternal hell?"

## Father <<mark>pp. 194-195</mark>>

- 1. "What is the purpose of punishing someone eternally?"
- 2. "So this is sheer vengeance, pure retribution, unadulterated anger, with no motive other than pure divine delight of inflicting horrifying pain on a person!"

- 3. *"I don't see how heaven can go as heaven while hell is burning down below. Think what it would be like if one of your kids didn't 'make it'"*
- 4. *"The character of God is on trial in my life, and this is very relevant evidence which needs to be considered"*

#### Son <<mark>pp. 196-201</mark>>

1. "I believe even when I don't understand"

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." -Heb 11:1

- 2. "Hardly anyone takes all the talk about hell being a place of fire and brimstone literally"
- 3. "Hell is a very bad place. [It's] everything which is opposite of what God wants for humanity"
- 4. "People put themselves in hell"
- 5. "It's where they want themselves to be, not where God wants them to be"
- 6. "If hell is eternally locked, it's locked from the inside"
- 7. "The punishment is 'eternal' because it has eternal effects, not because it is endured eternally"

"they... shall be as though they had not been." -Obadiah 16

- 8. "In this view, God's judgment and mercy converge on the same act"
- 9. "This position... would not place you outside of a Bible-believing faith. It is, I believe, a viable option"
- 10. "The most important thing about hell, Dad, is not in understanding it or explaining it: it's to avoid it!"

Homework: Read Correspondence 26.