John 14:1-3 (NIV)

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Matthew 25:32-33 (NLT)
All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

Matthew 25:34 (NLT)

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

Matthew 25:41, 46 (NLT) ...[41] Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.

...[46] And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

We BELIEVE that...

HEAVEN and HELL are REAL

Matthew 25:32-46

We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell and that all those who place their FAITH, HOPE and TRUST in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord.

Those who reject Jesus' FREE GIFT of SALVATION will spend eternity SEPARATED from the Lord. CCA

Matt. 5:3 (NIV) Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of **HEAVEN**.

Matt. 5:22 (NLT) ... And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of **HELL**.

Matt. 25:41 (NLT) Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the ETERNAL FIRE prepared for the devil and his demons...

Matt. 25:46 (NLT) And they will go away into **ETERNAL PUNISHMENT, but the righteous** will go into **ETERNAL LIFE.**

Jesus Taught us...

- to PRAY Our Father IN Heaven
- to REJOICE that our names are WRITTEN in Heaven
- He would RETURN He was going to Prepare a Place for us in Heaven

Paul Taught....

- Jesus is SEATED in Heaven at God's Right Hand
- that Heaven is our FUTURE HOME
- the Holy Spirit is the GUARANTEE we will be in Heaven

Peter Reminds us

 we have an INHERITANCE kept safely in HEAVEN for us

Heaven is Described as... HBD

- God's Dwelling Place perfect
 FELLOWSHIP with God
- New Jerusalem perfect PROTECTION
- Garden perfect PROVISION

→ What we BELIEVE about Heaven must come from God's WORD - NOT Man's IDEAS

Matthew 22:29 (NLT)

...Your mistake is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God.

In every generation and culture, ideas of eternal life tend to be based on images and experiences of PRESENT life.

We must not make up our own ideas about God, eternity, and heaven by thinking of them in human terms. HBA

→ FOCUSING on Heaven puts things of EARTH in Proper Perspective

Colossians 3:1-3 (NLT)

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your SIGHTS on the realities of HEAVEN, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. [2] THINK ABOUT the things of HEAVEN, not the things of earth. [3] For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

ETERNAL- the same Greek word is used in both instances.

The punishment of the wicked is as **never-ending**

AS the bliss of the righteous.

The wicked are not given a second chance, nor are they annihilated. MacArthur

→ It is NOT FAIR - How can a Loving God SEND people to HELL?

If there was **no PUNISHMENT** of unbelievers at all, even people like Hitler and Stalin **would not have pay** for what they did, and there would be no ultimate JUSTICE in the universe. Then people would have incentive to be as wicked as possible in this life. Grudem

→ What about THOSE who have NEVER Heard?

Romans 1:18-20 (NIV)

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who **SUPPRESS** the **TRUTH** by their wickedness,

[19] since what may be known about God is PLAIN to them, because God has made it PLAIN to them. [20] For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities -His ETERNAL power and DIVINE nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

>DESIGN requires DESIGNER CAUSE and EFFECT

→ Hell was NOT created for Unbelievers

Matthew 25:41

...Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire

prepared for the DEVIL and his DEMONS.

John 3:17-18 (NIV)

For God did NOT send His Son into the world to CONDEMN the world, but to save the world through Him. [18] Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not BELIEVED in the name of God's one and only Son.

→ God does not Save us MERELY so we can Escape HELL

Romans 8:29 (NIV)

For those God foreknew

He also predestined to BE CONFORMED

to the LIKENESS of his Son,

that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Hebrews 10:14 (NIV)

Luby one SACRIFICE

HE has made PERFECT forever those who are being made holy.

In the same way
even the criminals
who were crucified with Him
kept taunting Him.

Luke 23:39-41 (NIV)

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

[40] But the other criminal rebuked him.
"Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?

[41] We are **punished justly**, for we are getting what our deeds deserve.

But this MAN has done **nothing wrong**."

Luke 23:42-43 (NIV)

Then he said, "Jesus, REMEMBER me when you come into YOUR kingdom."

[43] Jesus answered him,

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with ME in paradise."