

## **“NATIVES IN NIGERIA”**

*“What about the natives who haven’t heard the gospel, they go to hell too? God wouldn’t do that.”*

One reason people give for their decision to not believe the Bible and what it says about heaven, hell, salvation, etc. is the notion that there are natives in remote parts of the world who have never read the Bible and have never been told that the God of the Bible is real. So, by their logic, it is unfair for such natives to die and go to hell.

Sadly, most people who are hung up on this idea, have never cracked open a Bible to find the answer (perhaps because they like having an excuse not to believe in a God that judges people for sin).

The answer is simple. Everyone is born into this world with the knowledge that there is a God. And all of God’s creation (including the conscience) points to this truth.

### **THE BIBLE SAYS**

**Psa. 19:1-3** “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.”

**John 1:9** “That was the true Light [Jesus], which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

**Rom. 1:19-20** “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible thing of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and God-head; so that they are without excuse.”

Whether you are in Nigeria, Lewiston, Idaho, or anywhere else, you have to choose to seek the truth—to seek God. If a person is seeking, God will send them the answer. It takes faith to seek though. Both a pastor’s son in the U.S. and the son of a native in Nigeria must have enough faith to seek and believe in something they cannot see.

**Heb. 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

**Matt. 7:7-8** “Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find... For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth...”

## **“GOOD = HEAVEN”**

*Before reading further, ask yourself this question: When you die, why would you go to heaven?*

If your answer to this question has anything to do with how “good” you are, the good things you’ve done, the bad things you haven’t done, or how hard you are trying, then it is a Biblical fact that you are unsaved and bound for hell, a place of literal fire and pain, when you die.

The entire theme of the Bible is that mankind is sinful and that the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God’s son, is the only thing that can pay the price for our sin. Salvation is a gift from God. You don’t work for a gift, you simply must have enough faith to accept it.

### **THE BIBLE SAYS**

**Rom. 3:23** “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

**Isaiah 64:6** “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...”

**Rom 6:25** “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Eph. 2:8-9** “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, let any man should boast.”

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

**Rom. 10:13** “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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# **Mistaken Beliefs about God, the Bible, and Christianity**

This brochure provides answers to common questions and myths surrounding the Bible. Let’s take a look at what the Bible actually has to say about the following popular ideas:

### **“SPOKES ON A WHEEL”**

*“All religions lead to the same place.”*

### **“JUDGE NOT”**

*“Nobody has the right to tell me I’m wrong.”*

### **“GOD IS LOVE”**

*“God would never throw anyone in hell.”*

### **“NATIVES IN NIGERIA”**

*“What about the natives who haven’t heard the gospel, they go to hell too? God wouldn’t do that.”*

### **“GOOD = HEAVEN”**

*“Yeah, I’ve done a few things wrong, but overall I’m a pretty good person. I’m doing the best I can, so I’ll probably go to heaven when I die.”*

## “SPOKES ON A WHEEL”

*“All religions lead to the same place.”*

A common thought in society is that all of the world’s religions are not that different from one another, and that, consequently, everyone is just taking a different path to the same place. Therefore, Christians should fellowship with Muslims, Baptists should worship with Catholics and Mormons, etc. However, the truth of the Bible is that there are false religions and prophets in the world, and that there is only one way to God and Heaven.

### THE BIBLE SAYS

**John 14:6** “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

**I John 4:1** “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone into the world.

**Col. 2:8** “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

**I Tim. 2:5** “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”

**Eph. 4:5-6** “One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all...”

**Exod. 20:3-4** “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.”

**Matt. 7:21** “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven.”

**I Pet. 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

**I Timothy 4:1** “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”

**Gal. 1:9** “As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

Any belief system, church, prophet, preacher, professing-Christian, etc. who preaches and teaches contrary to the doctrines of the Bible is of the devil. Furthermore, churches and Christians who fail to point out false teachers and doctrines are not doing their job (see the following “Judge Not” section).

## “JUDGE NOT”

*“Nobody has the right to tell me I am wrong.”*

Mathew 7:1 is often held by the scripturally and spiritually illiterate as a commandment to Christians to not say anything or anyone is wrong (Matt. 7:1 “Judge not, that ye be not judged.”). Contrary to this opinion, however, neither this passage nor the Bible forbids Christians from judging, rebuking, reprimanding, or warning others.

When reading Matthew seven in context, it is clear that the simple message the chapter contains is this: if you judge, you should be prepared to be judged, and before you worry about your neighbor’s sin you should first remove the sin from your own life (Matt. 7:5).

For the Christians who are not hypocrites, i.e. living in sin, the Bible is very straightforward.

### THE BIBLE SAYS

**Jude 3-4** “... earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

**II Tim. 4:2** “...Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.”

**I Cor. 2:15** “But he that is spiritual judgeth all things...”

**I Tim. 5:20** “Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.”

**Phil. 3:17-18** “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.”

**Eph. 5:11** “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

**Gal. 4:16** “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”

John the Baptist judged (Matt. 3:7)

Paul judged (Acts 13:10)

Stephen judged (Acts 7:51)

Jesus judged (Matt. 23:33, Mark 11:15)

David judged (Psalm 139:19-24)

(Also read Jude 23, I John 4:1, James 4:4)

## “GOD IS LOVE”

*“God would never throw anyone in hell.” Or, “A loving God wouldn’t make a real hell.”*

Perhaps one of the most misconstrued concepts in the Bible is the character of God. From a person who cannot find the book of Genesis to tithe-loving, fake-smiling present day preachers, everyone knows that “God is love”, but nobody seems to know what else the Bible says.

Yes, God is love, but God is also so holy that He cannot even look upon sin, let alone allow it a presence with Him in heaven. Furthermore, God has a number of holy emotions including hate, anger, jealousy, etc.

As John 3:16 says, God did love the world. He loved it enough to send his only begotten Son to die for it. However, God is angry with people who reject Him and the Bible and choose to remain in their sinful, wretched states instead of seeking the Savior.

### THE BIBLE SAYS

**Hab.1:13** “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity...”

**Psalms 5:4-5** “For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.”

**Psalms 7:11** “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

**John 3:36** “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

**Heb. 9:27** “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

**Psalms 9:17** “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”

Hell is a place of actual fire and actual pain.

**Mark 9:43** Jesus said, “And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:”

**Matt. 13:50** “And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”  
(Also read Rev. 20:15, Matt. 25:41, Luke 16)

**Psalms 111:10** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom:”