**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 11**

**Questions: Can we enjoy heaven knowing loved ones and friends are in hell? Will God’s holy and righteous justice satisfy our sorrow?**

1. **Can we enjoy heaven knowing loved ones and friends are in hell? Answer: Yes, and we can even rejoice in this life, lost relatives notwithstanding.**
	1. ***We all will have loved ones who are enemies of God, and thus destined for hell.***
		1. **Matthew 10:34-39** -- **34**“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35**For ***I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household.* 37**Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **38**And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39**Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
	2. ***Although the enemies of God will suffer eternally in hell, there will be no sorrow for those in heaven.***
		1. **Revelation 21:1-8** -- “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 ***He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”***

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 ***But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second deat***h.” - (Revelation 21:1-8)

* 1. ***It is just for those who mistreated God’s saints on earth to suffer in eternity, and for God’s saints to enjoy the comfort in heaven that they were denied on earth.***
		1. **Luke 16:19-31 -- 19**“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. **20**And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, **21**who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. **22**The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, **23**and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. **24**And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ **25**But Abraham said, ‘**Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now *he is comforted here, and you are in anguish*.** **26**And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ **27**And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— **28**for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ **29**But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ **30**And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ **31**He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’ ” – (Luke 16:19-31).
1. **Will God’s holy and righteous justice satisfy our sorrow?** Answer: ***No, His righteous justice “satisfies” no one, but must itself be satisfied. Rather, His boundless mercy, shown in the gospel of Jesus Christ, will satisfy our sorrow.***
	1. ***God’s righteous justice does not need to satisfy us, but itself must be satisfied (law).***
		1. **Romans 3:1-20 --** Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2**Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. **3**What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? **4**By no means! ***Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, “That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.***” **5**But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) **6**By no means! For then how could God judge the world? **7**But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? **8**And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just. **9**What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, **10**as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; **11**no one understands; no one seeks for God. **12**All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” **13**“Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” **14**“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” **15**“Their feet are swift to shed blood; **16**in their paths are ruin and misery, **17**and the way of peace they have not known.” **18**“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” **19**Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. **20**For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
	2. ***God’s mercy and grace (Gospel), not his justice (Law,) is what satisfies our sorrow. The Gospel is Jesus Christ satisfied the righteous demands of Justice required by God’s nature.***
		1. **Romans 3:21-26 -- 21**But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— **22**the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: **23**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24**and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25**whom God put forward ***as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith***. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. **26**It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
	3. ***Those who do not receive Christ’s sacrifice through faith remain in their sins.***
		1. **John 9:39-40 -- 39**Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” **40**Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” **41**Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ ***your guilt remains***.
		2. **John 8:23-24 --  23**He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24**I told you that you would die in your sins, for ***unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins***.”