

THE

AFTERLIFE

²⁵ Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; ²⁷ and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

JOHN 5:19-29

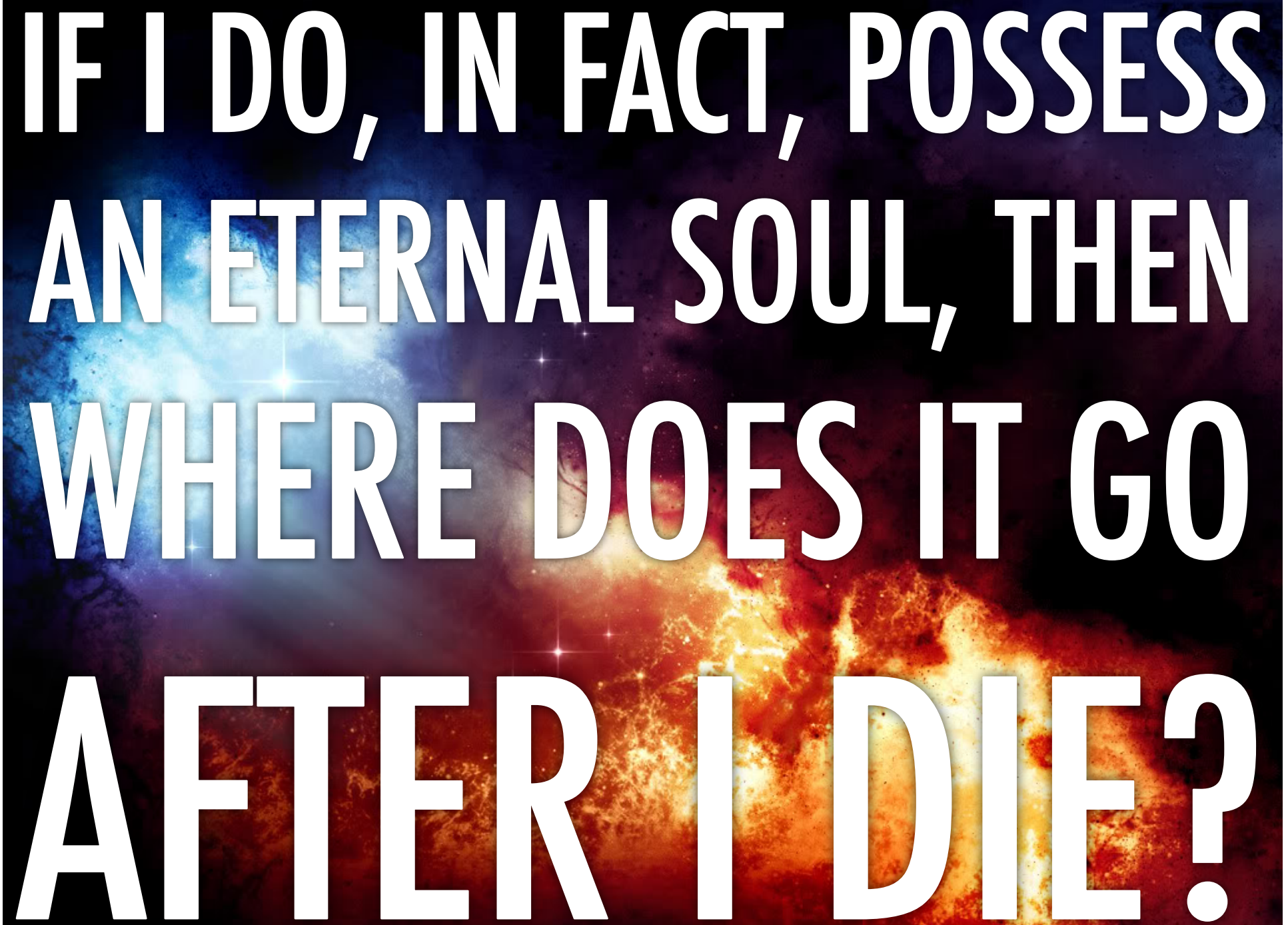
WHY BELIEVE IN AN AFTERLIFE?

- There is an undeniable spiritual component to what makes you “you” (Heb. 12:22-23, Matt. 10:28, 2 Cor. 5:1-10) – and it exists in a way that is not bound or defined by the material. Your soul will outlast your body, so there must be an abode for it after physical death (Ecclesiastes 12:7).
- Without continued spiritual existence after death, we are left with hopelessness and despair (1 Corinthians 15, Ecclesiastes 1).

IS THE "SOUL" JUST NONSENSE?

- Many only believe in the material, that is, that there is nothing beyond the physical universe. All this talk of "soul and spirit" might seem like nonsense, since it cannot be measured scientifically. Paul also noted this tendency in 1 Corinthians 2:12-16. He goes on to express frustration about their "fleshly" mindset in the next chapter.
- But is the soul such a silly idea? Our sense of morality, creativity, all of our theorizing and imagining – these things require an explanation that pure materialism cannot provide! We are more than just cells!



The background of the image is a cosmic scene. The upper left portion features a vibrant blue nebula with wispy, ethereal patterns. The lower right portion is dominated by a bright, fiery orange and red star-forming region, possibly a protostar or a young star cluster, with intense light and visible filamentary structures. The overall color palette transitions from cool blues to warm, fiery oranges and reds.

**IF I DO, IN FACT, POSSESS
AN ETERNAL SOUL, THEN
WHERE DOES IT GO
AFTER I DIE?**

WHAT IS HELL?

- Hell is the final place for the souls of the unrepentant and rebellious (1 Thess. 1:8-9). It is absence from the presence of God.
- It is a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8:12) and darkness (Matthew 22:13, 25:30). The punishment is everlasting and never abates (Mark 9:48, Matthew 25:46, Revelation 20:10).
- It is where souls are cast out, rejected, as the term "Gehenna" implies (the refuse heap outside of Jerusalem).



IS HELL FAIR?



"OK, sir, would you like inferno or non-inferno? ...
Ha! Just kidding. It's all inferno, of course—
I just get a kick out of saying that."



WHO WILL BE CONDEMNED?

- I'm hesitant to answer this question when asked, especially when somebody is looking for an excuse to avoid responsibility to God. Whether a friend, relative, or spouse is condemned has nothing to do with you or me.
- "What about...?" Hypothetical scenarios also fail to bring us closer to the truth because they are agenda-driven. What God chooses to do with souls who never knew or could not have known is up to Him (Rom. 9:14-15, 1 Tim. 2:4).
- We each bear the responsibility for our own eternal destination (2 Cor. 5:9-10). But that lost loved one definitely would have something to say to you (Luke 19:16-31).

WHAT IS HEAVEN?

- *HEAVEN IS OUR HOPE* – Ephesians 1:18, Titus 1:2, Colossians 1:5, Matthew 6:19-21
- *HEAVEN IS LIKE A BIG REUNION* – Matthew 8:10-12. It is everlasting fellowship without awkwardness, jealousy, anger, or lies (Revelation 21:27).
- *HEAVEN IS REST* – Revelation 14:13, Hebrews 4:9-10, 2 Thessalonians 1:7. Rest, however, does not mean total inactivity.