

Is Immortality Conditional?

A Debate on the Reward of Sinners: Destruction or Eternal Torment?

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Ohikere, Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria.

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Is Immortality Conditional?

Immortality: *endless life*, ability to exist and live forever, deathless state]

IS MAN MORTAL?

Man created from dust became **a living soul** when infused with God's breath of life (Gen 2:7). After sinning:

- *“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: **and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”** – Genesis 3:22-24*

- “Shall **mortal man** be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?” –Job 4:17
- Living requires that his “**whole spirit and soul and body be preserved**” (1 Thess 5:23).
- At death, “**the spirit shall return unto God who gave it (Eccl 12:7, Gen 3:19) ...the body without the spirit is dead**” (James 2:26).

IS THE SOUL OF MAN IMMORTAL?

The serpent says “**ye shall not surely die**” (Gen 3:4),
God says ‘**the soul that sinneth, it shall die**’ (Eze 18:20).

- *“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?** Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” - Mark 8:35-37*

- *“...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to **save your souls**...*
- *there is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy...*
- *Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall **save a soul from death**, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”*

- James 1:21; 4:12; 5:20

Irrespective of how you define it, **the Soul of man is not immortal**; God says it can die hence Christ came to save the Soul, that man may live endlessly.

CURRENTLY, WHO POSSESSES IMMORTALITY?

- *“That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of **our Lord Jesus Christ**: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; **Who only hath immortality**, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”* - 1 Timothy 6:14-16
- *“Now unto the King eternal, **immortal, invisible, the only wise God**, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* -1 Timothy 1:17

HOW CAN MAN ACCESS IMMORTALITY?

- *“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and **hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel**” -2 Timothy 1:8-10*

HAS GOD STATED CONDITIONS FOR MAN TO OBTAIN IMMORTALITY?

- *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. **I am that bread of life.** Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: **if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:** and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” - John 6:47-51*

- *“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.” - John 3:16*
- *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord... - Romans 6:23*
- *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.” - Romans 8:13*

WHO WILL RECEIVE IMMORTALITY?

- *“Who will render to every man according to his deeds: **To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:** But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile.” - Romans 2:6-9*

- *“And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: **But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead,** neither marry, nor are given in marriage: **Neither can they die any more:** for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection”. -Luke 20: 34-36*

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 3:10-14

To ‘attain unto the resurrection of the dead’ **means to be among those that will be saved on the last day** though all men will be raised on that day (John 5:28-29).

- *“For we know that **if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, **that mortality might be swallowed up of life.** Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is **God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.**” -2 Corinthians 5:1-5*

The passage does NOT apply to sinners because disciples have mansions prepared for them in heaven (Jn 14:2); only those who obeyed the gospel were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise (Eph 1:13-14)

WHEN WILL IMMORTALITY BE GIVEN?

1 Corinthians 15: 47 *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.* 48 *As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.* 49 *And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.* 50 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.* 51 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,* 52 *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* 53 *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* 54 *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

1 COR 15 highlights the dead in Christ being raised up like 1 Thess 4:13-18.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting (Galatians 6:8).

***'We shall be changed'* addresses saints; our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body (Phil 3:20-21) When he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is (1 Jn 3:2).**

CONCLUSION

Immortality is conditional. It will be bestowed upon those who meet the necessary conditions, not unto sinners who spurned God's love and rejected His word. **One must first exist continually before he can forever enjoy bliss in heaven or suffer nonstop torture in the lake of fire. Immortality by definition has to do with *endless life* not where that life is spent.** If man had eaten of the fruit of the tree of life in Eden, he would have obtained immortality there and then!

Our opponents must first state the Bible proof, if any, of when sinners obtained or will obtain the ability to exist and live forever, an assumption underlying their proposition.

Affirmation of Proposition 1

The Bible teaches that sinners will be denied immortality; **their end is destruction from existence in the lake of fire.**

- **The Bible:** inspired scriptures, the sixty six book of Judeo-Christian faith, from Genesis to Revelation
- **Teaches that:** instructs, makes known and declare
- **Sinner:** the ungodly, unrighteous and lawless individuals
- **Denied:** refused, not given, deprived of
- **Immortality:** endless life, ability to exist & live forever, deathless state
- **End:** terminal point, conclusion, closing part, finish
- **Destruction:** ruin, obliteration, annihilation; complete loss of composition, vitality and functionality
- **Lake of fire:** lake that burns with fire, sulphur and brimstone
- **Hell:** could mean (a) Seoul (the grave) (b) Gehenna - the burning refuse dump at the valley of Hinnion in Israel where garbage and corpses were thrown (c) The lake of fire

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THOSE DENIED IMMORTALITY?

Answer: They cannot live forever!

- If you concur **'Yes'** to ***'Is Immortality conditional?'*** a logical implication is that **sinners will die after the resurrection and judgment**; they will then experience *'the second death'* (Rev 21:8).
- The only way anyone can attempt to deny this fact is by **struggling to re-define** *'immortality, death, destruction, perish,'* etc.

WHAT IS THE FINAL PUNISHMENT FOR SINNERS IN THE BIBLE?

Answer: To be consumed in fire!

- *“Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee. Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and **the fire shall devour them...** But **the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.**” - Psalms 21:8-9; 37:20*

- “As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: **as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.** but let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.” - Psalms 68:2 -3
- “The sinners in Zion are afraid, fearfulness has surprised the hypocrites. **Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?**” - Isaiah 33:14 [**None! This is a rhetorical question**]
- “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and **all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up,** saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” - Malachi 4:1

- *“Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles **to burn them**: but gather the wheat into my barn... Matthew 13:30*
- *Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will **burn up** the chaff with unquenchable fire.” -Matthew 3:12*
- *“And **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes** condemned them with an overthrow, making them an **ensample** unto those that after should live ungodly... it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and **destroyed them all... suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**” -2 Pet 2:6, Lk 17:29, Jude 7*

- “...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **in flaming fire taking vengeance** on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be **punished with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord.;" -2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
- “(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: **whose end is destruction**, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)” -Philippians 3:18-19

They are not to receive perpetual punishing, the punishment IS destruction, which is irreversible or everlasting.

- *“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries... –Heb 10:26-27*
- *...whose end is to be burned. But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation...” –Heb 6:8-9*

IS MATTHEW 10:28 AN EMPTY THREAT?

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

- If Christ is merely stating that God may harm the body in hell but will not destroy it, then we need **NOT FEAR Him since man could do more by killing the body**. Killing is the removal of the life-essence not bodily torture. **To destroy is not less severe than to kill.**

To destroy is not less severe than to kill:

If I say that '*the fox destroyed the chicken,*' it means the fox not only killed the chicken, it went further to **mutilate or consume it!**

When you read that '*the fire destroyed the sheep,*' it means the animal was consumed in the inferno **not tortured alive therein forever.**

To destroy a tree is to cut it off, uproot, burn, etc.

When crops perish such rot or wither off.

Destroyed equipment is not damaged but ruined; such can never function again.

Is the second death a sorer punishment? Yes!

Even in this world, the death penalty is the greatest known to man. It is termed 'CAPITAL punishment' because when a sinner's life is so terminated, he can no longer exist / operate in this realm evermore; his body is destroyed or decays into dust (though God keeps his soul in either Hades or paradise till resurrection day). **Such will be raised on judgment day when his soul is restored to the body** to give account as human.

Christ avers **extermination of soul and body in hell exceeds** the worst punishment man can inflict or any penalty which God had previously administered.

Mt 10:28 is a forewarning NOT an empty threat.

MAY THE WICKED ONE (DEVIL) AND HIS ANGELS BE TERMED AS SINNERS?

Angels are created spirits upheld in existence by the word of Christ (Col 1:15-17, Heb 1:3-7). They possess freewill and are vulnerable to sin (Job 4:18); which is transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4).

- *“He that committeth sin is of the devil; **for the devil sinneth from the beginning**. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” - 1 John 3:8*
- *“...God spared not the **angels that sinned**, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, **to be reserved unto judgment...**” -2 Pet 2:4*

WILL SATAN, DEVILS, SIN AND DEATH EXIST FOREVER?

Answer: No!

Unlike man, they had no external instigator but rebelled out of pride. The Tempter and his angels neither repented nor were they offered redemption (Heb 2:16, 1 Pet 1:12).

The Bible does not teach that Satan and his angels have immortality, rather they are destructible.

- “**...and thou hast sinned**: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and **I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.**” - Ezekiel 28:16
- “Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? **art thou come to destroy us?** I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.” - Mark 1:24
- “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil**; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” - Hebrews 2:14-15

- *“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; **and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**” - Rev 21:3-4*

CONCLUSION

The Lord's charge to us is 'choose between *'life and death'*' NOT between *'life and torment.'* No just judicial system passes a verdict of perpetual torture on the guilty. The death sentence, with cremation is the maximum penalty in any realm. God's creative power brought beings into existence; his fiery word will bring rebels to an end, as fire to slay and consume all sinners. The wicked will be destroyed into nothing just as they were created from nothing. *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death* (1 Cor 15:26) *when there is no sinful creature to kill again.* Things thrown into hell are made **extinct** as seen of death and Hades (Rev 20:14-15).

To refute, opponents must first fault our reasoning and exposition of all the passages cited, not evade such.

Refutation of Proposition 2

The Bible teaches that sinners will be tormented forever and ever in the hell of fire (the lake of fire).

OBSERVATION ABOUT THIS PROPOSITION

- It is unfortunate **the foundation of this doctrine is the presumption that the soul is immortal, its pillars are misunderstood symbolic phrases taken off their context and its roof is the discountenance of plain passages.**
- **A major error of the view of hell as an unending place of torture is the practice of taking New Testament phrases out of their settings as if such had no Old Testament background or meaning.**

No single Bible verse teaches that ungodly men will be tortured forever in hell when the scripture is allowed to shed light on itself and we shun private interpretation.

DEATH ONLY MEANS SEPARATION FROM GOD

“But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth” -1 Timothy 5:6

It is professed that Adam merely died spiritually (lost fellowship) the day he ate the forbidden fruit. Indeed, Adam ceased living unto God while in the body but he also died physically in same dispensation (Gen 5:5). Ditto any widow who deserves the second death. **Death is taking away of life; to die on earth is to be removed from this world; to die in the next world is to be removed from existence.** Jesus says: ***‘He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal’*** (Jn 12:25).

UNQUENCHABLE FIRE

“...but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” – Mat 3:12

“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...” -Mk 9:43

- Christ is asking people to reform their lives and be converted not to be self-mutilated. The dead will not be raised as handicaps to enter heaven or hell.
- **‘Quench’** means to **‘extinguish’** or **‘put out’** e.g. a fire. **The Psalmist said he will quench his enemies fire** (Ps. 118:12). Heb. 11:34 mentioned heroes of faith who were able to *‘quench the violence of fire.’* **God’s fire cannot be doused or put out by man because our God is a consuming fire** -Heb 12:29.

He warned cities and nations:

- ***“Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel.”*** -Amos 5:6
- ***“And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein. And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.”*** - Ezekiel 20:47-48

[See also Isa 1:31, Jer 4:4, 7:20, 21:12]

It is the fire that is unquenchable not the materials being burnt up in it!

EVERLASTING / ETERNAL FIRE

- *“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:.. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” - Matthew 25:41,46*
- *“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” - Jude 1:7*

The word **'everlasting'** or **'eternal'** connote *'permanence and unchangableness'* when it refers to God himself (Gen 21:33, Psalms 90:2, Micah 5:2). **Otherwise, it implies the certainty of a subject matter whose effect is valid and may not be interrupted; the continuity of quality or action until its desired purpose is accomplished. E.g.**

- When a man tells his wife: *'I will always be there for you, my love; it is you and I together forever.'*

The husband means he would for as long as he is alive on earth!

- *"Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant."* -Lev 24:8

Is that Old Covenant still in effect or has it been fulfilled and terminated? What of its **everlasting** Levitical priesthood and yearly atonement that is forever (Lev 16:31-34, Exo 40:15)?

Sodom and Gomorrah experienced eternal fire. They were burnt into ashes as example unto the ungodly (2 Pet 2:6). **It was termed eternal fire because it came from God in heaven to accomplish a task not because both cities burn endlessly with the inhabitants still being tormented alive on earth in the flames!** That was not their final judgment so they would still be raised on the last day (Mt 11:24) to receive reward of which the earlier burning (Gen 19:24-28) was just a foretaste.

Jude 7 typifies Mt 25:41, thus the everlasting or eternal fire will blaze unquenched to consume what is therein. **Tares are not tortured endlessly in flames but devoured, even so the wicked will not be preserved as the burning bush observed by Moses but rather shall be consumed body and soul (Mt 10:28).**

Our brothers assume that sinners are immortal and will therefore burn perpetually. That is not true. **The wicked do not go into punishing everlastingly but go into a punishment that is everlasting –that is destruction!**

In the New Covenant, inspiration mentions “eternal salvation ***tion*** (Heb 5:6), eternal redemption ***tion*** (Heb 9:1), everlasting destruction ***tion*** (2 Thes 1:9), eternal judgment ***ment*** (Heb 6:2), eternal damnation (Mk 3:29) and everlasting punishment ***ment*** (Matt 25:46)” **NOT because any of these actions has infinite duration but because each is an immutable divine work of permanence and consequence once it is established.**

However, **eternal** life (1 John 5:11,20) means ‘*God-kind of life,*’ **it is a continuum not an event!**

THE SMOKE OF THEIR TORMENT ASCENDETH UP FOR EVER

- *“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” - Revelation 14:9-12*

The passage warns false worshippers of the consequences. It describes their turmoil in God's presence aside the wrath they will receive at the end. **It is while they worship falsely on earth that** (1) they have no rest; are continually plagued (2) the saints are also persecuted for Christ.

The text is not teaching that sinners will be tormented in fire throughout eternity in the presence of the occupants of heaven –otherwise saints will watch their loved ones burn endlessly and neither will be happy! The torment does not go on endlessly but its completion is memorably described as smoke ascending forever.

Recall that **after God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, the next morning** Abraham looked down on the sight, ***“and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace”*** (Gen. 19:28).

The smoke is evidence of accomplished carnage, no more cries in the cities when Abraham viewed but desolation.

“As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.” (Jere 49:18).

Same figure was used for fallen Babylon (Rev 19:2-3) and earlier for Edom’s looming ruination (Isaiah 34:9-10): *‘And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into **brimstone**, and the land thereof shall become **burning pitch**. It shall not be quenched night nor day; **the smoke thereof shall go up for ever**: from generation to generation it **shall lie waste**; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.’*

THE DEVIL, THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET TORMENTED FOREVER

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” - Rev 20:10

However, Rev 19:20 says *‘And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These **both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**’*

Daniel 7:10-11 says of the Ancient of days: *‘A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till **the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.**’*

The complimentary passages depict the final abolition of evil political and religious systems. **Humans are not tormented in Rev 20:10, 'Beast, Day and night' are not literal.** The beast and the false prophet are not two men but **symbolize ungodly governments and false religions propelled by evil spirits from the Abyss** (Rev 11:7; 17:8; 13:11; 16:13).

A careful study of Gen 3:24 & Mt 22:30 indicate that angelic beings do not currently possess immortality, contrary to some assumptions. The eradication of any living creature that partakes of the second death is assured when such enter into the fire *'prepared for the devil and his angels.'* Heb 2:14 is emphatic that through death, Satan will be destroyed.

HELL WHERE THEIR WORM DIETH NOT

- *“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” -Mk 9:44*

Jesus quoted from Isaiah 66 which figuratively prophesied in vs 16 *‘for by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.’* Isaiah said the wicked will be consumed together (vs 17), the righteous will endure and all mankind come to worship God (vs 22-23). He concluded *‘And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.’* (vs 24).

- This would have been Isaiah's practical experience of God's answer to Hezekiah's prayers (2 Kg 18:17-19, Isa 36-37). The word of God is the sword of the Spirit and is fire (Eph 6:17, Jer 5:14; 23:29) used to slay enemies (E.g. Assyrians).
- In Mark, Jesus warns about the fire of Gehenna (**where carcasses of animals are thrown**). He used the imagery of the familiar constantly-fed Israeli incineration dumpsite to indicate the severity of final punishment.
- He implies the sure death of sinners not their partial decay while alive, into an immortal maggot.

WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH

“As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth quenched.” -Matthew 13:40-42

The phrase refers to sorrow and anger generally NOT to pain in eternal torture. It is a picturesque way of describing someone so angry at another that he grinds his teeth in rage, like a mad animal on a leash (Ps. 35:16; 37:12; Lam. 2:16).

That was exactly what Stephen experienced from the Jews when he preached Christ. *'..they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.'* (Acts 7:54)

- *"He teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me."* - Job 16:9
- *"The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish."* - Psalms 112:10

Note that Christ often used ‘*weeping and gnashing of teeth*’ to symbolize **fury.**

- In Mt 8:12, refers to Israelites who reject the kingdom or church in the gospel age.
- Mt 22:13 refers to the man expelled from the wedding feast for not having a proper garment.
- Mt 24:51 refers to the inconsiderate servant punished with death by his master.

The kindred of the earth will wail at the return of Christ (Rev 1:7). In hell they will be full of anger and grief as they die off and are destroyed. Their extermination therein does not last forever, it is a finite process.

GOD CAN BUT WILL NOT DESTROY SOUL AND BODY

Mt 3:9 says *'God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.'*

...but he has not turned those stones to children.

God once turned dust into man in Eden, dry bones into armies in Ezekiel's vision and Gentiles into Abraham's children!

The context matters, even the prodigal son was as *'dead, and is alive again'* upon his return home.

‘DESTROY’ is not a metaphor for a reversible distressful state in Mt 10:28.

(E.g. *‘see that man staggering along and vomiting? Alcohol has destroyed him.’* However, that illustration pertains to a bad but reversible situation since such man is still alive; he may be restored later! When alcohol **truly destroys** such man, it would more than impair his health or finances, it would have led to his death either from an induced illness or fatal accident precipitated by his drinking.)

CONCLUSION: The doctrine of eternal torment of sinners in hell is **non-Biblical; please jettison it.**

Likely Questions (FAQ)

Why debate this topic?

Is death always annihilation?

What happens between death and the final resurrection of all?

How about Lazarus and the rich man?

How long it will take God to destroy sinners in the lake of fire?

If destruction is annihilation then isn't the punishment trivial?

Is the lake of fire literal?

Will the unrighteous be raised with a physical body?

Isn't this Jehovah Witness (JW) doctrine?

Why debate this topic?

Some ask why this debate is necessary and wonder how time and effort should be expended on the reward of the wicked in fire since our quest is to go to heaven. **It matters for two reasons.**

Firstly, it reflects on the character of God! Would a just, fair and non-sadistic creator torture rebels endlessly or rather wipe them out of existence?

Secondly, we ought to know and propagate the whole truth or counsel of God on any subject ...even in matters such as the origin or the end of the universe which we cannot change.

Is death always annihilation?

Not necessarily as **there are various forms of death but they all relate to loss of one's presence and functionality in a given realm.** Recall that *"the wages of sin is death."*

Adam died spiritually though he remained alive physically (Eph 2:1, 1 Tim 5:6) by being separated from God by sin (Isa 59:1-2,) on the very day he ate the forbidden fruit (Gen 2:17). **But that was not all; he subsequently suffered physical death** (Gen 5:5). *'Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned'* - Romans 5:12.

Only the saved get spiritually raised now when baptized into Christ (Rm 6:13, Eph 2:5). At the end of this world; *'there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust'* -Acts 24:14. **The righteous will live and abide with God while the wicked will be punished with 'second death' to be no more.**

What happens between death and the final resurrection of man?

At physical death, the soul enter Sheol or Hades. The righteous are carried into Abraham's bosom or **paradise in the third heaven** (2 Cor 12:1-4, Rev 2:7; 6:9-11). Recall Jesus told the thief that **'today, shalt thou be with me in paradise'** -Lk 23:43. This ensures God will not leave the soul of any saint in Hades (Psalms 16:10; 86:13; 116:15) while it is the body of Christ that did not see corruption/decay -Acts 2:27,31; 2:29-30. The rich man did not look sideways or across in hell to see Lazarus. Rather, he looked **up** and saw him **afar off** and between them was **a great gulf which occupants cannot pass over**. This indicates from the depth of hell he looked up to heaven/paradise. (Only Christ crossed this gulf to be resurrected -Rm 10:6-7, Eph 4:9-10). Hence 2 Cor 5:6-9 and Phil 1:20-24 proclaim the saved as present with the Lord when absent from the body or *asleep*.

How about Lazarus and the rich man?

Isn't it a parable? It teaches that men should heed the word of God while they are alive on earth because there is no repentance in the grave. **This debate is about the fate of sinners after final judgment and NOT about their temporary stay in Hades while awaiting resurrection.**

We know Abraham's bosom is **not literal**, if it is, could it really contain Lazarus and all other Old Testament saints? Whose bosom was Abel carried to? Could water from *a fingertip* really assuage the rich man in the flame? Was the torment there the final judgment or a prelude to something more severe?

Surely, the intermediate state is prior to when a new body is received which could be destroyed with the soul of a man after judgment.

How long it will take God to destroy sinners in the lake of fire?

Sinners will suffer according to their works with '*few or many stripes*' (Lk 12:47-48). You CANNOT tell how long the dead will be in Hades before being raised at Christ's return because no one knows the last day! That is '*the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*' Luke 17:29-30 says '*But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*'

Time measurement by our Sun would end as well as literal day and night but that does not erase a sense of timing completely (Rev 21:23-25; 22:2). *If burning will be endless then so will every activity in eternity, the saints will not be able to even say 'Hallelujah' as doing so will take forever! (Is saying 'Haaaaaa...' what it means to praise him forever?)*

If destruction is annihilation then isn't the punishment trivial?

No, unless one does not value life!

The second death is the greatest punishment ever (as it connotes extermination in the age to come), **God will not resurrect anyone again after that event as bodies, souls and Hades would be destroyed.**

The doctrine of eternal torture for sinners in hell has not prevented the wicked from being merry in their iniquity. Believers serve God out of love primarily, not out of fear.

Is the lake of fire literal?

We equally ask if the *torment* is literal!

Inspired John used '*lake of fire*' because it well represents what he observed as God's destructive force. The tabernacle built under Moses was patterned after the one in heaven (Exo 25:40, Heb 8:5) including its altar, censer of fire, mercy seat, etc.

The heavenly fire is of divine origin and can consume anything God created if he so decrees be it material (Gen 19:24-25) **or spiritual** (Eze 28:16-18). If any angel or saint should sin again in the new order, after Satan is destroyed, the fire remains available to consume again.

Will the unrighteous be raised with a physical body?

In Bible times, those raised from the dead have their soul/spirit returned into their same physical body (1 Kg 17:22, Lk 8:55).

At the final resurrection, the dead will be raised with a new, spiritual body (1 Cor 15:42-44) but same soul to render account. That does not automatically bestow everyone with divine attributes such as indestructibility, omnipresence, etc. Only saints will receive immortality. **If sinners are raised incorruptible as you posit how come you also aver they will suffer pain and partly decay into worm while alive in torture in hell?**

Irrespective of the body a sinner is raised with, God is able to destroy it together with the soul in hell (Mt 10:28).

Isn't this Jehovah Witness (JW) doctrine?

No, it is not.

Their version of what happens from death to resurrection and after is different as outlined in their publications.

That we do not celebrate Charismas as a religious feast is not because JW says so, **it is based on our understanding of what the scriptures teach.**

***Conditional Immortality* is a Bible teaching.** Jesus brought life to mankind and will raise all on the last day, the sinners will then get to know what they would be missing when immortality is given only to those who obeyed the gospel (2 Tim 1:8-10, Rm 2:6-9)

REPLY TO REMARKS MADE BY OPPONENTS DURING DEBATE

Team 2: ‘God breathed into man his spirit at creation; the spirit of God is immortal therefore man is immortal. [Umoren]. Jesus said “ye are gods” so we have God in us. The soul of the sinner is immortal’ [Elijah]

Reply: If man is already immortal why should he look forward to immortality again? Does it mean man is also omniscient since God is omniscient? Which Bible passage says ‘**the soul of man is immortal**’? You are assuming what you are supposed to prove! Deal with 1 Tim 6:16 which teaches that for now, only God has immortality. Does 1 Cor 15:35-58 contradict Gal 6:8? **If sinners look forward to and will receive immortality at the resurrection as you claim, then they will receive eternal life too going by Rm 2:7-8, true or false?**

Team 2: ‘Destroy means to be lost or ruined. It refers to loss of well-being not loss of being.’ Apollumi talks of the lost e.g. the lost sheep & the prodigal son.” [Oji]

A man could say “he destroyed my career.” God said in Eze 20:13 that he would consume Israel. Is Israel not there again when he consumed it? [Umoren]

Reply: Destroy has many meanings and the translators used the appropriate one for each context. Why did they not translate that the prodigal son was destroyed, why say he was lost but found? Or translate Mt 10:28 as fear him who can lost body and soul in hell? If a man’s career was destroyed **does he still have it?** Would he not need to create a new career or resurrect the old one after its loss and ruin?

Ezekiel 20:13 *'But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.'*

Did God preserve or consume the rebels in the wilderness? He killed them, they did not enter the promised land except Joshua, Caleb and those from 20 years and under. They didn't inherit the land.

"I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not." - Jude 1:5

Team 2: 'Bro. Asaolu should not have used Lk 17:29-30 at all concerning the end of the world, it is talking about the destruction of Jerusalem.' [Elijah]

Reply: Really? Do you note that the passage is parallel to Mt 24:36-44 which you once rightly affirmed addresses the end of the world not the destruction of Jerusalem? If the passage is not relevant to the end of the world why did Jude 7 and 2 Pet 2:6 allude to it as ensamples to those that would live ungodly? Are people still being wicked and ungodly?

'Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.' -1 Cor 10:11-12

Team 2: Jude says Sodom is suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. It does not mean the fire has ended as some say concerning eternal. They were burned then, they are burning now in Hades and they will burn endlessly in hell after judgment. It is a continuous thing, the text says “**suffering.**” [Elijah]

Reply: Let us look at the passage again:

‘Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.’ –Jude 7

Are they still GIVING themselves to fornication and GOING after strange flesh? (continuous tense!)

Jude simply means because they gave themselves to sin they suffered God's vengeance. Recall 2 Pet 2:6 says '*And **turning** the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, **making** them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.*'

Is God still TURNING the cities to ashes in continuous action or he did it once? Has God not made them an example for us to see or is he raining fire on both cities till today in the MAKING of a continuous example? Do you think at His second coming to render '**eternal** judgment' (Heb 6:2), the trial before the throne of Christ will never come to an end? Is the Bible teaching of ***judging forever*** or of a divine judgment with irrevocable verdict of perpetual consequence?

Team 2 'The Bible says "the things that are seen are temporal but the things which are unseen are eternal." Have you seen Hell or the spirit of man? Hell is eternal, and sinners will be there to suffer eternal death.' [Elijah]

Reply: Let us examine the passage carefully. Paul wrote:
'For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.' -2
Corinthians 4:16-18

Paul says though our body is wearing off and will ultimately decay, our innermost part [mind/soul] is being renewed (Rm 12:1-2). That our current travails causes endless reward of great value to be stored up for us. Hence we therefore look forward to heavenly recompense which are currently unnoticeable rather than to the things which we presently experience that will pass away with this world. [Aligns with 2 Cor 5:1-7]

It is gross misapplication to use the passage the way Bro. Elijah did to conclude that all invisible things are eternal or will last for eternity. By his reasoning, **all unseen things such as air, electricity, evil thoughts, Satan, Hades, Death etc. are eternal.** That is untrue. There is no such thing as **'eternal death.'** God says ***'there shall be no more death,' it shall be destroyed after the elements [earth], Satan, sinners & Hades.***⁶⁹

THANK YOU

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THEME:
IS IMMORTALITY CONDITIONAL?
Is There Eternal Punishment For The
Wicked? Opening speech by
Oji O. Oji

INTRODUCTION

No Eternal Punishment?

- The doctrine of no eternal punishment for the soul that sins greatly compromises the seriousness of the consequence of sin and can deceive one into reckless living.
- It can be exceedingly soothing to the wicked, unbelieving and the impenitent. It raises false hope. It does not help the cause of morality or truth.
- Everyone who believes God should reject it in its entirety. This is our stand on the issue.

PUTTING IT STRAIGHT

- There is eternal life characterized by “glory , honour and peace” for all the righteous only, Rom. 2: 10
- There is eternal destruction or punishment in hell characterized by “trouble and distress” for the unbelieving/disobedient, Rom. 2: 9; Matt. 25:41, 46
- There is a resurrection for the good and bad at the end, John 5: 28, 29.
- All partakers of the resurrection will wear angelic body , Matt. 22: 29, 30.
- There is life and immortality for all as revealed through the gospel, 2 Tim. 1: 9, 10; I Cor. 15: 40 – 49.

OCCUPANTS OF HELL

- Satan and his angels – Matt. 25: 41
- Devil the deceiver, the beast and false prophets, Rev. 20: 10
- Those in the kingdom/church who practice lawlessness Matt. 13: 40 – 42; 25: 41
- Those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel 2Thess 1: 8, 9.
- Any who worships the beast, Rev. 14: 9 – 11.

ALL OCCUPANTS OF HELL WILL RECEIVE THE SAME TREATMENT

- Matt. 25: 41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" NKJV
- Mark 9: 43, 44, 48 'If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.
- It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. 48 where "'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'" NIV
- Rev. 14: 9 – 11 9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, 10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.
- He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever.
- There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."

Rev. 20: 10, 12, 14 – 15

- “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” NIV
- Rev. 21: 8 “But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” NIV

2 Thess. 1: 6, 8, 9

- “God will do what is right. He will punish those who are causing you trouble. 8 He will come with burning fire to punish those who don't know God—those who refuse to accept the Good News about our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 They will be punished with a destruction that never ends. They will not be allowed to be with the Lord but will be kept away from his great power.
- Matt. 13: 47-50 Also the kingdom of God is like dragnet drawn to the shore, gather the good into vessel and the bad and unjust cast into furnace of fire where there will be wailing and gnashing or grinding of teeth. Teeth that are not living cannot grind.
- **If the sinner is not punished eternally,** “Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die”, I Cor. 15: 32

THE DUAL NATURE OF MAN

-
- Temporal body made of dust – Gen. 2: 7; 3: 19.
- 7 the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. NIV
- Eternal part called:
- Breath of God/life – Gen. 2: 7
- Soul – Matt. 10: 28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” NKJV.
- Spirit – James 2: 26
- Spirit and breath are the same and interchanged, Job 34: 12 - 15
- 12 It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice. 13 Who appointed him over the earth? Who put him in charge of the whole world? 14 If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath, 15 all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust. NIV

WHAT HAPPENS AT DEATH?

- Eccl. 12: 7, At death, dust returns to dust it came from and spirit/soul/breath returns to God who gave it.
- Which spirit returns to God, the believer's or all?
- Ezek 18:4 God is the owner of all spirits – For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son — both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die. NIV
- Eccl 3:21 Man's spirit goes upward –
- 21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth? NKJV
- James 2:26 - As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. NIV.
- NOTE: Dead [faith] here does not mean non-existing. Rather, it is latent or dormant, inactive, and or ineffective.

A) Spirits Of The Disobedient/Unbelieving Are Kept In Prison Pending Final Judgement (Awaiting Trial).

- I Peter 3: 18 – 20 “Christ himself suffered when he died for you, and with that one death he paid for your sins. He was not guilty, but he died for people who are guilty. He did this to bring all of you to God. In his physical form he was killed, but he was made alive by the Spirit.
- 19 And by the Spirit he went and preached to the spirits in prison. 20 Those were the spirits who refused to obey God long ago in the time of Noah. God was waiting patiently for people while Noah was building the big boat. And only a few—eight in all—were saved in the boat through the floodwater. ERV
- This also is implicated in the story of Lazarus and the rich man of Luke 16: 19 – 28 which is a prototype of heaven and hell: comfort and torment respectively.

B) Spirits Of The Faithful Are Given Rest Side By Side

- Rev 6:9-11 - When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the **souls** of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"
- 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. NKJV

WHAT HAPPENS AT RESURRECTION?

- Matt 22:29-30 'Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. NKJV
- At resurrection all participants wear angelic nature and cannot be extinguished.
- For the disobedient and unbelieving, having acquired the nature of angels and thrown into the eternal fire with the fallen angels, they cannot burn to ashes while their equivalents – the fallen angels remain.

WHEN CHRISTIANS ARE ADDRESSED EXCLUSIVELY

- I Cor. 15: 50 – 54 “I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (**not even in hell**), nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, [all] the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and [all] the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." NIV.
- DO THE EXPRESSIONS IN VERSES 52 – 54 APPLY ONLY TO THE BELIEVING? NO, NO.

What of 1 Thess 4:13-18?

- But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. NKJV
- (... the dead in Christ will rise first. Will the dead outside Christ rise later? The answer we all know is No.)

More On When Believers Are Addressed

- In several other passages, believers are addressed in isolation and the uninformed conclude that the entire issue discussed does not concern or affect the unbeliever. Such as:
 - 2Cor. 4: 14 –
 - Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.
NIV
- On the surface it will look like the unbelievers are left out in this resurrection, but it is not so.

Christians are being consoled exclusively -

- 2Tim. 1: 8 – 10 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, **who has destroyed death [for all] and has brought life and immortality [for all] to light through the gospel.** NIV.
- Death is destroyed and made powerless to all partakers of the resurrection. So also life and immortality.

The Earthly Tent

- 2 Cor. 5: 1 - 5 - Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. NIV
- Being clothed with Christ is the focus of all faithful Christians who are being addressed in the passage to cheer them up in the face of persecution.
- Here, Paul did not need to bother about the fate of unbelievers who also share in the resurrection and life.

CONCLUSION

- We cannot decide for God how and for how long he will punish the unbeliever or unfaithful. We should all strive to qualify to inherit eternal life with Christ and his father in heaven and limit our reasoning and teaching to what the Bible says.

The Resurrection

- As is clearly stated, the resurrection opens into one endless day for all participants.
- Then death will have been abolished,
2Tim. 1: 10;
- The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
I Cor. 15: 26.

Extinction Position

- The extinction position therefore demands that either the annihilation takes its full course before the resurrection or on that day or never again.
- We must reject it totally for it goes against the scriptures and even common sense.

Hold Unto The Original

- “Meanwhile, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions (a system of belief handed down from ancestors- the Apostles) which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

FINALLY

- Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work” in Jesus name. Amen. 2 Thess 2:15-17. NKJV

PRESENTER

- Evangelist Oji O. Oji
- @ Church of Christ, Ohikere Street, Olodi Apapa Lagos
- On Saturday, May 13, 2017
- As a debate presentation alongside Evangelists Elijah Abire and Harry Umoren.
- Against Bro. Muyiwa Asaolu, Evangs. Mcintosh Chimeziri and Rowland Gbamis.

IS IMMORTALITY CONDITIONAL?

By Harry UMOREN
(Evang.)



IN THIS PRESENTATION

- 
- WE ARE GOING TO REFUTE THE CLAIM THAT IMMORTALITY IS CONDITIONAL.

PRE-AMBLES

- Man lives by hope and by hoping he serves his maker. When we hope we are saying there is an expectation that man is waiting to collect or receive

- Paul summed up this when he said that if it is only in this life we have hope; we are of all men most to be pitied. 1Cor.15:19.

The Nature of Man

- Man is by nature a product **of** God created for good work Eph.2:10
- Man consist of three parts.
- .

- Body: Made by God from the **dust of** the earth. Gen. 1:24; 2:6 It is the house that embodied the other distinctive nature that is called human.

- Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- Spirit: God breath Himself
(**God Is a Spirit**) Jno.4:23-24;
(He is also immortal.1Tim.1:17)
- God breathe into man and
man became a living, soul,
(KJV), a living being (NIV) or a
living person (NLT). Gen.2:7

- Soul: The word translated soul in Hebrew word is nephesh, can be translated as life or self, meaning soul is you, your being or yourself.

Lev.17:11; Psa.16:10

- The three parts of man will experience different things.
- When death comes the body will return to the dust. Eccl.12:7
- The spirit returned to the giver, God Eccl.12:7
- The resurrected life or being, which has put on immortality will stand in judgment ready for his eternity life in which ever destination he has chosen. 2cor.5:10; 1cor.15:53-54

WHAT THEN SHALL BE THE FATE OF MAN'S SOUL

- No distinction between the souls of those who fear him and those who do not.

Ezek.18:4. Since this so, the soul of the saints is immortal and the soul of the sinner is also immortal

- The soul of the saint will dwell in eternal bliss with Christ and other heavenly hosts. Matt.25:34.
- It is referred to as heaven or the bosom of Abraham. Lk.16:22-23; Acts.1:11

- Jesus referred to it as his father's house
- Paul refers to it as where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
Col.3:1. This is the eternal home for the saved.

- The Soul of the sinners will spend their time of their immortality in hell.
Matt,25:41,46
- It is referred to home of the Devil and his angels. Matt.25:41
- Those who are there are said to have died a second death. Rev.20:14
- Its occupants are referred to as dogs and those who love evil. Rev.20:15

- To live eternity life is unconditional and the reason is not far fetch, God is eternal Deut.33:27 therefore his part in mankind is equally eternal.

SOME MIS-UNDERSTOOD PASSAGES:

- John.3:16 The word 'perish' has been taken as out of context. The Hebrew word abad, could mean to go astray, be lost or succumb, while the Greek word aperchomai which is what was used in this verse was used to mean lost, to depart
- Man will depart from bliss to torment and gnashing of teeth day and night to no end.
- He will be conscious of his situation, he will feel the pain, he will be thirsty. Lk.16:24-27; mat.13:41-42

SOME MIS-UNDERSTOOD PASSAGES:

- Matt.10:28 In this verse which the **proponent of** the theory of condition for immortality **started** by F. LaGard Smith have based their doctrine on, the word 'destroy' as it appear is not to utterly destroy, it does not connote extinction but ruin, loss not of being but off well-being (Vine Expository Dictionary Page294) It described the unsaved place the wicked and them that obey not the gospel will be.

SOME MIS-UNDERSTOOD PASSAGES

- The phrase “to destroy” in Matthew 10:28 is derived from the Greek word *apollumi*, which is used 92 times in the New Testament. It is translated by such terms as perish, destroy, lose, and lost.
- While it is true that occasionally *apollumi* is used to mean death (Matthew 2:13; 8:25; 26:52), most often it simply signifies the idea of suffering a loss of well-being and the loss of being blessed and not *apokteino* which Smith would have been right.
- In Luke 15, Jesus spoke of the shepherd’s lone sheep that was “lost” (*apollumi*), but not annihilated (vs. 6).

SOME MIS-UNDERSTOOD PASSAGES

- In that same chapter, He told of the father **of the** prodigal son who was “lost” (*apollumi*), not extinguished (vss. 24,32).
- The wineskins of which Christ spoke in Matthew 9:17 did not pass into nonexistence, but were “ruined” (*apollumi*).
- Jesus did not come to seek and to save those who did not exist; rather He came to save those who were alive physically, but ruined spiritually by sin [i.e., lost (*apollumi*)—Luke 19:10].

- Paul stated that the Gospel is “veiled to those who are perishing” (*apollumi*) in sin, not to those who are exterminated by sin. Considering the fact that even when *apollumi* is used to mean “death” (Matthew 2:13; 8:25; 26:52), total annihilation of the person is not under consideration (for the for it not consider *apokteino*)

WILL THE SOUL WILL CEASE TO BE

- If the soul of the wicked will cease to be; the following things will happen against the right course of justice
- There will be no equitable reward for sin and righteousness
- Then those who said 'man die and go' would have been right but they are wrong because there is life after this life Rom.14:12.
- . Before standing to answer our question of life, we would have to put on immortality. 1Cor.15:51-54. This implies that both the wicked and the righteous 'All Will Be Changed'

**Proposition 2: THE BIBLE
TEACHES THAT SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR
EVER AND EVER IN THE HELL
OF FIRE (LAKE OF FIRE).**

**Bro. ELIJAH O. ABIRE, EVANGELIST
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INTRODUCTION

- **I am here to affirm proposition 2 which says “The bible teaches that sinners will be tormented for ever and ever in the hell of fire (lake of fire) with the following points:**

THE CREATION OF MAN

- God created man with two components:
- 1. **The dust used in moulding the outer part of man.** Gen. 3:19. Man is dust and to dust he shall return. This is the only part the Jehovah Witnesses sect and some group know man to be and totally mortal. Man was created mortal regarding only this part of man.

THE CREATION OF MAN

- **2. The spirit of God breathe into man.**
Gen.2:7 — The breathe of life (not of death), made man a living soul.
Gen.3:19 has nothing to do with this part of man. This part does not return to the dust at death.

THE DEATH OF MAN

- Death came into this world because of sin. Rom.5:12
“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”.
- What is death? The bible defines it in James 2:26 as follows: *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”*.

THE DEATH OF MAN

- We can safely conclude from the above that:
- i. Man was dead before God breathe into him. Gen.2:7.
- ii. The breathe God breathe into the man is the spirit making God the Father of Spirits. Heb.12:9
- iii. What returns to the dust, does not include the breathe of God or the spirit. I will prove this below

THE DEATH OF MAN

- This is confirmed in the following passages:
- Eccl. 3:21 “ *Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?*”. This confirms that the spirit of man goes upwards to God that gave it.
- Eccl. 12:7 “*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it*”.

THE DEATH OF MAN

- **Jesus confirmed in His story of a certain Richman and a certain beggar named Lazarus that the Spirit does not die. It goes to God who gave it. Luke 16:19-31. Both found themselves in the same environment separated with a great gulf.**

THE DEATH OF MAN

They were able to see each other but no one can cross over from one side to the other. Vs 26. One in torment and the other in Abraham's bosom. Note that Jesus did not tell us that this was a parable. All the names Christ mentioned in this story are real eg. Abraham, Lazarus and Moses. Man dies only as regards the body, the spirit is eternal.

THE DEATH OF MAN

Christ was not lying or joking when He told the thief on the cross, “...*Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.*” Luke 23:43.

Here Christ was referring to the immortal spirit of the thief on the cross going with him to paradise side of hades.

THE DEATH OF MAN

If man had eaten the fruit of life in the Garden of Eden, both the spirit and the body would have been eternal.

God confirms this in Gen.3:22 “*Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”*”.

THE DEATH OF MAN

The living for ever stated here was with regards to both the body and the spirit on earth, because he has earlier declared that man will die by returning to the dust in vs. 19

THE RESURRECTION OF MAN

The resurrection of man, both good and evil confirms that the second part of man is eternal. It cannot die.

God did not give the second part of man to die. It is the nature of God which is eternal.

THE RESURRECTION OF MAN

John 5:28-29 “*Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation*”. The life mentioned here is eternal life in heaven and the condemnation is the sentence to hell of fire.

THE RESURRECTION OF MAN

The above resurrection of both the righteous and the evil people is made possible by the resurrection of Christ. 1Cor. 15: 21 “*For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead*”. This is the general resurrection of both the good and the evil stated in John 5:28-29. If man’s spirit is mortal, then only the righteous would have been resurrected and given immortality as the Jehovah’s witnesses are canvassing.

PURPOSE OF HELL OF FIRE AND THE OCCUPANTS

Hell of fire or Gehena is not a temporary place. The occupants too CANNOT be there temporarily.

God created the devils, the fallen angels and evil men. They are all disobedient creatures of God. They will be thrown into the same place called hell of fire or Gehena and they will suffer there without end. Rev.20:10,15.

PURPOSE OF HELL OF FIRE AND THE OCCUPANTS

Can one be in fire and never burn to ashes?

1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who were thrown into a furnace of fire, yet were not consumed. Dan 3:19

2. Moses, who saw the burning bush that was not consumed by fire. Ex 3:2

PURPOSE OF HELL OF FIRE AND THE OCCUPANTS

And to God, who can do all things! Note that the above are all physical but after resurrection man will not be physical. 1Cor.15:42-45.

Hell and Hades are two different places at two different times. Departed spirits of men go to Hades and await judgement. After judgement, the wicked will be cast into Hell. Hades is temporary but Hell is eternal.

PURPOSE OF HELL OF FIRE AND THE OCCUPANTS

All the dead since Adam, both the righteous and the wicked in hades will be resurrected with a spiritual body and given immortality 1Cor.15:35-50.

The only difference is that while the righteous will be taken to heaven the wicked will be taken to hell.

Christ's resurrection guarantees the resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

PURPOSE OF HELL OF FIRE AND THE OCCUPANTS

Both will resurrect with a spiritual body and given immortality. 1Cor.15:53-54 “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory”. Resurrection is the end of physical death.

PURPOSE OF HELL OF FIRE AND THE OCCUPANTS

Hell is not a physical place hence the occupants cannot be physical. Satan and the fallen angels are not physical bodies. The physical and the spiritual cannot be thrown into the same place. Since Satan, the fallen angels and the wicked people will be thrown into the same place clearly indicates both will have spiritual bodies and immortal. Rev.20:10,15.

THE PURPOSE OF HEAVEN AND THE OCCUPANTS

Heaven is the abode of God. All the faithful angels, His Son, the Holy Spirit and righteous people will be there like angels for ever and ever. Matt.22:30.

John 14:1-5 Christ has gone to prepare a place for the righteous souls in his father's house.

THE PURPOSE OF HEAVEN AND THE OCCUPANTS

The issue is that did God prepare a place for the souls of the wicked? The answer is yes. Matt.25:41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘depart from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels”. The wicked are like their father, the devil. John 8:44; where he is, there they will be also. Rev.20:10, 15.

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.

In hell of fire, those who rejected Christ will suffer eternally. They will not be annihilated or extinct. They will suffer for ever and ever just as the righteous will enjoy for ever and ever.

Eccl.4:2-3 “Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, More than the living who are still alive. Yet, better than both is he who has never existed, Who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun”. None existent is preferred.

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.

1. *Everlasting Punishment*: Matt. 25:46 *“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”* For many Christians, this verse settles the issue: the wicked will not be extinguished by God after the Judgment, but will suffer unending punishment. The righteous, on the other hand, will enjoy the bliss of an unending life with God in heaven.

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

**Eternal is an adjective qualifying the noun “life”,
the everlasting is also a noun qualifying the noun
“punishment”.**

**If the “eternal” attached to the life makes the life
endless, “everlasting” attached to the punishment
makes the punishment endless.**

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

**Eternal is defined as lasting for ever without
end (dictionary.com).**

**Everlasting is defined as lasting for ever,
endless (same dictionary).**

**One of the synonyms of everlasting is eternal.
John 3:16; Matt.25:46**

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS WILL BE
TORMENTED FOR EVER AND EVER IN HELL FIRE.

2.Everlasting Fire Matt.25:41 “*Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels’*”. I believe those who teach annihilation also believe that the fire in hell is going to be eternal because of Rev.20:10. Why should God bother to throw man into hell that is everlasting when he knows he would be annihilated?

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.

Remember the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up, why do you think God cannot burn up a temporal/mortal man as you imagined in that temporary inferno but has to throw him into an everlasting fire?

2Pet.3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up”.

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

Hell is doubtless an everlasting place, the occupants (Satan, his angels and evil people) are going to exist everlastingly. The Greek word used here is Oinios which according to W.E. Vine has no end. Mark 3:29; Rom.1:20. 2Cor.4:18 things that are eternal (oinios) while the things temporal (proskaira). The word everlasting means lasting forever, eternal, no end.

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORTURED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

3. Sodom and Gomorrah argument: Jude 7 “as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire”. This passage confirms that eternal and everlasting (oinios) are used interchangeably

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORTURED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

The proponents of annihilation opined that the momentary fire that consumed Sodom and Gomorrah was termed eternal therefore the fire of hell will consume the wicked people same way. This is taking comparison too far. For example when Jesus referred to the righteous as sheep, does that mean they are actually sheep or the most senseless of all people? John 10:16; 21:16-17.

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

Does allowing the wheat and the tares to “grow together until the harvest” (Matthew 13:30) mean that we cannot disfellowship an erring member? 1Cor.5:1-6. Note that the use of the word suffering in Jude 7 is in continuous terms which shows that it is still ongoing, it has not stopped. They were burnt physically in those cities, they continued the burning suffering in hades and it will continue after the Day of Judgment.

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS WILL BE
TORMENTED FOR EVER AND EVER IN HELL FIRE.

Luke 16:22-23 “So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom”. Matt.25:46. Mark 9:43 “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched”—

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.

4. The Wicked will burn forever and ever and the righteous will reign for ever and ever. After being separated from the righteous, sinners will be cast “into outer darkness” (cf. Matthew 22:13; 25:30) while the righteous who will “reign forever and ever” in the presence of the Lamb (Revelation 22:5), the wicked will burn “day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10,15) in “the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND EVER IN HELL FIRE.

5. Gehena: A final picture of the wicked's punishment can be derived from an understanding of the Greek word gehenna. This word appears twelve times in the New Testament, and literally means "Valley of the Sons of Hinnom" (Danker, et al., 2000, p. 191)—the name given to the valley south of the walls of Jerusalem. This valley was notoriously connected to the sinful, horrific practice of child sacrifice associated with the pagan god Molech.

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORTURED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

Josiah, the righteous king of Judah's ransacking of the arena, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech" (2 Kings 23:10; cf. 2 Chronicles 28:3; 33:6). As a result, the valley became a refuse dump for discarding filth, dead animals, and other garbage (see Jeremiah 7:32). . It then was decimated and polluted by King Josiah so as to make it an undesirable place to live, work, or perform religious ceremonies, even for the heathens.

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

Jews associated this place with sin and suffering, which “led to the application of its name, in the Greek form of it, to the place of final and eternal punishment” (McGarvey, 1875, p. 55).

To say that because physical Gehena in Jerusalem did not last for ever and so the spiritual Genena will not last forever is to say that the mansions on earth will not last for ever, therefore the mansions Christ has gone to prepare for us in heaven will not last for ever. John 14:1-3; 2Pet.3:10

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.

6.Does destruction imply annihilation? The main bible passage used by the annihilationist whether they be Jehovah's witnesses or Seventh day Adventist is Matt.10:28. This passage is misapplied. It never says God will kill the soul in hell but that he can destroy the soul in hell. Compare Matt.3:11 God can raise children from the stones to worship him, does it actually mean God will raise Children from stones to worship Him?

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

Note that Matt.10:28 did not say God will kill both the body and the soul in hell but can destroy both. Now compare the usage in Luke 12:4-5 He has ability to cast into hell. The Greek word for destroy is Appolumi which means lose, lost, perish, destroy. It does not mean annihilate. If one's car is destroyed in an accident, it does not mean the car vanished but in deplorable condition. That is the state man will be.

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

Respected Greek scholars also disagree with the annihilationist's position that the Greek term underlying our English word "destroy" in Matthew 10:28 means "annihilation." W.E. Vine, in his Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, explained: "The idea is not extinction but ruin, loss, not of being, but of well-being" (1940, 1:302). Compare 2Thess.1:9

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.

7. How Can a loving God keep man perpetually in hell? God is Love. From Him emanates love. However, perish is included in the statement of God so Loved the world for those who reject him. John 3:16. Heb. 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God”.

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

Matt.3:11-12 - The Sinners will be thrown into the Unquenchable fire. Why should the fire be unquenchable if man will be annihilated? Mark 9:43-44

Rev. 14:9-11 — Verse 11 says “....And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

Why should the smoke of their torment ascend endlessly if they will be wiped out?” .

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORTURED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.

Matt.3:11-12 - The Sinners will be thrown into the Unquenchable fire. Why should the fire be unquenchable if man will be annihilated? Mark 9:43-44. Why will the worms not die and the fire not quenched if the wicked will be annihilated? Rev. 14:9-11 — Verse 11 says “...*And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.*” Why should the smoke of their torment ascend endlessly if they will be wiped out?

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

Luke 16:19-31 - Hades is a place of the departed souls both for the righteous and the wicked. The wicked are in torment since they died, the righteous are in comfort in Abraham's bosom. Note that this is the temporary stage and replica or picture of the permanent state of man in both heaven and hell of fire. The Greek word translated as "never shall be quenched" is "asbestos", which is also sometimes translated "unquenchable".

REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.

Rev. 20:10-15 - Both Satan and the wicked shall be throw into the same place. This place must be spiritual. The spiritual will not be annihilated but tormented. There is no way an immortal physical man will be thrown into a spiritual and everlasting place like Hell occupied by spiritual beings like Satan and his angels. Is like saying man will inherit this physical earth after the day of resurrection. The physical cannot inherit the spiritual.

**REASONS WHY CONDEMNED SINNERS
WILL BE TORMENTED FOR EVER AND
EVER IN HELL FIRE.**

Today we are told that sinful men will suffer in hell of fire for some time according to their sins and be wiped out, the questions are:

1. Which bible passage says so?

2. How long will each person spend in hell before they are annihilated?

3. Why are you discussing time when hell and heaven are eternal?

CONCLUSION

Any man who is condemned at the coming of Christ will be sentence to eternal punishment in hell of fire. They will continue to suffer endlessly. Annihilation of sinners is foreign to the scriptures.

1. How can a soul be made in the image of God, return to God upon death, conscious in hades, resurrected incorruptible (i.e. cannot rotten), given an immortal body since the soul cannot exist alone outside hades and yet be destructible? This must be a joke!

CONCLUSION

2. If a body is capable of life, death, and life again through resurrection, like a human is capable of waking, sleeping, and waking again as long as his body continues to exist, then how can anything move through death to life again without the constant of an immortal soul?

CONCLUSION

Thank you for your rapt attention.

God bless you.

Bro. Elijah Abire 08022909719

Addendum

1. 1Tim.6:16 “**who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen**”.

We agree that only God has immortality but note that man was made in the image of God. That image can not be annihilated. Man who bear that image of God can only be annihilated if God will be annihilated. Gen.1:25

Addendum

2. **“While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which *are* not seen are eternal”**. 2Cor.4:18. This page confirms that the body which we see will perish but the inner man (the spirit) cannot be destroyed. It is eternal. Hell and heaven are seen therefore they will be eternal. God will seize the air Rev. 7:1 and note that electricity is physically made by man.

Addendum

3. Immortality is gotten from the Gospel. 2Tim.1:10

The gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1Cor. 15:1-4. It is not only resurrection that is gotten through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ but immortality also. Immortality is obtained unconditionally just as resurrection is obtained unconditionally by all men. Read with me 1Cor.15:53-54 **“For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”** This passage clearly shows that all the dead will be resurrected and given immortality.

Addendum

4. All men are gods indicating the immortality of man.

“The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.” Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods””? ³⁵ If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? John 10:33-36

Addendum

All men are gods indicating the immortality of man.

Jesus told the Jews that they were gods, so He claiming to be the son of God is not a crime. This is because man as regards the spirit is immortal and cannot be destroyed.

Thank you for studying with us



**A follow up to the Religious Debate held at Church of Christ,
Ohikere-Apapa Lagos, Nigeria on Sat. May 13, 2017
THEME: IS IMMORTALITY CONDITIONAL
Olumuyiwa Asaolu on behalf of Team 1 (May 20, 2017)
(Available for download from www.lainosint.com/download/faith)**

Upon the receipt of the PowerPoint Presentations of Team 2, **I deem it expedient to promptly correct their numerous presumptive statements and misinterpretation of scriptural passages**, which we were not really opportune to fully respond to at the event due to time constraints and the abrupt adjournment.

1. RESPONSE TO SELECTED STATEMENTS IN THE SLIDES OF BRO. OJI O. OJI (OOO)

OOO: The doctrine of no eternal punishment for the soul that sins greatly compromises the seriousness of the consequence of sin and can deceive one into reckless living.

Reply: We have never stated that there is ‘no eternal punishment.’ We aver that there is a punishment that is eternal or of perpetual consequences. That punishment is DESTRUCTION from existence. It is the greatest punishment imaginable. What was God’s punishment for Sodom and Gomorrah? He destroyed the cities and inhabitants with fire and brimstone rained down from heaven. During World War 2, the Japanese though unprovoked bombed Pearl Harbour, USA to drag America into the war. America inflicted a punishment on Japan in order to make her surrender and pay, not by imprisoning and torturing indefinitely the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki but by wiping them off the earth via dropping of Atomic bombs. Yet all these examples pale in comparison to the final punishment of the wicked. Every earthly destruction pertains only to the current human body; the destruction in the world to come is of both soul and the future body in hell.

OOO: There is eternal life characterized by “glory, honour and peace” for all the righteous only, Rom. 2: 10

Reply: Let us look at the passage closely to see what it really says

Romans 2:6 *Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God. 12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;*

It is only those who by WELL DOING seek ‘glory, honour and immortality’ that shall receive eternal life. Are sinners included? Definitely not! They do not seek immortality by their BAD DOING and will not receive eternal life which is the ability to live forever. ***If you perceive verse 10 is ‘for all the righteous only’ what of 7?***

OOO: All partakers of the resurrection will wear angelic body, Matt. 22: 29, 30.

Reply: You cite passages thinking we won’t cross check them? Let us examine the text.

Matthew 22:29 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*

The passage is not talking of which body those resurrected from the dead will wear. It is merely comparing an aspect of their lifestyle to that of humans on earth; those raised from the dead are void of sexual inclinations, do not conduct wedding ceremonies and do not engage in marital relationships. Moreover, parallel renditions show that of those raised from the dead, Jesus is particular about the righteous.

Luke 20:35 ***But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.***

OOO: There is life and immortality for all as revealed through the gospel, 2 Tim. 1: 9, 10; I Cor. 15: 40 – 49.

Reply: If all are given life and immortality whether they serve God or not and the information is only revealed through the gospel as you assert, why did God reveal the information and why preach the gospel? Let us look closely at the passages you reference.

2 Timothy 1:9 *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*

Though life and immortality are made accessible to all, not all will receive it as some reject the gospel of Christ. It is only those who heed the holy calling (2 Thess 2:14) that are called unto glory or saved and for whom death is potentially and ultimately abolished. God is *“the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe”* (1 Tim 4:10). That was why Jesus told some *“And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life”* (John 5:40). Christ says *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever.”* The Lord was evidently stating a condition for man to attain immortality. No wonder John wrote of his gospel account: *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”* **Do you deny all these passages?**

In 1 Cor 15, Paul affirmed that Christ rose from the dead and that is the basis of our faith. He assures that man will be raised from the dead likewise with a body different from the present natural body. Just as celestial bodies are different having varying glory, so does those raised from the dead. At resurrection, **the saints’ body differ from the sinners’ body as the sun differs from the moon in glory** (1 Cor 15:41-42a).

Verse 43-46 compares the spiritual with the natural and in 47 Paul compares origin of Adam with that of Jesus. 48 he describes the offspring of each using THEY rather than "all or we." Here he makes a distinction between the earthly minded and those born again going to heaven.

49 as we (referring to either all mankind or saints), have born the image of Adam, so shall the same “we” bear the image of Christ.

50 Corruption (current human body and its nature) cannot inherit or stay in heaven. Neither can that body ordinarily of itself attain the attributes of incorruption (a glorious, heavenly body).

51 says we shall all not die but shall all be transformed. The “we” is either all men or only saints.

(From 1 Thess 4:16, we know at the trump 'the dead in Christ' or saints shall rise first.)

52 says the dead shall be raised incorruptible and “we” shall be changed.

If 'the dead and we' in this verse refers to all mankind then sinners will be raised incorruptible also. (If so, they will be changed to inherit what: corruption or incorruption? Hint: ‘...made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption... For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.’ - 2 Pet 2:8, Gal 6:8). If sinners are excluded in vs 52 then only saints will be raised incorruptible to inherit incorruption/the kingdom of God. (We know from 1 Thess 4:17 those changed at this moment shall ever be with the Lord)

53 says this corruptible (present human body) must put on incorruption (heavenly glorious body) and this mortal must put on immortality. If sinners are included here, then they will receive immortality which implies eternal life (Rm 2:7) to live forever and not die again. That contradicts the gospel! If only saints are being referenced in vs 53, then it means though all men are to be given life to resurrect (vs 22-23, Jn 5:28-28), only those that are Christ's are given endless or eternal life (Jn 5:24; 10:28)

54 At the resurrection, is death swallowed up in victory for saints and sinners instantly? If Yes then both are now incorruptible and immortal. If sinners are excluded then they are still subject to a second death.

56 says sin and the law are the basis of the strength of death.

57 says thanks to God for giving “us” the victory through Christ. Are sinners included in the 'us'? If they are not then they are not part of the ‘we’ in previous verses!

58 Paul encourages 'brethren' to continue to be steadfast 'in the Lord'. He here identifies the ‘we and us’ as brethren; sinners are totally excluded.

OOO: THE DUAL NATURE OF MAN: the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. NIV

Eternal part called: Breath of God/life – Gen. 2: 7, Soul...

Reply: You are making the worst assumption ever made when you presume and assert that “the Eternal part of man is the Soul.” No Bible passage, not even Gen 2:7 says that!

Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

OOO: [Eccl 12:7] Which spirit returns to God, the believer’s or all?

Reply: All spirits return to God -that is, to His custody not back to His breadth. He keeps departed, disembodied spirits in paradise or Hades as we explained in our presentation.

OOO: At resurrection all participants wear angelic nature and cannot be extinguished. For the disobedient and unbelieving, having acquired the nature of angels and thrown into the eternal fire with the fallen angels, they cannot burn to ashes while their equivalents – the fallen angels remain.

Reply: We have already refuted your notion that all resurrected from the dead would wear angelic nature. In Luke 20:35-36, **Jesus implies sinners** (those NOT counted worthy to obtain the next world) **will die again, are not equal to the angels, are not the children of God and are not the children of the resurrection**, as in Phil 3:11-19. We did not affirm that humans will burn and fallen angels remain in the fire. Rather we showed from scriptures that sinful men will be destroyed (our slides 19-23) as well as Satan and his angels (slides 28-29).

OOO: I Cor. 15: 50 – 54 “I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (**not even in hell**), nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable... DO THE EXPRESSIONS IN VERSES 52 – 54 APPLY ONLY TO THE BELIEVING? NO, NO.

Reply: For the debate, you found it convenient to quote mostly from the ‘Easy to Read’ Bible rather than reputable versions such as the KJV, NKJV, ASV, NLT etc. You boldly added ‘not even in hell’ to the word of God where the Holy Spirit is referencing only the kingdom of God! You then went on to respond double ‘NO’ to your question of whether the passage applies only to the believing, without explaining or justifying your answer! I thought you once believed we should rescue the perishing. Seems you now believe that whosoever believes NOT in Christ will be imperishable and reap incorruption (contrary to John 3:16 and Gal 6:8)

OOO: What of 1 Thess 4:13-18?

(... the dead in Christ will rise first. Will the dead outside Christ rise later? The answer we all know is No.)

Reply: The Bible is here comparing the dead in Christ to the living in Christ. The scripture affirms that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust simultaneously (Jn 5:28-29) before the living are taken. Paul was focusing on those who have hope in Jesus for he wrote: “*we which are alive and remain shall meet the Lord in the air... and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*” Do you teach that living sinners are going to be caught up together with them to be with the Lord forever? I hope not though we know they also will be gathered with the living before the Lord for judgment–Mt 25:31-46. Paul only summarized what pertains to the saved.

OOO: In several other passages, believers are addressed in isolation and the uninformed conclude that the entire issue discussed does not concern or affect the unbeliever. Such as: 2Cor. 4: 14 – Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. NIV

On the surface it will look like the unbelievers are left out in this resurrection, but it is not so.

Reply: Paul was not directly addressing the fate of all mankind in this passage. There are other places where he wrote about Jesus raising and judging everyone, such as Acts 17:31-32. In 2 Cor 2:14 above, his emphasis is that unlike sinners, the believers will be raised and PRESENTED GLORIOUSLY BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH EXCEEDING JOY as stated in 1 Cor 15:24, Eph 5:27, Jude 24.

OOO: Death is destroyed and made powerless to all partakers of the resurrection.

Reply: Only to the saved. Sinners will experience the *second death* before death itself is destroyed. That is why Jesus asked: *'what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?'* Surely Christ is not addressing when one's body loses the soul on earth because loss of life here is natural irrespective of one's faith and deeds. Jesus is referring to what happens in the next age unto the unrighteous. *When such loses his soul in the next world he does not have it again for it is destroyed*, his life-essence is extinguished.

OOO: 2 Cor. 5: 1 - 5 ... Here, Paul did not need to bother about the fate of unbelievers who also share in the resurrection and life

Reply: Unbelievers have part in resurrection but only believers have a house eternal in the heavens as Christ has gone to prepare a place for these in his Father's house. What the sinner gets is temporary life and house not eternal ones. Do you affirm that unbelievers will receive immortality and were given the earnest of the Spirit?

2. RESPONSE TO SELECTED STATEMENTS IN THE SLIDES OF BRO. HARRY UMOREN (HU)

HU: No distinction between the souls of those who fear him and those who do not. Ezek.18:4

Reply: Let the Bible speak for itself.

Ezekiel 18:4 *Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die... 20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. 21 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. 22 All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live. 23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? 24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.*

There are purified souls (1 Peter 2:11) of the saved and there are unstable souls (2 Peter 2:14) of the unrighteous. Thus the state and the fate of souls have distinction for Ezekiel refers to more than physical death.

HU: The Soul of the sinners will spend their time of their immortality in hell

Reply: The issue is when do sinners obtain immortality if indeed they will? You have not proved that they will get the ability to live forever, you have merely assumed and asserted it.

HU: To live eternity life is unconditional and the reason is not far fetch, God is eternal Deut.33:27 therefore his part in mankind is equally eternal.

Reply: 'To live eternity life' one must first receive eternal life. Your claim is indeed far-fetched! If the spirit of man is eternal simply because God is eternal then the spirit of man is also holy, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, etc. because God is. If not, why not? It is preposterous and erroneous to whimsically ascribe divine attributes unto man as you do! The Bible informs us of the attributes we possess, your conjecture is outlandish. Deuteronomy 33:27 *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*

It is God that is described as eternal NOT His enemies. They will not endure forever but he will DESTROY them. They lack eternal spirit, so won't exist endlessly to resist him rather they shall be blotted out. Lord, all thine enemies be it in the heavens, the earth or under the earth; *"they shall perish; but thou remainest."*

HU: John.3:16 The word 'perish' has been taken as out of context. The Hebrew word abad, could mean to go astray, be lost or succumb, while the Greek word aperchomai which is what was used in this verse was used to

mean lost, to depart

Reply: Sadly, the most popular verse of scripture is the most distorted. To perish at sea is to be lost by loved ones -to die not to be alive missing at sea! You are the one taking 'perish' out of context; beclouding the verse. 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**.*

Is having life continuously the opposite of going astray by missing your way? No, sir! Having perpetual or eternal or everlasting life is the opposite of having an ended life which connote perishing or dying off. The opposite of your 'lost' is 'found' not 'eternal life.' In Christ's parable, the prodigal son as well as the lost sheep was 'found' not given life to exist eternally. To perish in Jn 3:16 connotes death not being tortured or to tread the wrong bearing as you assert. Jesus is comparing being alive evermore to being dead in all ramifications.

John 3:15 *That whosoever believeth in him should not **perish**, but have **eternal life**.*

John 8:24 *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for **if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins**.*

John 11:25 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: **he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live**: 26 And **whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die**. Believest thou this?*

Romans 6:23 *For the **wages** of sin is **death**; but the gift of God is **eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

HU: Matt.10:28 In this verse which the proponent of the theory of condition for immortality started by F. LaGard Smith have based their doctrine on, the word 'destroy' as it appear is not to utterly destroy, it does not connote extinction but ruin, loss not of being but off well-being (Vine Expository Dictionary Page 294) It described the unsaved place the wicked and them that obey not the gospel will be.

Reply: Matthew 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Those who really know the true meaning of the words 'Immortality & Conditional' have no difficulty seeing that it is Jesus who actually started the teaching that immortality is conditional.

John 6:51 *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: **if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever**: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

'If any man eat of this bread' (believe on Christ) [the condition the lord prescribed then] **'he shall live for ever'** (receive immortality or eternal life) [the consequent promise]. **If a man doesn't eat it shall he live forever?**

You assert that destroy is not to 'utterly destroy' but to ruin in Mt 10:28. If the body of the sinner is merely ruined by God but kept alive in hell, would that be more devastating/fearful than men killing his body on earth? That W Vine shared your erroneous view on the subject is pitiable. Destroy in the verse is NOT describing the place of the unsaved but is describing **the punitive action of God on the unsaved**.

HU: The phrase "to destroy" in Matthew 10:28 is derived from the Greek word apollumi, which is used 92 times in the New Testament. It is translated by such terms as perish, destroy, lose, and lost.

While it is true that occasionally apollumi is used to mean death (Matthew 2:13; 8:25; 26:52), most often it simply signifies the idea of suffering a loss of well-being and the loss of being blessed...

Reply: What makes you think apollumi does NOT mean death in Mt 10:28 where Jesus used the term as a superlative to the word 'kill'? Recall he is telling us whom we should fear -men or God. You think Jesus says that 'God is able to "lose or make lost" both soul and body of a sinner that is already in hell'? Sound reasoning indicates Christ is affirming that God could kill and utterly wipe out both the soul and body of those whom He cast into hell! This is exactly what the scriptures teach when the prophets and apostles say the wicked shall be devoured with God's consuming fire. It is neither by mistake nor by chance that ALL translators render apollumi as destroy in Mt 10:28 but render it as lost in Lk 15:24 to convey the appropriate meaning in each.

HU: even when apollumi is used to mean "death" (Matthew 2:13; 8:25; 26:52), total annihilation of the person is not under consideration

Reply: In those cases apollumi refers to physical death on earth, in which only the body is killed and destroyed

to dust or ashes. After being raised and judged as men, in hell sinners shall receive full wages for their sin: **(a) separation from God (b) separation of their soul from the resurrected body (c) consumption of their make-up by fire**. In Mt 10:28 Jesus implies BOTH soul AND body shall be killed and destroyed in hell; this results in annihilation because there will be no regeneration and reunification of both afterwards nor another resurrection. The punishment is total and irremediable for Christ's enemies "**whose END is destruction.**"

HU: If the soul of the wicked will cease to be; the following things will happen against the right course of justice. There will be no equitable reward for sin and righteousness. Then those who said 'man die and go' would have been right but they are wrong because there is life after this life Rom.14:12.

Reply: Following physical death, there is life for all at the resurrection but there ISN'T eternal life for all! God will be fair and just, in sentencing; '*...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*' (Gen 18:25)

Romans 14:12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Luke 19:26 *For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. 27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.*

3. RESPONSE TO SELECTED STATEMENTS IN THE SLIDES OF BRO. ELIJAH ABIRE (EA)

EA: God created man with two components:

1. The dust used in moulding the outer part of man. Gen. 3:19. Man is dust and to dust he shall return. This is the only part the Jehovah Witnesses sect and some group know man to be and totally mortal. Man was created mortal regarding only this part of man.

Reply: Why bring "***the Jehovah Witnesses sect and some group***" into this discussion? Are you debating them or have we cited their works? The deflection/aspersion is unnecessary; we have not stated that man is only dust.

EA: 2.The spirit of God breathe into man. Gen.2:7 – The breathe of life (not of death), made man a living soul. Gen.3:19 has nothing to do with this part of man.

Reply: Gen 3:19 is activated for man to return to dust whenever breath cease in a human or the spirit departs from the body unto God's custody (James 2:26).

EA: We can safely conclude from the above that:

i. Man was dead before God breathe into him. Gen.2:7.

ii. The breathe God breathe into the man is the spirit making God the Father of Spirits. Heb.12:9

Reply: i. Man was NOT dead before God breathed into him. Man was not yet fully made or a living being. He had to first possess a spirit and be alive before he could possibly die when it exits.

ii. That man's spirit was consequent to God's breath is NOT the exclusive fact which makes God '*the Father of spirits.*' Since God is creator, he is automatically the Father of all spirits. We are not informed that he breathed angels into existence though we know they are spirits (Psalms 104:4). They are called the sons of God (Job 38:7) and even Satan could hitherto attend their gatherings (Job 1:6, Rev 12:10)

EA: Man dies only as regards the body, the spirit is eternal.

Reply: Your claim about the spirit is an ASSUMPTION, no scripture states so! [***The eternal Spirit*** is God's spirit (Heb 9:14) not that of any creature.] **That man's spirit survives the body at physical death does NOT necessarily make it eternal or immortal. That man can not kill the soul/spirit does not confer it with indestructibility** (Mt 10:28). The future death of the soul is in hell - '*Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins* (James 5:20).

EA: "...Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:43. Here Christ was referring to the immortal spirit of the thief on the cross going with him to paradise side of hades.

Reply: Christ was referring to the man's soul as it is the soul of the righteous that is not left in Hades. There is no scriptural basis for you to refer to it as "the immortal spirit."

EA: If man had eaten the fruit of life in the Garden of Eden, both the spirit and the body would have been eternal

Reply: That is correct for both are aspects capable of being destroyed though the latter may be killed in this world but the former could be exterminated by God only in the next age. You posit that the spirit/soul of man is immortal and has been from creation when you aver: 'man is only mortal as per his body.' If that is true then Christ has not come to save the soul but perhaps to save the body. You even posit that all men (sinners inclusive,) will obtain an immortal body at the resurrection. ***If that is also true then Christ did NOT really come to save any part of man –body, spirit or soul; all parts are unconditionally bestowed with immortality irrespective of whether one is a saint or a sinner! The Bible however teaches that Jesus saves every part:***

'...that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus...and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls... ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body' -1 Cor 5:5, Jms 1:21, Rm 8:23
*"And the very God of peace **sanctify you wholly**; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be **preserved blameless** unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" -1 Thess 5:23. [for those alive expecting Christ]*

EA: If man's spirit is mortal, then only the righteous would have been resurrected and given immortality as the Jehovah's witnesses are canvassing.

Reply: By not listening to us or carefully reading our material, you are mixing things up and seem to be debating Jehovah Witnesses, in your mind.

EA: Can one be in fire and never burn to ashes?

1.Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who were thrown into a furnace of fire, yet were not consumed. Dan 3:19

2.Moses, who saw the burning bush that was not consumed by fire. Ex 3:2

Reply: Are you positing that like the Hebrews boys, sinners will neither be hurt nor consumed in hellfire? Slides 19-23 of our Presentation list the teaching and analogies used by the prophets, Christ and the apostles.

EA: The physical and the spiritual cannot be thrown into the same place. Since Satan, the fallen angels and the wicked people will be thrown into the same place clearly indicates both will have spiritual bodies and immortal. Rev.20:10,15.

Reply: We have not stated that Satan and his angels are physical beings. We have actually stated that all mankind will be raised with new bodies that differ in glory between saints and sinners. We showed that sinners cannot and shall not receive immortality in our textual analysis of 1 Cor 15.

EA: Eccl.4:2-3 "Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, More than the living who are still alive. Yet, better than both is he who has never existed, Who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun". None existent is preferred.

Reply: The last sentence in the verse explains why and how not being born is preferred –it is with respect to not having to see the evil work perpetrated under the sun. It has nothing to do with punishment after death. And it is better to be born to partake of the love of God in Christ than not to have existed - Luke 10:24

EA: If the "eternal" attached to the life makes the life endless, "everlasting" attached to the punishment makes the punishment endless.

Reply: Life is to live so eternal life is perpetual or endless life. The reward or end of sinners is destruction (Phil 3:19) so everlasting punishment means everlasting destruction. This means a destruction that is irrevocable; it does not mean 'endless destruction' because it is the result not the process of a destruction that is endless. It is an event. You know that 'eternal judgment' (Heb 6:2) refers to divine verdict with permanent consequences; it

does not mean judging endlessly without ever arriving at a sentence to be executed. It is the result of the judgment that is eternal not the duration of the trial by Christ to pronounce his ruling. Eternal judgment will not take place day and night to be prolonged forever, that much an honest person will admit based on Mt 25, Rev 20

EA: Why should God bother to throw man into hell that is everlasting when he knows he would be annihilated?

Reply: God's fire burns before him continually at the heavenly altar (Rev 8:5; 14:18). That was the reason why under the old covenant, while it lasted, the priests must ensure the fire upon the altar never went out (Lev 6:11-12). The physical temple/altar in Jerusalem was destroyed and is not needed in the gospel age. The fire of any well-designed incinerator will consume whatever is thrown into it, not preserve the garbage, as the fire of Gehenna in Israel also did. We showed that sinners and devils will be destroyed into stubble in hell (Malachi 4:1-3) and the ascending smoke connotes a memorial (Isa 34:10).

EA: Remember the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up, why do you think God cannot burn up a temporal/mortal man as you imagined in that temporary inferno but has to throw him into an everlasting fire? Hell is doubtless an everlasting place, the occupants (Satan, his angels and evil people) are going to exist everlastingly. The Sinners will be thrown into the Unquenchable fire. Why should the fire be unquenchable if man will be annihilated?

Reply: God used natural fire to wipe out the natural body of men on earth on several occasions (Gen 19:24-25, 2 Kings 1:11-14). He will use the fire of hell which is supernatural to **destroy** the new body and souls of sinners (Mt 10:18) as well as the spiritual bodies of fallen angels (Eze 28:16-18). The Bible does not teach that the wicked/sinners will exist everlastingly rather it teaches that they shall be destroyed to be no more. The scriptures contains phrases like 'unquenchable fire,' 'everlasting fire,' 'eternal fire,' BUT it does NOT contain phrases like 'unquenchable wicked,' 'eternal Satan,' 'everlasting soul' 'immortal soul,' etc. which you conceive out of your imagination. Hell is God's incinerator to consume the universal refuse thrown into it on the last day. Sinners will be punished; ultimately all of them shall be burnt up in hell on that very day. Isa 66:22-24 somehow alludes to this fact. God's incinerator is everlasting and unquenchable in order to perpetually serve as:

- i. A testimony of his omnipotence and victory over his enemies
- ii. A warning to angels and the redeemed (who will still possess freewill) in the new order and indication of divine readiness to devour new filth should additional garbage ever arise worthy of being burnt.

EA: The proponents of annihilation opined that the momentary fire that consumed Sodom and Gomorrah was termed eternal therefore the fire of hell will consume the wicked people same way. This is taking comparison too far.

Reply: Why did God make Sodom and Gomorrah an example and emphasize that such 'shall it be at the end?' The fire upon the cities was rained from heaven. It did kill and CONSUME or **destroy their bodies**; it did not merely torture the living inhabitants continuously so you should take the comparison serious, hell will be **worse**.

EA: the wicked will burn "day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10,15) in "the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).

Reply: Revelation 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

The passage does not teach that men are tortured forever. You sure know that 'beast,' 'day and night' are not

literal in verse 10. It is the final restraint of the Devil and the annihilation of evil governments and religious systems that is described herein symbolically. Humans cast into the fire in verse 15 will be burnt up or consumed/destroyed not preserved as shown earlier from plain passages. **Even death and hades are cast into the lake of fire. Are death and hades persons to be tortured forever? No!** This confirms that whatever is thrown into the fire is annihilated. Death is being destroyed last as stated in 1 Cor 15:26.

EA: Gehena: ...This valley was notoriously connected to the sinful, horrific practice of child sacrifice associated with the pagan god Molech. Josiah, the righteous king of Judah's ransacking of the arena, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech" ...As a result, the valley became a refuse dump for discarding filth, dead animals, and other garbage (see Jeremiah 7:32). It then was decimated and polluted by King Josiah so as to make it an undesirable place to live, work, or perform religious ceremonies, even for the heathens.

Reply: The children sacrificed to Molech in fire, did they remain alive endlessly in torture or died and were consumed? After Josiah's desecration of the valley, did the fire devour or preserve the refuse dumped into it? The animals thrown into Gehenna were burnt up NOT tortured endlessly! Let us examine the text referenced: Jeremiah 7:32 *Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place. 33 And the carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray them away.*

Gehenna was never a place of perpetual torture but a place of slaughter, carcasses and consumption by fire, that is the very reason why Jesus used it to represent the lake of fire!

EA: Note that Matt.10:28 did not say God will kill both the body and the soul in hell but can destroy both. Now compare the usage in Luke 12:4-5 He has ability to cast into hell. The Greek word for destroy is Appolumi which means lose, lost, perish, destroy. It does not mean annihilate. If one's car is destroyed in an accident, it does not mean the car vanished but in deplorable condition.

Reply: Luke 12:4 *And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.* Matthew 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

The texts are complimentary not contradictory. Man may kill a fellow man and the victim may be a righteous or a wicked person. Should we therefore fear men? Luke shows God can do what man can do -that is kill the body of the fearful. Luke also says 'God hath power (ability) to cast into hell.' Does that mean God can but will not cast into hell? No! It means a sinner killed on earth by God would eventually be cast into hell. Matthew shows that God is able to destroy both soul and body of the resurrected sinner who is condemned and cast into hell on judgment day. As He shall exercise ability to cast into hell, God will also exercise His ability to destroy; the information is neither a joke nor an empty threat. What does it mean to destroy? I advise that you consult lexicons for the possible meanings. You may confirm that **synonyms for destroy are: obliterate, wipe out, annihilate, demolish, devastate, tear down, raze.** At the debate, we reasoned that 'to destroy is not less severe than to kill.' To illustrate scripturally, note the interchange of both words in the parallel passages below:

Mark 3:4 *And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.*

Luke 6:9 *Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?*

To destroy a life is to kill it not just harm it. When a life is destroyed on earth it means the person is wiped off from the land of the living (Gen 7:21-23). When destroyed in hell it means the person is wiped off totally from existence. In such cases destroy is not a metaphor. If your car is in a deplorable condition then it is damaged and repairable. When it is **truly destroyed** in an accident it has become a write off that can neither be restored to its initial state nor made to ever function again. It is that kind of utter destruction that contextually fits Mt 10:28.

EA: How Can a loving God keep man perpetually in hell?

Reply: That doctrine is human supposition, Christ and all inspired writers teach that God will slay his enemies; *the wicked shall be burnt up* in unquenchable fire not that God will torture sinners endlessly in flames.

EA: Rev. 14 Verse 11 says "...And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever.." Why should the smoke of their torment ascend endlessly if they will be wiped out?"

Reply: The scripture does not say their torment goes on forever but the smoke of their torment does; that is noteworthy. It is a graphic way of describing the certainty and memorial of their destruction. As we showed earlier, God said the same thing concerning the destruction of Edom.

Isaiah 34:9 *And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. 10 It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.*

That kingdom was later destroyed and made desolate as prophesied **with no man dwelling there, so shall it ultimately be with hell.**

EA: Both Satan and the wicked shall be throw into the same place. This place must be spiritual. The spiritual will not be annihilated but tormented.

Reply: We have not said that heaven, hell or the occupants of each are physical. What we have shown from the scriptures repeatedly is that God shall destroy the wicked and bring them to an *end* in the fire of hell.

EA: Today we are told that sinful men will suffer in hell of fire for some time according to their sins and be wiped out, the questions are:

1. Which bible passage says so?
2. How long will each person spend in hell before they are annihilated?
3. Why are you discussing time when hell and heaven are eternal?

Reply: 1. It is indisputable that reward shall be meted out unto people according to their works, whether it be few or many stripes - Proverbs 24:12, Luke 12:47-48.

2. How long did it take to destroy Sodom or to consume the captains of fifties with fire from heaven? The exact duration each sinner will take to be burnt up is God's prerogative and not for us to speculate. The scriptures however reveal it will all happen in the same day the Lord Jesus returns, hence it is called the last day or day of perdition or day of destruction for the wicked -Job 21:30, Isa 13:6-11, Lk 17:29-30, 2 Pet 3:7, 2 Thes 1:8-2:8

3. You are the one taking 'day and night' literally in Rev 20:10. The incineration of the wicked will be done on the judgment day. In the new order for the saved, time reckoning by human standard gives way after the judgment, destruction of our solar system and of sinners (Rev 20:11, 2Pet 3:10-12, Rev 21:23-25; 22:2,5)

EA: How can a soul be made in the image of God, return to God upon death, conscious in hades, resurrected incorruptible (i.e. cannot rotten), given an immortal body since the soul cannot exist alone outside hades and yet be destructible? This must be a joke!

Reply: You have not proved that the soul of the wicked will be given an immortal body and resurrected incorruptible. The soul can exist outside of hades for God did not leave the soul of his righteous therein. We earlier explained this in the section "**What happens between death and the final resurrection of all?**" of our initial article. When you ask if the soul is destructible, it shows you have not grasped the import of Mt 10:28.

EA: If a body is capable of life, death, and life again through resurrection, like a human is capable of waking, sleeping, and waking again as long as his body continues to exist, then how can anything move through death to life again without the constant of an immortal soul?

Reply: Stop fabricating phrases such as "immortal soul." The gospel of Christ is the power of God to save a soul from death. On resurrection day, only the righteous will receive immortality or eternal life to live forever. **God allows the soul of the wicked to exist only up to judgment day when it shall be destroyed in hell.**

EA: We agree that only God has immortality but note that man was made in the image of God. That image can not be annihilated. Man who bear that image of God can only be annihilated if God will be annihilated.

Gen.1:25

Reply: **You do NOT believe the Bible truth that presently only God has immortality since you still equivocate with 'BUT...'**! Have you forgotten you wrote of Satan being immortal in Slide 21, that man has immortal soul in Slide 49? The Bible says God alone possess and could bestow immortality. It remains to be seen in scripture where he has actually done that for angelic beings. That one is a sentry at the central bank does not imply he is necessarily given access to the vaults to be a billionaire. We need not assume that the cherubim at Eden and the angels of God in heaven have eaten of the fruit of the tree of life. Rather "*in Him they live and have their being,*" they were made, consist and are upheld by the word of Christ. Man is mortal and can die in body and in soul; he was made and can be erased by the maker. God says that in hell, He will destroy sinful man. He can annihilate or bring to an end any creature that rebel against him. I believe the scriptures and not your words. Nothing is too difficult for God; it is impossible for Him to lie.

EA: It is not only resurrection that is gotten through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ but immortality also. Immortality is obtained unconditionally just as resurrection is obtained unconditionally by all men.

Reply: Resurrection is without doubt for all who has ever lived on earth that died **so that they may face God in judgment as human beings having spirit/soul and body**. Even the patriarchs and the Old Testament prophets knew that. Immortality however is the ability to exist endlessly or live forever and that is a promise to be received only by those who have met the condition of being a saint while on earth. I urge you to again carefully ponder upon my analysis of 1 Cor 15 on page 2 of this article as well as Slides 8-12 of our original presentation.

EA: All men are gods indicating the immortality of man.

Jesus told the Jews that they were gods, so He claiming to be the son of God is not a crime. This is because man as regards the spirit is immortal and cannot be destroyed.

Reply: That men are called gods does not indicate immortality. It has more to do with their **knowledge**. Recall Gen 3:22 & Psalms 8:5-6 says: **'the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil... thou hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet'**

Exodus 7:1 *And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.*

Psalms 82:5 *They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course. 6 I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. 7 But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.*

Isaiah 41:22 *Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. 23 Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together. 24 Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you... 27 The first shall say to Zion, Behold, behold them: and I will give to Jerusalem one that bringeth good tidings. Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion.*

John 10:35 **If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken**

Man is higher than animals by virtue of his wisdom and moral perception. God's children are termed gods because of the revealed knowledge and enablement in them to do exploits, which is lacking in the heathen and graven idols. The god of this world (Satan), his angels (spirits) and children (sinners) shall be annihilated in the lake of fire. None of them is immortal or indestructible. There is only one immortal, invisible, omnipotent and only wise God -our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, unto who is ascribed glory, now and evermore, Amen.

We (bros Elijah Abire, Oji O.Oji and Harry Umoren) are moved to respond to the unfounded rejoinders sent out by brother Asaolu O on behalf of his team made up of Bros. Femi Gbamis and John Oboroh

Re: . RESPONSE TO SELECTED STATEMENTS IN THE SLIDES OF BRO. OJI O. OJI (OOO)

- 1. Asaolu and Team..** “Every earthly destruction pertains only to the current human body; the destruction in the world to come is both soul and the future body in hell”.

Reply: We made it abundantly clear that the soul of man is the God in man. John 10:34 (Christ said humans are gods which indicates the spirit of God in man). It can be destroyed as regards to his usefulness to God but not wiped off. You will need to wipe off the source to be able to wipe off the image of God in man. Gne.1:25. The spirit goes to God who gave it. Eccl.12:7.
- 2. Asaolu and Team..** “It is only those who by well doing seek glory, honour and immortally that shall receive eternal life. Are sinners included? Definitely not! They are do not seeking immortality by their bad doing and will not receive eternal life which is the ability to live forever”.

Reply: You have forgotten that “ **as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive**”. No distinction, whether you are a Christian or not you are subject to physical death through Adam, same thing whether you are a sinner or righteous Christ has brought unconditionally immortality to all in the world to come. Where you spend the eternity is what we are labouring for –Hell or Heaven. Glory, honour and immortality mentioned in Rom.2:6 relate to only those who will inherit eternal life in heaven. Those who will inherit hell will resurrect unconditionally, given immortality unconditionally but will suffer anguish instead of glory. 1Cor.15:54 –“**So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory”“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory”**”. This passage refers to all humans not Christians only as hades is not occupied by Christians alone and physical death mentioned in this passage is not for Christians alone.
- 3. Asaolu and Team..**“This passage is not talking of which body those resurrected from the dead will wear”. It is only comparing an aspect of their lifestyle to that of humans on earth”...

Reply: Although we agree that Christ was discussing marriage in that passage but it is inferred that in the resurrection (which is for both Christians and the wicked) people will not wear human flesh which desires marriage but will wear angelic body that does not desire such fleshly human things such as marriage. Matt.22:29-30; Luke 20:35 .
- 4. Asaolu and Team..** “The saints’ body differ from the sinners’ body as the sun differs from the moon in glory”.

Reply: This interpretation of that scripture cannot be true. That passage was comparing the physical body with the spiritual body on resurrection, it is sown a physical body, it is raise a spiritual, it is sown corruptible, it is raised incorruptible. The passage is not talking about the distinction between Christians and unbelievers’ bodies at resurrection but comparing the physical body at death and the spiritual body at resurrection. This of course applies to all human beings. 1Cor.15:41-42 “**There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption**”. The sinners are not excluded in verse 52. Note that the sinners too who are alive will be

changed at the coming of Christ. This is the bible that addresses the fact that both sinners and the righteous who are alive shall be changed. This physical body cannot inherit heaven or hell. They are spiritual places hence the change. Paul used "us", we because he was writing to the Corinthian brethren who were still alive and if Christ comes will also receive the change like himself who was still alive. This is not limited to Paul and the Corinthian brethren alone but all who are alive at his coming.

5. **Asaolu and Team...** You are making the worst assumption ever when you presume and assert that "the eternal part of man is the soul" No bible passage not even Gen.2:7 says that. **Reply:** Your comment above shows that you are taken everything too physical. God said let us make man in our image Gen.1:25, are you saying the image of God referred to here is the dust: the blood, flesh, physical figure or what? When a man dies, the body goes to the dust but the spirit goes to God who gave it. Eccl.12:7. Dust is not the image of God. The image of God is the spirit which goes to him at death and is conscious in hades. Luke16:19-35.
6. **Asaolu and Team ..** "Luke 20:35-36 Jesus implies sinners (those not counted worthy to obtain the next world) will die again, are not equal to the angels, are not the children of God and not the children of the resurrection".
Reply: Are you saying now that the sinners will not resurrect because they are not the children of resurrection? Have you forgotten that there are also angels for Satan? Read again Matt. 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels". Now you affirmed that Satan and his angels will be burnt to ashes haba! Did you read Rev.20:10 "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where[a] the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever"?
7. **Asaolu and Team...** I thought you once believed we should rescue the perishing, seems you now believe that whosoever believes NOT in Christ will be imperishable and reap incorruption (Contrary to John 3:16 and Gal.6:8).
Reply: Contrariwise, that is not what we believe. We believe that when Jesus came for the lost sheep of Israel, they were not out of existence. Matt.15:24. That people perish does not mean they are out of existence. A widow who "lives in pleasure is dead" does not mean she has been annihilated. 1Tim.5:8. In Luke 15: 17 the bible says "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!". Does this mean he was wiped out of existed at this point? To perish is to render useless or worthless. The sinners will be useless to God, they will wallow in hell as they will be tormented for ever and ever with their father the devil. Rev.20:10,15.
8. **Asaolu and Team...** The bible is here comparing the dead in Christ to the living in Christ.
Reply: We confirm that what the passage was saying is that the dead in Christ will rise first was only trying to show that those alive will not go to meet the Lord until the dead in Christ have arisen. We agree with your explanation here and the bible passage used. However, living sinners will be changed too and the dead sinners resurrected just like the saints (will not be caught up with him in the air) but will be translated to hell for eternal torment. Matt.25:41, Rev.20:10,15.
9. **Asaolu and Team...** "When such loses his soul in the next world he does not have it again for it is destroyed, his life-essence is extinguished".
Reply: This is too physical a consideration to be true, like losing one's biro. Read again Matt.10: 6 "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". If the sheep (Israel) was extinguished being lost who did Jesus send the disciples to? The soul of the unrighteous will be condemned to hell for eternal torment. It is not going to be extinguished. The image of God will not be extinguished but will suffer in hell just as those in hades. Luke 16:19-35. This

suffering is eternal, it is not a momentary suffering as you opined. Matt.25:46. Death is defined as separation of the body from the spirit. Jam.2:14. Now what is the second death? It is the separation of what from what? It is actually the separation of the soul permanently from God in Hell. He will not call on God and He will hear and receive any providence from God contrary to what happens presently. Matt.5:45 **“that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust”**.

10. **Asaolu and Team...** **“Unbelievers have part in resurrection but only believers have a house eternal in the heavens as Christ has gone to prepare a place for these in his Father’s house.**

What the sinner gets is temporary life and house not eternal ones. Do you affirm that unbelievers will receive immortality and were given the earnest of the Spirit?”

Reply: Your statement which we put in red is the truth regarding the believers and the unbelievers. But your subsequent conclusion is foreign to the bible teaching. As Christ has gone to prepare a place for the righteous John 14:1-4; He has also prepared a place for Satan, his angels and the unrighteous. Matt.25:41.

2. RE: RESPONSE TO SELECTED STATEMENTS IN THE SLIDES OF BRO. HARRY UMOREN (HU)

1. **Asaolu and Team:** “There are purified souls (1 Peter 2:11) of the saved and there are unstable souls (2 Peter 2:14) of the unrighteous. Thus the state and the fate of souls have distinction for Ezekiel refers to more than physical death.

Reply: Ezek. 18 you quoted never said the unrighteous will be extinguished but that they will die. Before God was to visit the iniquity of the fathers on the sons to the third Generation but this was reversed in this Ezk.18. Check Ex.34:7. You think everywhere soul is used it means the spirit hence you said the sinners’ soul is unstable. Read again 2Peter 2:14 **“having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children”**. Such people entice those who are not firm in the truth to commit adultery with them. It is not talking about the state of the soul of the unrighteous as regards extinction. No bible passage says the soul of the righteous is unstable.

2. **Asaolu and Team:** “The issue is when do sinners obtain immortality if indeed they will? You have not proved that they will get the ability to live forever, you have merely assumed and asserted it”.

Reply: This was proved during the debate. All the dead will obtain resurrection and immortality unconditionally because of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ– which is the gospel. 1Cor.15:1-4; 2Tim.1:10. When this corruption has put on incorruption and this mortal has put on immortality, death or hades will be no more. 1Cor.15:54-55. Are you saying this is only for Christians? If so then it is only Christians that are presently occupying hades and it is only Christians that are presently mortal.Impossible!

3. **Asaolu and Team:** “To live eternity life’ one must first receive eternal life. Your claim is indeed far-fetched! If the spirit of man is eternal simply because God is eternal then the spirit of man is also holy, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, etc. because God is. If not, why not? It is preposterous and erroneous to whimsically ascribe divine attributes unto man as you do! The Bible informs us of the attributes we possess, your conjecture is outlandish. Deuteronomy 33:27 The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

It is God that is described as eternal NOT His enemies. They will not endure forever but he will DESTROY them. They lack eternal spirit, so won’t exist endlessly to resist him rather they

shall be blotted out. Lord, all thine enemies be it in the heavens, the earth or under the earth; "they shall perish; but thou remainest."

Reply: That the soul is immortal does not mean he is omnipotent, omniscience or omnipresent. Are the angels in heaven not immortal? Do they have these attributes of God? we do not expect this kind of weak argument from you. You quoted Deut.33:27 out of context completely. Read from 24 and you will see that it was address to the family of Asher and that God who is eternal will destroy their enemies in the land of Canaan. We want you know that because God is eternal his image man is also eternal. Your conclusion means it is only God that is eternal therefore the angels, the soul of man and Satan are mortal. Please show evidence. The bible says in the resurrection we shall be like angels, does it mean as mortal men? Matt.22:30.

4. Asaolu and Team..."Sadly, the most popular verse of scripture is the most distorted. To perish at sea is to be lost by loved ones -to die not to be alive missing at sea! You are the one taking 'perish' out of context; beclouding the verse. 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".

Reply: The mistake you are still making is that you still do not want to understand the meaning of death as defined in the bible. Lazarus and the Rich man died but were alive somewhere. While Lazarus was before God, the rich man who perished was consciously away from God. The Gulf is the separation between God and the unrighteous. To perish as regards the physical human body is annihilated but the soul still exist till today, why?. Meanwhile, the soul is conscious in hades. So where is the annihilation? Those who will experience the second dead will not be present in Heaven but as the soul is present in hades under torment, so they will be in hell under torment. Rev.20:10,15.

5. Asaolu and Team...If the body of the sinner is merely ruined by God but kept alive in hell, would that be more devastating/fearful than men killing his body on earth? That W Vine shared your erroneous view on the subject is pitiable. Destroy in the verse is NOT describing the

place of the unsaved but is describing the punitive action of God on the unsaved.

Reply: The answer to your question is YES. If a Christian is burnt alive in this world and an unbeliever died peacefully and then after the resurrection the unbeliever is burnt to ashes what more serious punishment has he received than the Christian who was also burnt to ashes? You will be dumbfounded that the sinners will face everlasting punishment of torment without end on the last day. If immortality is conditional, what makes resurrection not to be conditional? The bible says God will resurrect all humans and give them immortality. 1Cor.15:54-55.

6. Asaolu and Team... "It is neither by mistake nor by chance that ALL translators render apollumi as destroy in Mt 10:28 but render it as lost in Lk 15:24 to convey the appropriate meaning in each".

Reply: Matt. 10:28 is not saying God will kill both body and soul in hell but that he can. Again note that Christ changed the word from kill to destroy. Matt.10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell". New King James Version (NKJV). The word destroy in this passage does not mean annihilate but rendered inglorious, placed in deplorable condition.

7. Asaolu and Team.. "Mt 10:28 Jesus implies BOTH soul AND body shall be killed and destroyed in hell; this results in annihilation because there will be no regeneration and reunification of both afterwards nor another resurrection. The punishment is total and irremediable for Christ's enemies "whose END is destruction."

Reply: You are misapplying Matt.10:28. See my comment above. Do you think that the wicked are hoping for resurrection? But will they be resurrected? What is the punishment of the wicked if they are annihilated? Where they expecting to enjoy eternal life in heaven that will make them feel the annihilation is a great deal? I am telling you, they will be very happy that their punishment is not more than just been burnt to ashes.

8. **Asaolu and Team...** "Following physical death, there is life for all at the resurrection but there ISN'T eternal life for all! God will be fair and just, in sentencing";

Reply: what is the life at the resurrection called. Is it physical life? You cannot have life and it is for a short time at the resurrection as eternity would have begun, everything would have become spiritual. The earth and all its works would have been burnt up. 2Pet.3:10. The only fair justice is the righteous enjoy eternally and the wicked suffer eternally.

Re: RESPONSE TO SELECTED STATEMENTS IN THE SLIDES OF BRO. ELIJAH ABIRE (EA)

1. **Asaolu and Team...**"Why bring "the Jehovah Witnesses sect and some group" into this discussion? Are you debating them or have we cited their works? The deflection/aspersion is unnecessary; we have not stated that man is only dust".

Reply: This is a proposition, I was not reply to you so I can bring in any example of those I know teach such subject. Since you agree that man is made of two components, great. Thanks.

2. **Asaolu and Team....**"Gen 3:19 is activated for man to return to dust whenever breath cease in a human or the spirit departs from the body unto God's custody (James 2:26)"...

Reply: Still on the same page. You just wasted everyone's time to bring up these two. You have not disagreed with them. Thanks anyway.

3. **Asaolu and Team...** i. Man was NOT dead before God breathed into him. Man was not yet fully made or a living being. He had to first possess a spirit and be alive before he could possibly die when it exits.

ii. That man's spirit was consequent to God's breath is NOT the exclusive fact which makes God 'the Father of spirits.' Since God is creator, he is automatically the Father of all spirits. We are not informed that he breathed angels into existence though we know they are spirits (Psalms 104:4). They are called the sons of God (Job 38:7) and even Satan could hitherto attend their gatherings (Job 1:6, Rev 12:10)

Reply: i. The body without is spirit is dead my brother. Was the body with spirit before God breathe into it? If not then man was dead and not alive before God breathe into him.

ii. I do not know how the Angels and Satan were made. Maybe you know. Man, angels and other spirits, are not excluded from this passage (Heb.12:9)

4. **Asaolu and Team..** "Your claim about the spirit is an ASSUMPTION, no scripture states so! That the spirit survives the body at physical death does NOT necessarily make it eternal or immortal. That man can not kill the soul/spirit does not confer it with indestructibility (Mt 10:28). It is to that future death of the soul in hell that James refers: James 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins".

Reply: If the Soul is not eternal why does it continue to live after death in hades? Why is it going to be resurrected? Why is it given immortal body to exist for ever? 1Cor.15:54-55. God will only destroy the wicked, he will not annihilate them. Remember many people were destroyed by man like Sodom but he did not destroy their even with such anger of their sins. If the soul annihilatable no man would have survive the grave.

5. **Asaolu and Team..** Christ was referring to the man's soul as it is the soul of the righteous that is not left in Hades. "There is no scriptural basis for you to refer to it as "the immortal spirit."

Reply: The one that is mortal died with Christ on the cross but the immortal part (the spirit) lives on even till today in hades. There is no basis for you to say the spirit is mortal when it continues to exist even after death.

6. **Asaolu and Team...** That is correct for both are aspects capable of being destroyed though the latter may be killed in this world but the former could be exterminated by God only in the next age.

Reply: Your empty hell theory is baseless. Hell will be occupied by Satan, his angels and condemned man. Rev.20:10,15. There is no bible passage that says the soul will be killed in hell. Matt.10:28 says "destroy" which does not mean annihilate. The body is mortal and will not resurrect, the spirit will be given a new body plus immortality. "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body".

1Cor.15:44. It is the spiritual body that will be given immortality before proceeding to hell or heaven. 1Cor.15:54-55. There is no bible passage that says the souls (spirit) of man will be given immortality. It is the spiritual body that will be given immortality because the soul is already immortal.

7. **Asaolu and Team...** "By not listening to us or carefully reading our material, you are mixing things us and seem to be debating Jehovah Witnesses, in your mind".

Reply: Your material was not made available to us before the debate. I was not replying to your proposition but making a proposition. If you do not believe the same thing on this point like the Jehovah's witnesses, then say so. If man's spirit is mortal, only the righteous would have been resurrected and given immortality.

8. **Asaolu and Team:** "Are you positing that like the Hebrews boys, sinners will neither be hurt nor consumed in hellfire? Slides 19-23 of our Presentation list the teaching and analogies used by the prophets, Christ and the apostles".

Reply: Not at all but to show to you that man can be in fire but not burnt to ashes and wiped out as you proposed. In this case they will burnt for ever and ever. "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where[a] the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever". Remember that the unrighteous too will be thrown into the same place. Vs 15.

9. **Asaolu and Team...**"We have not stated that Satan and his angels are physical beings. We have actually stated that all mankind will be raised with new bodies that differ in glory between saints and sinners. We showed that sinners cannot and shall not receive immortality in our textual analysis of 1 Cor 15."

Reply: That your textual analysis is faulty. I have clearly disproved it above. It is a comparison of the physical body which decays with the resurrected spiritual body which is incorruptible. The passage is not comparing the body of the righteous and the wicked. Sinners will not be in hell for a short time as you proposed. Satan and his angels will be tormented day and night for ever and ever in the lake of fire, the same place where the unrighteous will spent their eternity. Matt.25:41

10. **Asaolu and Team....**Life is to live so eternal life is perpetual or endless life. The reward or end of sinners is destruction (Phil 3:19) so everlasting punishment means everlasting destruction. This means a destruction that is irrevocable; it does not mean 'endless destruction' because it is the result not the process of a destruction that is endless. It is an event. You know that 'eternal judgment' (Heb 6:2) refers to divine

verdict with permanent consequences; it does not mean judging endlessly without ever arriving at a sentence to be executed. It is the result of the judgment that is eternal not the duration of the trial by Christ to pronounce his ruling. Eternal judgment will not take place day and night to be prolonged forever, that much an honest person will admit based on Mt 25, Rev 20

Reply: The problem is that you are not comparing like terms with like terms. If eternal life means the life will not end. They will continue to have the life. The everlasting punishment must also mean the punishment will have no end. They will continue to have the punishment. The destruction which is the throwing into hell will happen once like the judgment that will happen once but the punishment will be everlasting. Matt.25:41,46. When one is sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour, the sentencing and the throwing into the jail does not happen every day but the punishment is for every day for life. Compare 2Thess.1:9 "they will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power". Note the use of His presence, glory and power shows it is not annihilation but deplorable condition of suffering endlessly.

11. **Asaolu and Team....** "God's fire burns before him continually at the heavenly altar (Rev 8:5; 14:18). That was the reason why under the old covenant, while it lasted, the priests must ensure the fire upon the altar never went out (Lev 6:11-12). The physical temple/altar in Jerusalem was destroyed and is not needed in the gospel age. The fire of any well-designed incinerator will consume whatever is thrown into it, not preserve the garbage, as the fire of

Gehenna in Israel also did. We showed that sinners and devils will be destroyed into stubble in hell (Malachi4:1-3) and the ascending smoke connotes a memorial (Isa 34:10).

Reply: Yes, the fire of any well designed incinerator will consume whatever is thrown into it, not preserve the garbage, as the fire in Gehenna in Israel also did but what was thrown into these physical fires were physical things which are temporal. Hell and those that will be thrown into it are spiritual which are eternal. 2Cor.4:18. They cannot be burned out of existence as the fire of hell cannot be put out - the Bible calls it unquenchable fire. Luke 3:17

12. **Asaolu & team...**"The Bible does not teach that the wicked/sinners will exist everlastingly rather it teaches that they shall be destroyed to be no more. The scriptures contain phrases like 'unquenchable fire,' 'everlasting fire,' 'eternal fire,' BUT it does NOT contain phrases like 'unquenchable wicked,' 'eternal Satan,' 'everlasting soul' 'immortal soul,' etc. which you conceive out of your imagination.

Reply: The same thing with the righteous. The bible contains eternal life, eternal abode, eternal habitation but there is nothing like eternal soul, immortal righteous soul, eternal angels, etc. That does not mean they will not live for ever. We don't need those terms to establish that the righteous will live and enjoy in heaven for ever and that the wicked will suffer humiliation of pain and anguish with gnashing of teeth in hell eternally.

13. **Asaolu & Team...**"Why did God make Sodom and Gomorrah an example and emphasize that such 'shall it be at the end?' The fire upon the cities was rained from heaven. It did kill and CONSUME or destroy their bodies; it did not merely torture the living inhabitants continuously so you should take the comparison seriously, hell will be worse".

Reply: Sure we are taking it seriously but note that that is physical examples which we cannot be taken literally for the spiritual torment in hell? How much are you taken the below condition of the wicked seriously which is spiritual torment? Luke 16:24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame'".

14. Asaolu and Team...The passage does not teach that men are tortured forever. You sure know that 'beast,' 'day and night' are not literal in verse 10. It is the final restraint of the Devil and the annihilation of evil governments and religious systems that is described herein symbolically. Humans cast into the fire in verse 15 will be burnt up or consumed/destroyed not preserved as shown earlier from plain passages. Even death and hades are cast into the lake of fire. Are death and hades persons to be tortured forever? No! This confirms that whatever is thrown into the fire is annihilated. Death is being destroyed last as stated in 1 Cor 15:26.

Reply: Although the beast is not literal but tormented day and night indicates endless torment. If everything there are symbols why do you believe that humans casts into hell, even hell itself, hades and death thrown there are not symbols? The passage clearly stated that Satan, the beast, the false prophet will be tormented day and night in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. Humans not found in the book of life will be thrown there also, death and hades will be thrown there. This is the second death. If death is separation, what does this mean? Separation from God and made inactive. Therefore physical death will not longer function as it is today, a place of the departed will no longer function as it is today, humans in there will no longer function as they are today. Their glory will be quenched while they suffer and be tormented with Satan endlessly.

15. Asaolu and Team: Gehenna was never a place of perpetual torture but a place of slaughter, carcasses and consumption by fire, that is the very reason why Jesus used it to represent the lake of fire!

Reply: What was thrown there were physical things which can decay, rust or be consumed to ashes. What will be thrown into hell are spiritual which can not decay, rust, rot or consumed but will burn day and night (i.e. endlessly) but not to ashes. Mark 9:48 "where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched'." The worms, the fire and the humans are spiritual hence they dont die or quench.

16. Asaolu and Team...To destroy a life is to kill it not just harm it. When a life is destroyed on earth it means the person is wiped off from the land of the living (Gen 7:21-23). When destroyed in hell it means the person is wiped off totally from existence. In such cases destroy is not a metaphor. If your car is in a deplorable condition then it is damaged and repairable. When it is truly destroyed in an accident it has become a write off that can neither be restored to its initial state nor made to ever function again. It is that kind of utter destruction that contextually fits Mt 10:28.

Reply: Rom.14:15 "Yet if your brother is grieved because of *your* food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died". Here if I eat what injures the conscience of my brother, I have destroyed him. With your physical reasoning it means my brother has been annihilated out of existence. Destruction could mean to kill but death which is the result of the two is separation. Either one's body is separated the spirit which is physical death or one's soul is separated from God which is spiritual death.

17. Asaolu and Team...We have not said that heaven, hell or the occupants of each are physical. What we have shown from the scriptures repeatedly is that God shall destroy the wicked and bring them to an end in the fire of hell.

Reply: The bible makes it clear that the things that are seen are temporary but the things that are not seen are eternal. 2Cor.4:18 "While we look not at the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are tporrorary, but the things which are it see are eternal". I remember your argument of electricty and air. These are not things that will exist beyond this physical earth. They are not things we look up to. We look

up to see heaven, angels, the Godhead (these are not seen and so eternal). We look up to see how hell will look like, how the wicked who tormented the righteous for years on earth will suffer in hell, how Satan and his angels will be tormented without end (these are not seen and so eternal). The angels will hold the air. Air can be felt, breathe, isolated in bottles etc therefore physical and temporal. Rev.7:1. Electricity is man made and therefore physical and temporal

18. Asaolu and team... 1. It is indisputable that reward shall be meted out unto people according to their works, whether it be few or many stripes - Proverbs 24:12, Luke 12:47-48. 2. How long did it take to destroy Sodom or to consume the captains of fifties with fire from heaven? The exact duration each sinner will take to be burnt up is God's prerogative and not for us to speculate. The scriptures however reveal it will all happen in the same day the Lord Jesus returns, hence it is called the last day or day of perdition or day of destruction for the wicked -Job 21:30, Isa 13:6-11, Lk 17:29-30, 2 Pet 3:7, 2 Thes 1:8-2:8 3. You are the one taking 'day and night' literally in Rev 20:10. The incineration of the wicked will be done on the judgment day. In the new order for the saved, time reckoning by human standard gives way after the judgment, destruction of our solar system and of sinners (Rev 20:11, 2Pet 3:10-12, Rev 21:23-25; 22:2,5)

Reply: So you mean to be beaten with many stripes means such will be tormented for many days? I dont understand your answer. Now consider the conclusion of this parable. Matt.25:28-30 "Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth". Are you saying those who use more of their talents will received longer eternal life eg the one that make 10 talents than the one who made 5 Talents? If the wicked will be rewarded with torments long enough according to their sins, dont you think that the righteous will also enjoy eternal life long enough according to their works too? Therefore eternal life and eternal punishment have duration, right? Remember the one who did not use his talent was cast into the outer darkness, where there will be **weeping and gnashing** of teeth. These are continuous terms but you believe they are temporary.

19. Asaolu and Team...You have not proved that the soul of the wicked will be given an immortal body and resurrected incorruptible. The soul can exist outside of hades for God did not leave the soul of his righteous therein. We earlier explained this in the section "What happens between death and the final resurrection of all?" of our initial article. When you ask if the soul is destructible, it shows you have not grasped the import of Mt 10:28.

Reply: Remember my question was "How can a soul be made in the image of God, return to God upon death, conscious in hades, resurrected incorruptible (i.e. cannot rotten), given an immortal body since the soul cannot exist alone outside hades and yet be destructible? This must be a joke!"

Your answer above shows you still believe the soul of man is NOT the image of God. This corruptible must put on incorruption, this mortal must put on immortality. 1Cor.15: 34-55. it is sown a physical body, it is resurrected a spiritual body. What proof do you want again. 1Cor. 15:42-44 "**So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is**

raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body". Is resurrection for only the Christians? John 5:28-29 says no.

1Cor.15:53-56 "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?" The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law".

Note that:

No bible passage says the wicked will resurrect a physical body. No bible says the wicked will resurrect with corruptible body. All flesh is buried corruptible and resurrect incorruptible. All flesh will therefore be resurrected incorruptible and will put on immortality otherwise you are saying death was only for the Christians, resurrection is only for the Christians, Hades was only for the Christians. If the corruptible did not put on incorruptible and this mortal did not put on immortality then death and hades will continue to exist but the bible says no. Rev.20:14-15.

What proof do you need again?

20. Asaolu and Team:...Stop fabricating phrases such as "immortal soul." The gospel of Christ is the power of God to save a soul from death. On resurrection day, only the righteous will receive immortality or eternal life to live forever. God allows the soul of the wicked to exist only up to judgment day when it shall be destroyed in hell.

Reply: Remember my question "If a body is capable of life, death, and life again through resurrection, like a human is capable of waking, sleeping, and waking again as long as his body continues to exist, then how can anything move through death to life again without the constant of an immortal soul?". If the Soul is mortal why is it that it is not given immortality but only the body is resurrected incorruptible and given immortality?

There is nothing like fabrication. Waving away the truth with such language is unfair. Answer the question posed above. If the Soul is not the image of God, then tell us the image of God? How longer will the soul live in hades for you to believe that it is immortal? Adam's soul has lived in hades for more than 6000 years after his physical death on earth after dying at old age of 930 years. Man with regards to the flesh (dust) is mortal because it goes to the dust but the soul is immortal because it is from God hence it continues to exist even many years after death.

When man dies, he goes to hades, when the soul of man is killed according to you, where will it go? We say the soul of man and his new body at resurrection will go hell and languish there endlessly in pains and torture. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matt.13:50

**A 2nd follow up to the Religious Debate held at Church of Christ,
Ohikere-Apapa Lagos, Nigeria on Sat. May 13, 2017
THEME: IS IMMORTALITY CONDITIONAL
Olumuyiwa Asaolu on behalf of Team 1 (June 14, 2017)
(Available for download from www.lainosint.com/download/faith)**

It is interesting that **Team 2 evaded over 67% of the 67 questions in our two previous articles, are silent on many compelling points we raised and avoided expounding some relevant passages which we have cited.** This is a response to their so-called ‘Unfounded Conclusions’ article which they released on June 9, 2017.

Section 000

1. **Team 2:** ...We made it abundantly clear that the soul of man is the God in man. John 10:34 (Christ said humans are gods which indicates the spirit of God in man). It can be destroyed as regards to his usefulness to God but not wiped off. You will need to wipe off the source to be able to wipe off the image of God in man.
Reply: Which Bible passage states “the soul of man is the God in man”? We won’t swallow it just because you assert so! The Lord says ‘ye are gods’ to his people who have received his word. He earlier stated that ‘the man is become as one of us’ in Gen 3:22 after man attained knowledge of good and evil. You discountenanced all the passages we cited on this matter towards the last section on page 11 of our second article. You misconstrue Christ’s statement in Jn 10:34. **The spirit/soul of man is neither immortal nor eternal nor indestructible as you assume.** It can be killed and wiped off by God in hell after judgment. The Omnipotent has not created anything which He cannot destroy should the need arise. An image is a representation; it does not necessarily have all the attributes of a source. The source is GREATER than the image despite the likeness. One can burn a mirror or painting or sculpture or an intelligent mobile robot made in man’s image without wiping off the source or actual person the image is made after. Ditto God can destroy man who was made in His image without wiping off the Godhead in whose likeness man was made.
2. **Team 2:** You have forgotten that **“as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.** No distinction, whether you are a Christian or not you are subject to physical death through Adam, same thing whether you are a sinner or righteous Christ has brought unconditionally immortality to all in the world to come. Where you spend the eternity is what we are labouring for –Hell or Heaven. Glory, honour and immortality mentioned in Rom.2:6 relate to only those who will inherit eternal life in heaven. Those who will inherit hell will resurrect unconditionally, given immortality unconditionally but will suffer anguish instead of glory. 1Cor.15:54 ... refers to all humans not Christians only as hades is not occupied by Christians alone and physical death mentioned in this passage is not for Christians alone.
Reply: We did NOT forget anything in our analysis of 1 Cor 15. We earlier wrote “though all men are to be given life to resurrect (**vs 22-23**, Jn 5:28-28), only those that are Christ's are given endless or eternal life (Jn 5:24; 10:28).” That shows we referenced what you just cited but indicated the saved gets an endless life unlike the sinners who get a terminal life when all shall be made alive in Christ at the resurrection. Sadly, you conflate resurrection with immortality. These are two different things; the latter means to be raised from the dead with a new body while the former is ability to exist and live endlessly; not subject to death. If Adam ate the fruit of the tree of life before he was expelled in Eden he would have obtained immortality without being resurrected. Those living at Christ’s return would since they will not die like Enoch and prophet Elijah.
3. **Team 2:** ...it is inferred that in the resurrection (which is for both Christians and the wicked) people will not wear human flesh which desires marriage but will wear angelic body that...
Reply: Your inference is not necessary! The passage is NOT describing angelic body or men wearing such.
4. **Team 2:** ‘This interpretation of that scripture cannot be true’ – referring to our statement “The saints’ body differ from the sinners’ body as the sun differs from the moon in glory”

Reply: The referenced chapter describing resurrection (1 Cor 15) should be read as a continuum. The text indicates that there are earthly bodies and heavenly bodies. We know from Genesis 1 that terrestrial living bodies are classified as animal and plant bodies. Inspiration further identifies categories of the animal body into different types of flesh –man, birds, fishes, etc. The Bible teaches that celestial living bodies are in categories –deity and different creature types such as Cherubims, Seraphims, Angels, etc. Likewise we are informed there is a glory of the sun different from that of the moon and that **‘one star differs from another in glory, so also is the resurrection of the dead.’** It follows that while all the dead are raised; Paul is highlighting the glory (incorruptibility) of ‘the brethren or those in Christ’ herein as shown in our previous textual analysis. There are passages that state sinners will receive life at the resurrection but no single verse in the Bible ever state that they will receive eternal life. We challenge you to produce any Bible passage that clearly indicates that sinners will receive immortality. **Given your take on 1 Cor 15:48-54 and 2 Cor 5:1-6, kindly inform us if the following passages also apply to sinners:**

Philippians 3:20 *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

2 Peter 1:4 *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

5. **Team 2:** ...are you saying the image of God referred to here is the dust: the blood, flesh, physical figure or what? When a man dies, the body goes to the dust but the spirit goes to God who gave it. Eccl.12:7. Dust is not the image of God. The image of God is the spirit which goes to him at death and is conscious in hades. Luke 16:19-35.

Reply: So far, we have not ventured into highlighting or contesting what constitutes the image of God in man. The fact that the body dies, it is destroyed into dust while the spirit returns to God does NOT make the spirit/soul of man immortal, eternal and indestructible. It simply shows that part of man cannot be killed on earth as it survives the physical body. We are not focusing on what happens in Hades but is interested in what happens in hell after the resurrection and judgment. That is **when the spirit/soul will either be saved or destroyed** by Christ the lawgiver according to James 4:12; 5:20, 1 Cor 5:5. We previously cited these texts repeatedly but you consistently evade them, why?

6. **Team 2:** Are you saying now that the sinners will not resurrect because they are not the children of resurrection? Have you forgotten that there are also angels for Satan? Read again Matt. 25:41 **‘Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels’.** Now you affirmed that Satan and his angels will be burnt to ashes haba! Did you read Rev.20:10 **‘The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where[a] the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever’?**

Reply: How do you understand Lk 20:35-36? You have consistently refrained from explaining that passage and Phil 3:11-14! While at it, you should also explain what Christ means in Jn 6:54. Man was made upright by God though many voluntarily choose to rebel and become sinners. In a generic sense every human is God’s offspring (Acts 17:28) though only believers are truly God’s children (John 1:12, Gal 3:26-27). We have shown that all mankind who has ever lived will be raised from the dead. Sinners are not described as ‘children of the resurrection’ since they will be raised to contempt and damnation not unto glory and honour.

We read Rev 20:10 and note it is a cryptic message in a figurative book that was signified unto John. Since many phrases such as *‘the lake of fire, the beast, false prophet, day and night forever’* in that verse are symbols, can you prove that the ‘tormented’ therein is NOT symbolic? **Knowing that Rev 20:10 contains many symbols, diligent Bible scholars will be wary to build a literal proposition upon the verse.** Since you

teach the doctrine of literal eternal torture based on that verse, do you also teach the doctrine of a literal 'resurrection followed by a premillennial reign of 1000 years' based on verses 4-6? If not, why not?? Is it only verse 10 that is profitable for you? Should you not also use verses 1 through 9 to teach of LITERAL *chain, key, prison, resurrection, kings, thousand year reign, priesthood, four corners of the earth, beloved city, etc?* It is noteworthy that even if taken literally, the perpetual torment in Rev 20:10 is not applied to humans but to fallen angels. It is reasonable to hold that the figurative reference of what happens to Satan and his host in this symbolic passage can NOT OVERRIDE the message contained in a plain passage such as: *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil**"* -Heb 2:14.

7. **Team 2:** ...Contrariwise, that is not what we believe. We believe that when Jesus came for the lost sheep of Israel, they were not out of existence.

Reply: It is ridiculous to pretend that the only meaning of the Greek word *apollumi* is 'lost..' [Check Strong Concordance or www.biblehub.com/greek/622.htm. One meaning of *apollumi* is 'kill, destroy' as in Mt 2:13; 10:28 while the other -'lose, perish' indicate resultant death is certain if not found or rescued as in Mt 55:29; 10:39. The Greek word for destroy as a synonym for 'spoil, corrupt and loss of well being' is *daiphtheiro* (Strong or www.biblehub.com/greek/1311.htm), as in Lk 12:33, 2 Cor 4:16. The Greek word for destroy as annul, abolish or nullify is *katargese* (Strong or www.biblehub.com/greek/katarge_se_2673.htm) as in 1 Cor 15:24, Heb 2:14].

We have not disputed that *apollumi* should be rendered as lost in Mt 15:24 so why drag that into discussion? Given our statement which you quoted in your point 7, what you are supposed to do is explain how your theory fits John 3:16, Gal 6:8 and 2 Pet 2:12. Why do you keep evading these verses despite numerous appeals that you explain them? Stop deflecting. Having sowed to the flesh rejecting Christ, will perishing sinners reap corruption or reap incorruption and life everlasting at the resurrection?

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

2 Peter 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption.

8. **Team 2:** ...However, living sinners will be changed too and the dead sinners resurrected just like the saints (will not be caught up with him in the air) but will be translated to hell for eternal torment. Matt.25:41, Rev.20:10,15.

Reply: Firstly, everyone will be caught up but the dead will precede the living. Everyone will be transformed to have a spiritual body but the glory of that of sinners will not match that of saints which shall be as Christ's glorious body. Secondly, everyone will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged before being translated into heaven or hell depending on whether one's name is in the book of life or not. Going into eternal fire does not mean the sinner is eternal, such will be consumed/devoured/destroyed therein. There is NO verse in the Bible which states that humans will get 'eternal torment.' Neither is it implied anywhere. It is wrong to presumptively project the 'eternal' attribute of the fire unto the garbage thrown into it!

9. **Team 2:** This is too physical a consideration to be true, like losing one's biro. Read again Matt.10: 6 **"But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"**. If the sheep (Israel) was extinguished being lost who did Jesus send the disciples to? The soul of the unrighteous will be condemned to hell for eternal torment. It is not going to be extinguished. The image of God will not be extinguished but will suffer in hell just as those in hades. Luke 16:19-35. This suffering is eternal, it is not a momentary suffering as you opined. Matt.25:46. Death is defined as separation of the body from the spirit. Jam.2:14. Now what is the second death? It is the separation of what from what? It is actually the separation of the soul permanently from God in Hell...

Reply: You have dodged our question on Mk 8:36, let us restate it in simple terms: **when a man loses his soul in this world, does his destroyed body still have the soul? When that soul and new body are**

destroyed in hell will he still exist and have both? This is the import of another verse which you have constantly evaded -John 12:25 *'He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.'*

The Lord sent messengers to go find the lost sheep of the house of Israel so as to bring such back into the fold of God. Who will go find the lost soul of a dead man to restore it into his body after death on earth? Who will go find the lost soul of such man after judgment and destruction in hell? This is sound reasoning, not 'too physical'!

Physical death connotes more than 'separation of the body from the spirit' as you posit. Your description gives the WRONG impression that each is intact and functional while the body and the spirit are apart.

James 2:26 states: *'For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.'*

Inspired James write that the body is DEAD. Existence and vitality characterize life thus death is an end of life in a given realm; it involves a loss of presence as well as a loss of functionality.

On earth, the spiritually dead neither presents himself before an unknown God nor function religiously till he is quickened by the gospel (Gal 4:9a, Eph 2:5). The physically dead act not amongst the living since his spirit is absent, rendering his body non-functional. Unless artificially preserved, that body will lose its presence via decay into dust. The soul that sins and is not converted shall not be saved from death (James 5:20), it shall die not live (Eze 18:20, Rm 8:13) and be destroyed in hell (Mt 10:29) to lose its essence and presence.

Genesis 3:22 *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

This text shows that man could have attained immortality (ability to live forever) on earth. Thus living eternally has nothing to do with where one lives (heaven, hell or earth) but it has to do with existing as a living being endlessly. If man had not been expelled from Eden and restrained from eating the fruit of the tree of life, he would have obtained eternal life as a sinner even if God choose not to ever visit or relate with him again! This indicates that mere separation from God achieved by Adam's expulsion is not the ultimate death. God wanted him to not live forever in that sinful state hence He put a Cherubim with a flaming sword to guard the tree of life. With such denied access to endless life, man will eventually die in body and even in soul though such deaths may occur at different intervals.

Indeed death is more than mere separation; it denotes a non-existence or non-activity in at least one of the two intrinsically linked things separated from each other! Below we critique some popularly cited examples.

Christians are dead to sin (Rm 6:2,11, 1 Peter 2:24) -we should not live any longer therein! That means not to function in sin or commit sin but we *'should live unto righteousness.'* We should be non-existent to sin hence it cannot have dominion over us. Also sin itself is no longer to dwell in us but rather the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. The passages do not say that we stay on one side and our sin stays at the other side with each alive but merely separated yet functional. Rather the Bible teaches that sin is not to be found around or in us because he that is born of God does not sin and cannot sin because the seed of God abide in him. Our sins have been removed far away as the East is to the West and are actually blotted out.

Death dissolves marriage (Rm 7:3, 1 Cor 7:39) -if her husband is dead a woman is at liberty to be married to another man without being called an adulteress. This is way beyond mere separation! The deceased man no longer exists in the realm of the living to function in any way or to remain the husband of that woman. If she departs or he puts her away while both of them are alive that would be a separation and does not really end their marriage in the Lord's sight -1 Cor 7:10-11. Death ends a marriage because one of the duo is no longer present and functional in all ramifications.

Christians are dead to the law [of Moses] (Rm 7:4) -we are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that we (the church) should be married to the risen Lord. Note this epistle was written to the church of Christ at Rome which had some members with Jewish background. What the passage aver is more than being separated from the law with those Christians on one side and the law of Moses, their former schoolmaster on

the other side with each functional. Christians are not subject to the law for Moses is neither our mediator nor our lawgiver. We are under grace and the law of Christ, termed the law of liberty. By the works of Mosaic law shall no one be justified. Only the Messiah lived above and fulfilled the law of Moses. Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, he took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. Jesus having abolished even the law of commandments contained in ordinances gave us a new and better covenant established upon better promises. *'That which decayeth and waxeth old [in apostolic era] did vanish away'* when the revelation of the New Covenant was complete. Today the Old Covenant is not our law but is merely reference material which gives us background information to the New Covenant.

10. **Team 2:** ...But your subsequent conclusion is foreign to the bible teaching...

Reply: What we wrote aside the part you purport to agree with is: "What the sinner gets is temporary life and house not eternal ones. Do you affirm that unbelievers will receive immortality and were given the earnest of the Spirit?" We believe that hell is prepared and eternal but its future occupants will not dwell there endlessly, they shall die there. If you assert that is 'foreign to the bible,' it implies you believe that sinners

- (a) Will live forever as they will receive eternal life not temporary life at the resurrection, they will merely spend it at a location different from the dwelling place of the saints.
- (b) Are presently given the earnest of the Spirit and are indwelt by the Holy Ghost just as saints are.

Section HU

1. **Team 2:** Ezek. 18 you quoted never said the unrighteous will be extinguished but that they will die. Before God was to visit the iniquity of the fathers on the sons to the third Generation but this was reversed in this Ezk.18. Check Ex.34:7. You think everywhere soul is used it means the spirit hence you said the sinners' soul is unstable. Read again 2Peter 2:14 **"having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children"**. Such people entice those who are not firm in the truth to commit adultery with them. It is not talking about the state of the soul of the unrighteous as regards extinction. No bible passage says the soul of the righteous is unstable.

Reply: What did Eze 18:4,20 say will die? The soul that sins! You however assert 'the soul is immortal and cannot die.' Let God be true and every man a liar. Do you think God would inspire Eze 18:20-24 if the soul/spirit is immortal? The passage is not talking of physical death because earthly persons normally experience that. Verse 21 says the repentant sinner *'shall surely live, he shall not die.'* It is not stating that every repentant person will not die physically on earth. It is talking of the second death; the death of the soul in hell which you keep denying barefacedly. James 5:20 *Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

Inspiration term some persons as having purified their souls in 1 Peter 1:22 and also refer to others as 'unstable souls' in 2 Peter 2:14. The former obeyed the gospel while the latter are disobedient or unfaithful.

2. **Team 2:** All the dead will obtain resurrection and immortality unconditionally because of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ– which is the gospel. 1Cor.15:1-4; 2Tim.1:10. When this corruption has put on incorruption and this mortal has put on immortality, death or hades will be no more. 1Cor.15:54-55. Are you saying this is only for Christians? If so then it is only Christians that are presently occupying hades and it is only Christians that are presently mortal. Impossible!

Reply: You claim that immortality is unconditional but consistently shy away from explaining Jn 6:51, Rm 2:7; 8:13 and similar passages. We earlier cited Job 4:17 to show that every man is mortal. We affirmed that all the dead go to Hades but the Lord does not leave the soul of the righteous therein, such are taken and kept in paradise in the third heaven. At resurrection all souls will be released through Hades again to be raised up with new spiritual bodies. Incorruption and immortality is only for the saved. Sinners have no lot in it having rejected Christ and his gospel of salvation.

2 Timothy 1:8 *Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us, and called*

us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: 11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

God has not saved every individual but rather those who obey the gospel, that is the 'us' in verse 9 though everyone is invited as his grace has appeared unto all. The life and immortality made available through the gospel is eternal life. Why did you ignore Jn 5:40 which talks of the life believers obtain when born again on earth (1 Jn 5:13). Preachers are needed to teach this, only the saved attain it. The life given to all by Christ in 1 Cor 15:22 is for the destroyed body to be raised, that everyone who has lived on earth may stand as man before God in judgment, it is not for each to exist for ever, no Preacher is needed to impart that.

3. **Team 2:** That the soul is immortal does not mean he is omnipotent, omniscience or omnipresent. Are the angels in heaven not immortal? Do they have these attributes of God? we do not expect this kind of weak argument from you. You quoted Deut.33:27 out of context completely. Read from 24 and you will see that it was address to the family of Asher and that God who is eternal will destroy their enemies in the land of Canaan. We want you know that because God is eternal his image man is also eternal. Your conclusion means it is only God that is eternal therefore the angels, the soul of man and Satan are mortal. Please show evidence. The bible says in the resurrection we shall be like angels, does it mean as mortal men? Matt.22:30.

Reply: Which Bible passage states that the soul of man is immortal?? **We have asked this particular question repeatedly and you have NEVER produced a single verse!** It is thus evident that your assertion is erroneous human philosophy. The angels in heaven are not immortal. It is unfortunate that till now, you not believe 1 Tim 6:16 which clearly state that inherently, *“only God has immortality.”* The devil shall be eventually destroyed through death (Heb 2:14) so Satan is not immortal. Angels, Cherubs, etc. are susceptible to sin and are not indestructible, as we showed on **Slides 28-29** of our original presentation. You must be a joker for trying to attribute Deut 33:27 to us. **It was Bro. Harry Umoren who originally listed the text for his assertion that there is an eternal part of God in man.** See how we cited him on page 4 of our second article. We thereafter quoted and analyzed the passage to show that only God is eternal. Saints will be like angels in the sense that they will not marry or conduct wedding ceremonies. Matthew 22:30 *For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*

4. **Team 2:** The mistake you are still making is that you still do not want to understand the meaning of death as defined in the bible. Lazarus and the Rich man died but were alive somewhere. While Lazarus was before God, the rich man who perished was consciously away from God. The Gulf is the separation between God and the unrighteous. To perish as regards the physical human body is annihilated but the soul still exist till today, why?. Meanwhile, the soul is conscious in hades. So where is the annihilation?...

Reply: That story is about the intermediate state. We have repeatedly affirmed that when a man dies on earth his spirit/soul is kept in reservation till resurrection day. You have at last admitted that to perish is to die as 'the human body is annihilated.' In other words, you agree the body is **destroyed** and no longer retains its composition, presence and functionality. Great! That is what we have been saying concerning physical death. Please note carefully what we affirm concerning the second death which a sinner will experience: Christ will **destroy not save** such (Jms 4:12). A sinner's soul shall **not** be saved from death (Jms 5:20). His spirit will **not** be saved in the day of the Lord (1 Cor 5:5). When devoured by the **consuming fire** he will neither exist nor function again as both his soul and body shall be destroyed (Mt 10:28). Since you admit his body was annihilated at the first death, will you admit both soul and body will be annihilated at the second death?

5. **Team 2:** ...If a Christian is burnt alive in this world and an unbeliever died peacefully and then after the resurrection the unbeliever is burnt to ashes what more serious punishment has he received than the Christian who was also burnt to ashes? You will be dumbfounded that the sinners will face everlasting punishment of torment without end on the last day. If immortality is conditional, what makes resurrection not to be

conditional? The bible says God will resurrect all humans and give them immortality. 1Cor.15:54-55.

Reply: You need to acknowledge that at physical death only the body is destroyed whereas at the second death after the resurrection, both soul and body will be destroyed. That is the sorer punishment and reason we should fear God rather than man. Man may kill only the body. God can kill, destroy and wipe out the soul in addition to the body. God can bring someone to a total and final end. Immortality is NOT resurrection. The Bible is addressing saints in 1 Cor 15:54-55 and 2 Cor 5:1-5 where Paul wrote that we shall receive immortality. We have produced verses (Jn 5:29, Acts 24:15, Dan 12:2, etc.) that expressly state that sinners will be resurrected on the last day. You need to produce a verse that state sinners will receive immortality; you can NOT because there is NONE. Having a spiritual body does not imply having ability to live forever.

6. **Team 2:** ...Matt. 10:28 is not saying God will kill both body and soul in hell but that he can. Again note that Christ changed the word from kill to destroy... The word destroy in this passage does not mean annihilate but rendered inglorious, placed in deplorable condition.

Reply: It is amazing you still decide to ignore the obvious from this verse. We have shown that to destroy is not less severe than to kill and you have not refuted that! You once cited the parallel text. Lk 12:5 *'But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.'* Are you bold enough to consistently assert 'Lk 12:5 is not saying God will cast into hell but that he can'? The import of making such assertion is that sinners will NOT be cast into hell! Everyone knows that is perversion as it denies the message Christ intends to actually pass across. Jesus is not teaching that we fear the one who can place in 'inglorious, deplorable condition' rather than the one who may kill.

7. **Team 2:** "...You are misapplying Matt.10:28. See my comment above. Do you think that the wicked are hoping for resurrection? But will they be resurrected? What is the punishment of the wicked if they are annihilated? Where they expecting to enjoy eternal life in heaven that will make them feel the annihilation is a great deal? I am telling you, they will be very happy that their punishment is not more than just been burnt to ashes.

Reply: We have debunked your statement relating to Mt 10:28. It is interesting that we quoted Mt 10:28 then allowed Phil 3:19 to explain it and you call that 'misapplying.' If you do not believe that both soul and body will be destroyed at the second death that is unfortunate for a professed preacher. Everyone knows the body is destroyed at physical death to exist and function no more. The meaning of destroy does not change with respect to the body or soul at the second death just because you wish so, in order to retain your doctrine. The wicked have a conscience which warns them so they are without excuse. They will someday give account whether they expect to or not and their punishment is anguish in fire and to be burnt up or consumed into smoke. Their **loss of life** and existence never to be resurrected again is what it means to perish or suffer eternal destruction.

Section EA

1. **Team 2:** "...I was not reply to you so I can bring in any example of those I know teach such subject. Since you agree that man is made of two components, great. Thanks."

Reply: You should quote us directly on what we teach and have written in our lessons. You are still mistaken; we affirm that man is constituted of '*body, spirit and soul*' as the scriptures state in 1 Thess 5:23.

2. **Team 2:** "You just wasted everyone's time to bring up these two. You have not disagreed with them. Thanks anyway." –on Gen 3:19 & Jms 2:26

Reply: On the contrary it was to set the records straight as to what happens and in which sequence! It was to show that returning to dust HAS SOMETHING TO DO with the end of breath of life. We made that response to Bro. Abire's remarks: "The spirit of God breathe into man. Gen.2:7 – The breathe of life (not of death), made man a living soul. Gen.3:19 has nothing to do with this part of man."

3. **Team 2:** i The body without is spirit is dead my brother. Was the body with spirit before God breathe into it?

If not then man was dead and not alive before God breathe into him.

ii. I do not know how the Angels and Satan were made. Maybe you know. Man, angels and other spirits, are not excluded from this passage (Heb.12:9)

Reply: i. It is wrong to insist man was dead before God breathed into the formed clay. That mold was not yet a body as it has never possessed life, thus it should not be termed dead a priori.

ii. We know Gen 1:3-27 present all things as made by God's pronouncement. That the **worlds** are framed by the word of God is stated in Heb 11:3. Yet we know He actively mold man from dust and breathed into the nostrils the breath of life for man to become a living soul -Gen 2:7. Our point is that the scriptures do not elaborate much on the creation of the angels but we do have this information:

"Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire" - Psalms 104:4

We agree that Angels are spirits and included in Heb 12:9 but affirm they constitute a different class from 'the spirits of just men made perfect' as evident in verse 22-23.

4. **Team 2:** If the Soul is not eternal why does it continue to live after death in hades? Why is it going to be resurrected? Why is it given immortal body to exist for ever? 1Cor.15:54-55. God will only destroy the wicked, he will not annihilate them. Remember many people were destroyed by man like Sodom but he did not destroy their even with such anger of their sins. If the soul annihilatable no man would have survive the grave.

Reply: We have not stated that man is annihilated at physical death; clear your mind of Jehovah Witness assertions. The WAGES of sin is death and is multi-facetious. Sometime after Adam ate the forbidden fruit in Eden, he died spiritually later because his sin led to his separation from God in the cool of the day. Adam thus lost divine presence and fellowship. But that was not all, after many years his body died also (Gen 4:25 - 5:5) when his soul was taken away to be kept in Hades. Thereafter his dead body (though non-functional and devoid of life essence) seemed intact for a while but it decomposed and was later destroyed into dust within a few days. The body existed for some time even though it was dead because it was not preserved (by embalment nor frozen via refrigeration nor kept from putrefying microbes that operate at ambient conditions of temperature, humidity, etc. in nature). Did you notice the time lags or intervals for the various forms of death? Though man dies spiritually and physically, an organism with a few minutes life-span could assume that man is immortal. One such organism with a short-lived existence might ask its mate: *If man is not eternal why does he continue for so long on earth or have you ever seen any man's body wiped out?* Such an organism may be excused for its ignorance. You are without excuse because you have the testimony of the word of God on the nature of man's body and soul. There is no scriptural basis for you to assume that the soul of man is eternal and immortal. The soul can experience death (Jms 5:20). Man can not kill the soul. That can only be brought about by God **in hell after judgment** (Mt 10:28), He has not stated that He will accomplish that on earth or in Hades! The annihilation of both the soul and resurrected body of sinners is a FUTURE BUT ASSURED event, just because no one has witnessed such does not mean it shall not occur.

Every time the Bible speaks of God destroying men on earth, it means he kills or takes their life and turns them into dead bodies which decay if not burnt to ashes. Destruction in hell should also lead to dead spiritual bodies that are burnt up but you aver it means sinners getting tortured endlessly, wailing and railing non-stop.

5. **Team 2:** The one that is mortal died with Christ on the cross but the immortal part (the spirit) lives on even till today in hades. There is no basis for you to say the spirit is mortal when it continues to exist even after death.

Reply: You need to understand that man is described as **mortal** in the scriptures because **every part of him can die** -fact is the constituent parts of man may die at different times not simultaneously! If presently any part of man is immortal/indestructible then he does not need (a) his spirit to be saved -1 Cor 5:5, (b) his soul to be saved -Jms 1:21 (c) his body to be redeemed -Rm 8:23. The body dies and is destroyed at the first or physical death on earth. All the dead are raised at the resurrection when every soul is embodied again, with life as a human to face judgment. For the sinner, both soul and body shall be destroyed at the second death in

the lake of fire. For the saint immortality is attained because the gift of God which is eternal life through Christ is received. The scriptural basis for us to say spirits could experience mortality is 1 Tim 6:16 which state that the Lord God is the one **who only has immortality**. In the age to come, any creature that is not sustained with endless life by Christ will be destroyed through death.

6. **Team 2:** Your empty hell theory is baseless. Hell will be occupied by Satan, his angels and condemned man. Rev.20:10,15. There is no bible passage that says the soul will be killed in hell. Matt.10:28 says “destroy” which does not mean annihilate. The body is mortal and will not resurrect, the spirit will be given a new body plus immortality. **“It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body”**. 1Cor.15:44. It is the spiritual body that will be given immortality before proceeding to hell or heaven. 1Cor.15:54-55. There is no bible passage that says the souls (spirit) of man will be given immortality. It is the spiritual body that will be given immortality because the soul is already immortal.

Reply: Was hell prepared right from the beginning of creation or not? Has the final judgment of all creatures taken place already? Is hell (the lake of fire not Hades) presently burning and empty or not? You aver ‘Hell will be occupied...’ so you agree it is not occupied yet! If the wicked are thrown into hell after judgment and **burnt up** as foretold in Mal 4:1-3, Mt 3:12, etc. will it be empty of life afterwards or not?

While on earth, several enemies of Jesus sought to destroy him (Mt 2:13; 12:14; Mk 3:6; 11:18, Lk 19:47) and Christ acknowledged it means they sought to kill him (Mt 21:36; 26:4, Lk 22:2, Jn 5:18; 7:1; 8:40).

To destroy life is to kill it, this is evident by contrasting Mk 3:4 with Luke 6:9.

Pay close attention to Christ in Matthew 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Was Christ’s use of the phrase ‘kill the soul’ an oxymoron? Is God able to kill the soul or you reason it is impossible for him to do so? Is God able to really destroy the spiritual body of a sinner in hell as well as the soul? We hope you will answer the question one after the other and not just surmise that Jesus is saying God could ‘perpetually torture’ both soul and body in ‘deplorable state’ in hell! Such conclusion suggests lack of sound reasoning of this scripture but is a conjecture. At resurrection the saint obtains an immortal body as his soul is given the ability to live forever in the new incorruptible body. It is the gift of God unto believers only –Rm 6:23, 1 Tim 6:19.

7. **Team 2:** Not at all but to show to you that man can be in fire but not burnt to ashes and wiped out as you proposed. In this case they will burnt for ever and ever. **“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where[a] the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever”**. Remember that the unrighteous too will be thrown into the same place. Vs 15.

Reply: You shot yourself or damaged your own position by referring to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Just as natural fire burns up and destroy physical bodies (Leviticus 20:14) and heavenly fire burn up humans on earth (Numbers 11:1, 2 Kings 1:10-12) so shall spiritual fire burn up and destroy spiritual bodies (Mt 10:28). You assume hellfire is physical and will only torture but not really destroy the spiritual bodies of sinners, Satan and his angels. If that fire can inflict pain then it kill and consume or wipe them out.

It is only when God does not intend fire to hurt that it does not consume. Numerous examples abound.

Exodus 3:2 *And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*

Judges 13:20 *For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.*

Isaiah 43:2 *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

Daniel 3:22 *Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. 24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. 25 He answered and said, Lo, I see **four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.***

Just as God spoke with duality when some of his statements about Solomon the son of David pertain to the Christ (2 Sam 7:13, 2 Chro 22:10), so also did He when some of His statements about the king of Tyrus pertain to Satan. **Fire did not initially hurt the anointed cherub but it will hurt and destroy him to ashes later.** Ezekiel 28: 12 *Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. 19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.*

It is apparent that Rev 20:10 is the basis of your proposition but you have forgotten it is a highly figurative verse which alludes to evil spirits and not unto humans who possess souls. Though you try to extrapolate its 'tormented forever' to vs 15 and Mt 25:41, it is glaring that such assumption is unwarranted. The fact that raised sinners are cast into everlasting fire does not mean the sinners are everlasting or will be tortured alive for ever. If such sinners are capable of dying again (**as implied in Lk 20:35-36**) then they shall be burnt up in fire at the second death.

8. **Team 2:** Your material was not made available to us before the debate. I was not replying to your proposition but making a proposition. If you do not believe the same thing on this point like the Jehovah's witnesses, then say so. If man's spirit is mortal, only the righteous would have been resurrected and given immortality.

Reply: We agreed to debate because you knew after several discussions that we now hold a different view and has jettisoned the position you still believe about the nature of hell and the punishment of sinners. It is unnecessary to allude to Jehovah Witnesses doctrine while making your proposition because you agreed to debate "*The Bible teaches...*" NOT "*The Jehovah Witnesses teach...*" Every human is mortal yet every dead person will be raised up with a new body and every living human will be transformed when the Lord Jesus returns. Not everyone shall have his spirit, body and soul saved or preserved unto life eternal on that day as many shall be destroyed in hell -Mt 7:13-14.

9. **Team 2:** That your textual analysis is faulty. I have clearly disproved it above. It is a comparison of the physical body which decays with the resurrected spiritual body which is incorruptible. The passage is not comparing the body of the righteous and the wicked...

Reply: If our analysis of 1 Cor 15 is faulty then do a complete textual analysis of it verse by verse don't just make an assertion about verse 52-54. Your claim that the *'we, us, brethren, in Christ'* in that chapter applies unto sinners is absurd since the epistle is written unto saints and discusses their victory! The passage compares celestial bodies and declares they differ in glory just before it states 'SO ALSO is the resurrection of the dead.' It then proceeds to compare the sown natural body with the raised spiritual body.

10. **Team 2:** The problem is that you are not comparing like terms with like terms. If eternal life means the life will not end. They will continue to have the life. The everlasting punishment must also mean the punishment will have no end. They will continue to have the punishment. The destruction which is the throwing into hell will happen once like the judgment that will happen once but the punishment will be everlasting. Matt.25:41,46. When one is sentence to life imprisonment with hard labour, the sentencing and the throwing into the jail does not happen every day but the punishment is for every day for life. Compare 2Thess.1:9 "they will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power". Note the use of His presence, glory and power shows it is not annihilation but deplorable condition of suffering endlessly.

Reply: It is actually your team that is yet to properly understand terms and attributes. Eternal or everlasting is a quality of divinity, heaven and entities/constructs that can be found therein such as God, Spirit, Life, Power, Building, Glory and Fire. **Whenever either word is used with respect to an action of God unto man in the age to come, it describes an event that is once-for-all in occurrence with an irrevocable consequence** e.g. salvation, redemption, judgment, inheritance, damnation, punishment, destruction.

Jesus Christ is our Lord and our God. The divine life that he intrinsically possess is a never-ending one and that is what he gives to save the soul of the believer. It is termed eternal life (1 Jn 1:2; 5:11). It differs from the life of men and animals (Psalms 49:12) *'that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away'* (Jms 4:14b) for man's current life has been made subject to death by God's pronouncements in Genesis. We are hopeful you might understand that 'eternal judgment' does not imply it is the judgment itself that is eternal in duration; it simply means a judgment of the age to come having irrevocable outcome. For someone given a life sentence, you write that 'the sentencing and throwing into jail does not happen every day...' You thereby indirectly acknowledge that 'eternal judgment' is not 'judging endlessly.' You should likewise admit that 'everlasting destruction' is not 'destroying endlessly' and 'everlasting punishment' is not 'punishing endlessly.' The problem with your analogy is that God has not stated anywhere in the scriptures that he will sentence the wicked 'to life imprisonment with hard labour' **His word does not affirm that their punishment is eternal life in torture, rather it is emphatic that it is a death sentence; execution by incineration** (Rm 6:23, Rev 21:8, Heb 10:27). **When someone is given a death sentence, the process of killing him will take some time but it will not last forever**, the objective is to terminate his life not to retain and keep it tortured endlessly. The aim of the verdict is to remove him from that realm and ensure he can never function again. Such punishment is destruction since that loss of life is irreversible.

You claim that **the destruction which is the throwing into hell** will... Do you really expect a reasonable person to believe that? Christ says God is able to destroy IN hell, he did not aver God has destroyed by throwing into hell. You initially asserted that God can destroy in hell but he will not. You made that assertion again (Section HU 6) because you posit that the phrase '**is able to**' indicates a possibility not necessarily an eventuality. David, Isaiah, Matthew and Paul wrote that sinners' end is destruction; to be consumed as wax or thorns in fire to be no more. Yet you dare interpret 2 Thess 1:9 as *'deplorable condition of suffering endlessly'*? None can dwell in hell perpetually for it is devouring fire (Isaiah 33:14). Destruction from the presence of the Lord occurs when those cast into the lake of fire are wiped out body and soul (Mt 10:28), in full glare of the Lord with the fire and smoke of their torment enduring as a memorial (Rev 14:9-11).

11. **Team 2:** ...Hell and those that will be thrown into it are spiritual which are eternal. 2Cor.4:18. They cannot be burned out of existence as the fire of hell cannot be put out - the Bible calls it unquenchable fire. Luke 3:17

Reply: That something is spiritual does not necessarily make it eternal. The anointed cherub referred to in Eze 28 is an example. My team define terms consistently and has repeatedly stated that the unquenchable fire is inferno that cannot be extinguished by man. Sinners however can be wiped out. Below was how we addressed your line of argument in the Addendum to our slides.

Let us examine the passage carefully. Paul wrote: *‘For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.’* -2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Paul says though our body is wearing off and will ultimately decay, our innermost part [mind/soul] is being renewed (Rm 12:1-2). That our current travails cause endless reward of great value to be stored up for us. Hence we therefore look forward to heavenly recompense which are currently unnoticeable rather than to the things which we presently experience that will pass away with this world. [Aligns with 2 Cor 5:1-7]

It is gross misapplication to use the passage the way Bro. Elijah did to conclude that all invisible things are eternal or will last for eternity. By his reasoning, **all unseen things such as air, electricity, evil thoughts, Satan, Hades, Death etc. are eternal.** That is untrue. There is no such thing as **‘eternal death.’** God says **‘there shall be no more death,’ it shall be destroyed after the elements [earth], Satan, sinners & Hades.**

12. **Team 2:** ...The bible contains eternal life, eternal abode, eternal habitation but there is nothing like eternal soul, immortal righteous soul, eternal angels, etc. That does not mean they will not live for ever. We dont need those terms to establish that the righteous will live and enjoy in heaven for ever and that the wicked will suffer humiliation of pain and anguish with gnashing of teeth in hell eternally.

Reply: The simple reason the Bible contain ‘nothing like eternal soul, immortal righteous soul, eternal angels, etc.’ is that presently only God has immortality and eternal or everlasting existence! **Please accept this truth plainly stated in 1 Tim 6:16 and implied in Psalms 90:2, Rm 1:20. On the few occasions in the entire scriptures that eternal or everlasting is used to qualify a being it always references divinity** - the eternal God (Deut 33:27), the everlasting God (Gen 21:33, Isa 40:28, Rm 16:26), the everlasting Father (Isa 9:6), an everlasting king (Jere 10:10), the eternal Spirit (Heb 9:14). Note the definite article ‘the’ before each of these (except king), it establishes only God has this attribute. The seeming exception is clarified in 1 Tim 1:17 - *‘Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*’ Presently, both angels and humans are susceptible to sin. It is at the resurrection and judgment time or commencement of the age to come that God will bestow immortality to the faithful creatures which overcome so that such may live forever.

We earlier explained that gnashing of teeth represents fury and you could not refute our exposition of the pertinent texts.

13. **Team 2:** Sure we are taking it seriously but note that that is physical examples which we cannot be taken literally for the spiritual torment in hell? How much are you taken the below condition of the wicked seriously which is spiritual torment? Luke 16:24 “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am **tormented** in this flame”.

Reply: It is curious you posit the fire of Gehenna, the burning up of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes etc. are physical thus cannot be taken as examples of the final punishment which God also spelt out in his word. Is it that God gave wrong illustrations or He did not mean the inspired message in 2 Pet 2:4-6, Jude 7, etc? Do not confuse the present intermediate state of souls in Hades with their being cast into hell after judgment. Hades is temporal though it is unseen and spiritual; any condition there will not exist forever as Hades itself will be destroyed when sinners are destroyed in the lake of fire. We nevertheless take serious the import of Christ’s lesson that repentance cannot be achieved in the grave or Hades.

14. **Team 2:** Although the beast is not literal but tormented day and night indicates endless torment. If everything there are symbols why do you believe that humans casts into hell, even hell itself, hades and death thrown there are not symbols? The passage clearly stated that Satan, the beast, the false prophet will be tormented day and night in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. Humans not found in the book of life will be thrown there also, death and hades will be thrown there. This is the second death. If death is separation, what does this mean? Separation from God and made inactive. Therefore physical death will not longer function as it is today, a place of the departed will no longer function as it is today, humans in there will no longer function as they are today. Their glory will be quenched while they suffer and be tormented with Satan endlessly.

Reply: You have taken Rev 20:10 as literal text despite its numerous symbols. The phrase '*tormented day and night forever and ever*' conveys the fact that Satan and evil spirits are afflicted and restrained once and for all. The Lord's adversary shall be destroyed at the end via death (Heb 2:14) and death itself is the **last** enemy to be destroyed (1 Cor 15:26). Recall eternal salvation was given when Christ offered himself once for all. [Hebrews 10:12 *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*] Do you assert that the literal smoke of Edom is still and will endlessly be '*ascending for ever*' at the site of that ruined kingdom which the Lord wiped out as prophesied in Isaiah 34:9-10? You ask how we identify symbols in the book of Revelation. Simple! The book is full of signs (Rev 1:1; 15:1). It was revealed unto John the apostle who was exiled at the Isle of Patmos. It was like a coded message from a prisoner to his associates outside. We know its symbols based on how such phrases have been used previously in the Old Testament and when taking any phrase therein literally will not harmonize with plain passages of other scriptures. **We have noted that the second death is more than mere separation as you depict it. If it were there is no need for hell because sinners are already separated from God on earth** (Gen 3:24a, Isa 59:1-2, 1 Tim 5:6) **and in Hades** (Lk 16:26). Endless torture is not death but end of life and removal from a realm is. When man is removed from this world and **his body destroyed** he undergoes physical death. After resurrection, when such is removed from the world to come with **both soul and body destroyed** he undergoes the second death. **Destroyed has the same meaning in each context**, it does not mean 'wipe out' in one then suddenly change to 'torture' in another. You posit hell: 'a place of the departed will no longer function as it is today, humans in there will no longer function as they are today.' Will you kindly inform us how they will function there if they will be able to function at all? All creatures whether material or spiritual, depend on God for life wherever they are. **The only way any can be fully separated from the omnipresent sustainer is to have its life essence extinguished and its body wiped out.** Annihilation ensures it is destroyed permanently from existence; which is indeed an everlasting destruction.

15. **Team 2:** ...What will be thrown into hell are spiritual which can not decay, rust, rot or consumed but will burn day and night (i.e. endlessly) but not to ashes. Mark 9:48 "where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched'." The worms, the fire and the humans are spiritual hence they dont die or quench.

Reply: When you assert the ones thrown into hell will not burn into ashes you deny passages such as Psalms 37:20, Mal 4:1-3, 2 Pet 2:6. You assert that sinners will be raised incorruptible but it seems you do not really understand what that means. You claim in one sentence they 'cannot decay, rust, rot or consumed' and in the very next proclaim 'Their worm does not die.' **How could supposedly immortal and incorruptible beings feel pain and decompose into worms?** Recall it is THEIR worm. Besides when you aver that sinners will not be consumed but will burn endlessly, you are expressly denying passages which affirm: '*And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed... looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries... whose end is to be burned.*' –Isa 1:28, Heb 10:27; 6:8 No single Bible text state that sinners will 'burn endlessly.' Though the fire cannot be quenched, the scriptures always affirm that the wicked will be burned or burnt up or devoured or consumed therein. The wicked do not possess the everlasting quality of the fire, no garbage can endure or be preserved in a well designed incinerator! Stop arguing against reason and scripture.

16. **Team 2:** ...Rom.14:15“Yet if your brother is grieved because of *your* food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died”. Here if I eat what injures the conscience of my brother, I have destroyed him. With your physical reasoning it means my brother has been annihilated out of existence...

Reply: Your approach is really weak and unscholarly. You quoted us in your point 17 and totally ignored the passage we cited. Before introducing Rm 14:15 to counter, what you should have done is to first attempt to debunk our usage of Gen 7:21-23 that ‘when a life is destroyed on earth it means the person is wiped off from the land of the living.’

Genesis 7:21 *And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. 23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.*

While the bodies outside the Ark are destroyed via death by the deluge, your brother’s body is not. In our Gen 7 citation, God directly drowned creatures with flood, so destroy is literal. However, ‘do not destroy’ in the Rm 14 references **killing your brother indirectly** as you eat meat which he considers unclean due to his weak faith. If you cause his faith to be wiped out now, you would have destroyed your brother as he would ultimately be destroyed in hell! Recall that God who sees ahead, ‘*calleth those things which be not as though they were.*’ You are thus admonished to ensure he does not get annihilated in the lake of fire because of your offensive destabilizing action on earth. If he is severed from Christ because of your eating indiscretion then you have sabotaged his pilgrimage and will account for nudging him towards destruction.

17. **Team 2:** The bible makes it clear that the things that are seen are temporary but the things that are not seen are eternal. 2Cor.4:18 “While we look not at the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal”. I remember your argument of electricity and air. These are not things that will exist beyond this physical earth. They are not things we look up to. We look up to see heaven, angels, the Godhead (these are not seen and so eternal). We look up to see how hell will look like, how the wicked who tormented the righteous for years on earth will suffer in hell, how Satan and his angels will be tormented without end (these are not seen and so eternal). The angels will hold the air. Air can be felt, breathe, isolated in bottles etc therefore physical and temporal. Rev.7:1. Electricity is man made and therefore physical and temporal

Reply: We noted that electricity and air are not seen or invisible and wondered if such are eternal going by your reasoning. Interestingly you choose not to remember our argument that evil thoughts, Satan, Death and Hades are not seen but are not eternal! Believers can only look down not up to see how hell will be. The scriptures aver what they will see are smoke, stubble and ashes of the carcasses of burnt up sinners with devouring flames, they will not watch strangers and loved ones tortured endlessly in the lake of fire.

18. **Team 2:** So you mean to be beaten with many stripes means such will be tormented for many days? I dont understand your answer. Now consider the conclusion of this parable. Matt.25:28-30 “Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”. Are you saying those who use more of their talents will received longer eternal life eg the one that make 10 talents than the one who made 5 Talents? If the wicked will be rewarded with torments long enough according to their sins, dont you think that the righteous will also enjoy eternal life long enough according to their works too? Therefore eternal life and eternal punishment have duration, right? Remember the one who did not use his talent was cast into the outer darkness, where there will be **weeping and gnashing** of teeth. These are continuous terms but you believe they are temporary.

Reply: Asking if ‘such will be tormented for many days’ shows you do not read our material carefully. Repeatedly we have posited that the annihilation of all the wicked will occur **on the last day** even though the intensity and amount of flames on each sinner will correlate with his deeds. While the end result is death and consumption in the inferno for all sinners on the day of destruction, the process could be more tolerable and swift for some than others -Matthew 11:22, Luke 12:47-48.. The parable of talents refers to how gifts that may be multiplied are used on earth not how life itself is used / multiplied. Eternal life has the same duration for each saint; it is not longer for anyone than the other. It is the promise of God unto all believers (Titus 1:2, 1 John 2:25) and the parable which illustrates this particular reward is that of the Vineyard owner who paid same agreed wage to workers called at different times who served more than each other -Mt 20:1-16.

The fury and sorrow in hell will continue only for as long as it takes the wicked to be burnt off. **Sinners know they cannot dwell in the devouring fire but will be burned as chaff and shall bring forth stubble** -Isa 33:10-14

19. **Team 2:** ...No bible passage says the wicked will resurrect a physical body. No bible says the wicked will resurrect with corruptible body. All flesh is buried corruptible and resurrect incorruptible. All flesh will therefore be resurrected incorruptible and will put on immortality otherwise you are saying death was only for the Christians, resurrection is only for the Christians, Hades was only for the Christians. If the corruptible did not put on incorruptible and this mortal did not put on immortality then death and hades will continue to exist but the bible says no. Rev.20:14-15...

Reply: We have not said the wicked will resurrect with a physical body but rather with a spiritual body. Yet the nature of their new body is implied from scriptural references to what only saints are promised and the inherent contrast. You have constantly evaded the request that you expound Gal 6:8. Is that a deliberate dodge thinking we will forget? Is it so difficult to understand that everyone will be resurrected but those who are not given immortality will be wiped out body and soul? **Or that death and Hades also will be destroyed thereafter because God no longer has any need or use for both after He has annihilated the wicked?** The angels that sinned, God *‘delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment of the great day.’* Then He will send them *‘into everlasting fire, prepared for them’* to be consumed so that evil may end.

20. **Team 2:** ...If the Soul is mortal why is it that it is not given immortality but only the body is resurrected incorruptible and given immortality? ...If the Soul is not the image of God, then tell us the image of God? How longer will the soul live in hades for you to believe that it is immortal? Adam’s soul has lived in hades for more than 6000 years after his physical death on earth after dying at old age of 930 years. Man with regards to the flesh (dust) is mortal because it goes to the dust but the soul is immortal because it is from God hence it continues to exist even many years after death...

Reply: The soul is entwined with the life essence of man (Job 33:18). To take a life on earth God simply takes the soul (Luke 12:20) hence the body without the spirit/soul is dead (Genesis 35:18, Jms 2:26). It is the soul that partakes of the divine nature when one receives eternal life. The current human body is subject to death so when Jesus returns saints know He *‘shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body’* -Phil 3:21. Do you really believe sinners will obtain an equally glorious body or a lesser one as the glory of the sun differs from that of the moon? At resurrection, the soul of the saint has eternal life hence his body has immortality (2Cor 5:4-5) while the soul of the sinner has temporary life hence his body is corruptible. (Gal 6:8). Inspiration expressly states that **‘upon every soul of man that does evil’** comes wrath and destruction but upon the good doer comes *‘glory and honour and immortality, eternal life’* -Rm 2:7-10.

That man is made in the image and after the likeness of God is multi-faceted; it covers the compositional or constituent aspect, the appearance or form aspect as well as the behavioural or character aspect. God is spirit with a specific form and intelligent mind who acts in certain ways. The soul of man is part not the entirety of God’s image; man’s appearance, rationality, creative abilities, etc. are inclusive also. An image and likeness is not exactly the source but a close representation. Judgment upon resurrection is for every human to give account before God. That a sinful soul has existed for over 6,000 years in Hades does NOT make it immortal, it shall be destroyed or exterminated on judgment day.

**Part B of 2nd follow up to the Religious Debate held at Church of Christ,
Ohikere-Apapa Lagos, Nigeria on Sat. May 13, 2017**

THEME: IS IMMORTALITY CONDITIONAL

Olumuyiwa *Asaolu* on behalf of **Team 1** (June 18, 2017)

(Available for download from www.lainosint.com/download/faith)

Aside the assumption that the soul is innately immortal and taking Rev 20:10 literally (which were fully addressed by us in Part A), the secondary argument of Team 2 premised on 1 Cor 15 is that since all are raised with a spiritual body then all must have been raised incorruptible with immortality. This part B to our previous article critically examines **‘what body the dead are raised with.’** A scriptural scrutiny of the highlights of what transpires from the onset of the resurrection till the end of the judgment is undertaken. We hope the investigation will help in resolving the matter.

1 Corinthians 15:35 *But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.*

Note verse 35 asks with what body are the dead raised up. After alluding to natural seeds that die and germinate into a new plant that would generate that kind, inspired Paul announces: ‘to every seed his own body.’ This indicates that dead humans will be raised with an appropriate body. From the beginning it has been ordained that every seed should reproduce and bring forth its own kind (Gen 1:28-29).

1 Corinthians 15: 40 *There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

Inspiration says in verses 42-44 that the dead shall be raised with a spiritual body **IN** incorruption, glory and power. This refers to God’s greatness displayed via the resurrection in bringing back a life which previously inhabited the physical body that decayed after it was buried in ignominy, gloom, and helplessness. God restores the person by His glorious power (Rm 1:4) **IN A STATE OF** non-decomposition, dignity and optimism. 1 Cor 15:45-47 notes Christ is the Lord from heaven, a life-giving spirit (2 Cor 3:17); our God who was manifest in the flesh to redeem man (Rm 9:5, 1 Tim 3:16). In 1 Cor 15:48-49 a distinction is made between they which are earthly (natural) and those who are heavenly (spiritual). It says just as we have borne the image of Adam so shall we surely in the future bear the image of the Lord from heaven. How and when will that happen? The first Adam or man naturally was made a little lower than the angels (Pls 8:5) which are greater in power and might (2 Pet 2:11). We know that Jesus is the first human to be directly raised by God (not by a divine messenger) from the dead [firstfruits] and this gives mankind assurance that all the dead will eventually be raised just as

Christ was (1 Cor 15:20-22). When Christ rose from the dead, he had a body that could vanish from human sight in one place (Lk 24:31) and reappear in rooms with closed doors at another town (Jn 20:19).

Luke 24:36 *And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? 42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took it, and did eat before them.*

The man Jesus when raised from the dead HAD FLESH AND BONES and was NOT A SPIRIT though he had a spiritual body. He could even eat human food! Evidently such spiritual body is what every dead human will be raised with to bear the image of the second Adam. That spiritual body of Jesus exhibited characteristics similar to that of angels -whose body can suddenly appear or vanish (Lk 1:11; 2:13), eat human food (Gen 19:1-3), ascend up to heaven (Judges 13:20), etc. Christ's body 'was seen of above five hundred brethren at once' (1 Cor 15:5-6). Jesus showed himself alive by many infallible proofs to the apostles for forty days after his resurrection and ascended into heaven (Acts 1:2-9). As our mediator and high priest, (He 9:12, 24) 'neither by the blood of goats and calves but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us... For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.' Thereafter, he was **glorified** (Lk 24:26) and sat (Heb 8:1) 'on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.' Not before but after he was glorified (Jn 7:39), Jesus sent forth the Holy Spirit to empower his apostles to preach his kingdom (Acts 2:32-33; 3:13). When he was revealed unto John, Christ's appearance is in **a glorious body that 'is alive for evermore'** (Rev 1:13-18), shining as he earlier appeared at the transfiguration (Mt 17:2, Lk 9:32).

That is why John wrote 'it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is' (1 Jn 3:2). Saints not sinners, received the seal of the Spirit (Eph 1:13-14) as an assurance that we will receive a body that can abide in the heavens eternally with life (2 Cor 5:1-5). The raising of saints from the dead is a resurrection unto life. We hope for that which we presently possess by faith (Tit 1:2). It is in the world to come that disciples receive eternal life (Mk 10:30) or fully lay hold on it (1 Tim 6:19) for this mortal to put on immortality. Saints who eventually inherit heaven will not do so as *flesh and blood* (1 Cor 15:50). Our saviour from heaven would have changed our body that it may be '**fashioned like unto his glorious body**' (Phil 3:20-21). After judgment we are the ones justified and **glorified** (Rm 8:30), not sinners. Indeed we shall be rewarded after judgment with '**glory and honour and immortality, eternal life**' (Rm 2:3-7). Paul summarizes what will happen unto only saints in 1 Cor 15:51-54 just as he did in another manner in 1 Thess 4:13-17. **In both narratives he wrote as if believers are instantaneously transported from the grave with immortality into heavenly bliss, skipped the judgment scene and was also silent about the fate of sinners.** However, we can fill in some details using other passages e.g. epistles and the gospel accounts. Paul's writing was subjective and abridged in 1 Cor 15 because he focused on establishing the validity of Christ's resurrection which typifies our own and he wanted to encourage brethren 'in Christ' to be unmovable in the Lord.

Inspired Paul could not have posited in 1 Cor 15 that sinners headed for hell will inherit incorruption, such would contradict many scriptures including what he authored in Gal 6:8. 'For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.' Paul herein identifies what sinners and saints will reap respectively at the end of this age after sowing via their works on earth. It is incontrovertible that he alludes to the reward that comes after resurrection and judgment. Sinners are raised unto damnation and will be condemned. They will be cast into hell having flesh and bones; the kind of spiritual body the raised Jesus wore (Lk 24:39) before he entered his glory. Fallen angels and all sinners will therefore be consumed in the spiritual lake of fire since God intends they be devoured therein. The wages of sin

is death not endless torture and the gift of eternal life is for the saved only (Rm 6:23). Even believers were warned about their conduct while on earth. Paul wrote by inspiration (Rm 8:13): “*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*” Since both sinners and saints experience natural death in this world, the apostle is clearly addressing the reward to be obtained in age to come for works done in this realm. He did not state that if you are wanton now, after judgment you will be tormented endlessly, rather he says you will die and not live. He earlier wrote (Rm 6:9) “*knowing that Christ being raised from the dead **dieth no more**; death hath no more dominion over him.*” Jesus made a similar statement concerning the saved (Lk 20:35-36) –“*But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: **Neither can they die any more**: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.*”

Die in these passages refer to separation of soul from the body not separation of one from God spiritually. The import is that only the saved will remain alive endlessly and not die again after the resurrection. The implication is that those who are not worthy of inheriting the next world will die again; such will not live forever. If a spiritual body without immortality (particularly one made of flesh and bones) is thrown into the spiritual lake of fire, it will surely be devoured. Not only a sinner’s raised body but also his soul shall be destroyed in hell (Mt 10:28). At the second death the soul will not be preserved since bodily resurrection will NOT take place any more. Thus Hades is also exterminated. It is unprofitable for a man to lose his own soul in the end even if he could gain the whole world now.

It is necessary that humans be raised with a spiritual body so they can stand before God in judgment (Rev 20:12) and live for none can behold him while in the natural body (Ex 33:20). Each must give account as man [having flesh & bones] for words spoken and works done in the flesh (Mt 12:36, 41) before a reward is pronounced and bestowed be it a crown of life or punishment. It is fitting that mankind be judged by One who took our form or was manifested in the flesh, even the Son of man who triumphed over sin, death and was glorified again (Jn 5:27, Acts 17:31, Mt 25:31-32).

The doctrine of eternal torment in hell is inconsistent with itself and with scripture so it is erroneous. Our entire position can be summarized with the following: ALLEGORY of the wine and the wineskin.

When the wineskin is too old, it cannot hold the new wine. The wineskin is ruined and bursts. You can store the wine by putting it in another temporary container till you get a new vessel designed for such function. Otherwise the wine will run aground, spoil and evaporate off! The destroyed wineskin will meanwhile rot away or decay never to function or be seen again. It becomes extinct. When you retrieve the wine from the temporary container, you store in a new container. An consideration process takes place. If you put preservatives and anti-evaporator in the wine and also make the new container non-degradable, unbreakable and fire-proof then it will remain perpetually. You will neither lose the wine nor worry about its container becoming unfit for use. If you however put that same old wine without additives into a new wineskin, with time you will lose both the wineskin and the wine forever if you are not ready to repeat the temporary storage process. That will even occur as soon as you keep the unpreserved wineskin/wine by the fireplace and not in a good environment.

Similarly, when the human body is too old, it develops ailments and die, the life essence bursts out when the soul/spirit departs. God keeps the soul in a temporary place called Hades. Meanwhile the body decays on earth and becomes extinct so the man can never again function in the land of the living. Later, God will get a new container or body for the soul at the resurrection. A judgment process takes place. For a saint, the soul now has eternal life as the divine gift and additive to preserve it in a new, glorious Christ-like body. Hence the man has immortality and shall now live forever in heaven. For a sinner, the same old soul without eternal life is put in a new, improved body lacking the divine nature. By not having eternal life in his soul and for lacking immortality in his corruptible body, this man is killed totally and loses his being at the second death when cast into fire. Both his soul and body are destroyed in hell. God won’t even resurrect the man again because Hades the temporary container was also destroyed. The sinner has come to an irrevocable end. It is an everlasting destruction not because it took infinite time to destroy him but because he has been wiped out forever.

OUR RESPONSES TO 12 QUESTIONS AND EXPANSION OF BIBLE PASSAGES, REQUESTED BY BRO. ASAOLU AND HIS DEBATE TEAM 1

KINDLY EXPAND:

PSALM 37:2 :

Our Response: Psalm 37:2 says **“For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb”**. This passage is irrelevant to our discussion. It refers to the wicked in the land of Canaan whom David said will be cut down like grass (i.e. they will die physically). Verse 3 confirms this conclusion with the comforting words for those who do good as they will dwell in the land-the land of Canaan of course. Verse 3 says **“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness”**. This has nothing to do with heaven or hell.

ISAIAH 33:14 :

Our Response: SAIAH 33:14 says **“The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: “Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?”** These questions are stating the danger of risking hell. This clearly buttresses our point that if people know that they will be thrown into an everlasting fire, they will be more cautious of sin than if told that they will be burnt to ashes. Remember many wicked people have been burnt to ashes in this life, what sorer punishment is it if they (new body and spirit) are only burnt to ashes again in hell over a few minutes?

ISAIAH 66:16-24:

Our Response: The passage is too long to quote here. However, this passage has nothing to do with the post resurrection situation. It is describing what the evil people in Jerusalem will face. The passage used some figurative terms to describe what they will face such as the worms does not die and the fire does not quench. The heavens and the earth will remain, there will still be seasons, one Sabbath to another. Etc. This has nothing to do with the post resurrection condition. This refers to the burning of physical human beings who will not survive the burning fire.

MALACHI 4:1-5:

Our Response: I do not see the relevant of this passage (Malachi 4:1-5) and what you intend me to expand in it. It refers the condition of Israel and what they will face due to their continued idolatry. It has nothing to do with the second coming of Christ. It may suit the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70 more. Since those who keep the Law of Moses and who listen to Prophet Elijah will escape that destruction.

JOHN 6:51:

Our Response: John 6:51 says **“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”** This is talking about eternal life for those who accept Christ. This eternal life is reversed for them in heaven. 1Peter 1:4

ROMANS 8:13:

Our Response: Rom.8:13 says **“For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live”**. Physical death is separation of the Spirit from the Body while Spiritual Death is the separation of the soul from God. Therefore the passage is saying that those who live according to the flesh will be separated from God just like the woman

who lives in pleasure is dead (separated from God) while she is alive physically. 1Tim.5:6. Note that when a sinner is said to be dead does not mean he has been annihilated. Again, that state of sinners' death is permanent unless the person repents or undergo the first resurrection (which is baptism). Rev.20:6

GALATIANS 6:8:

Our Response: Gal.6:8 says **“For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life”**. This is a very clear Bible passage. You either inherit shame (torture) with Satan in Hell or you inherit glory (eternal life/enjoyment) with Christ in heaven.

2PETER 2:12:

Our Response: 2Pet.2:12 says **“But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption”**. They will be destroyed or perish in their corruption. This clearly shows that the evil ones will languish or perish in hell. Spiritual things do not perish by annihilation but removing them from the glory and making them useless. Luke 15:17 **“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!’**. The prodigal son perish with hunger but was not annihilated.

LUKE 20:35-36:

Our Response: Luke 20:35-36 says **“But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection”**. In the resurrection, there will be no marriage or giving in marriage whether in you are heaven or hell. The resurrection from the dead here refers to the righteous ones because of the phrase “those who are counted worthy”. They will no longer die physically and by extension will not experience hell. However, the sinners will attain resurrection but will be have their lot in hell and there will also be no marriage there because no peace, no comfort in hell.

PHIL.3:11-15, 20-21:

Our Response: These passages are saying that the righteous have hope in heaven. Paul explained that he was pressing toward the goal for the upward calling. Verses 20-21 **“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself”**. This is more relevant to our discussion. For anyone to go to heaven he must be transformed to be able to fit into heaven. For anyone to be in hell he must be transformed to fit into hell. Both heaven and hell are not physical places for physical bodies. Physical bodies must be transformed to fit into any of them. This will happen in the resurrection. **“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body”**. 1Cor.15:42-44 . Resurrection is not only for the righteous but also for the unrighteous. The difference is that the righteous will inherit life in heaven and the wicked will inherit damnation in hell cf John 5:28-29 **“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation”**.

HEBREWS 10:27 :

Our Response: Heb.10:27 says **“but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries”**. The wicked will have no breathing space in hell. They will be overwhelmed with the fire. Even the temporary torment clearly indicates that it is not pleasurable. Luke 16:24 **“Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame”**. They will be completely submerged in the fire hence John called it “baptism”. Matt.3:11 **“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”**.

JAMES 5:20:

Our Response: Jam.5:20 says **“let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul[a] from death and cover a multitude of sins”**. The truth is that all these passages are saying almost the same thing. The only way to understand them is to know that spiritual death or killing, perishing, devouring, etc is different from physical death, devour, perish, etc. Hence when people perish physically, their souls live on either in torment or bliss. The torment will continue in hell while the bliss will continue in heaven. Rev.14:9-11 **“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” cf Col.1:4-5**

PLEASE ANSWER THESE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

1. WHICH BIBLE PASSAGE STATES THE SOUL OF MAN IS IMMORTAL?

Our Response: We do not establish scriptural authority only by direct command, we do infer also. If all mortal men who have died have their spirit still living then the spirit have survived mortality. Reasoning the word of God can be used to establish scriptural authority. We refer to it as Necessary inference. For example Peter quoted David's prophecy that "you will not leave my soul in Hades nor allow your Holy One to see corruption" (v27). He reasoned: (1) David said "my" soul, but he could not have meant himself since he did die (v29). "Therefore" (conclusion), the reference must have been to the Christ, David's descendant (v30). (2) And if he did not see corruption, then he must arise from the dead (v31). The same reasoning is used to clearly establish that soul does not die, therefore immortal. Note that we are not saying God cannot wipe it off but He has never demonstrated that at all anything time. There are two ways, two places or two destinies for man. You are either in hell or heaven. You either enjoy or suffer. This is the principle of this life. Those who suffer for Christ here as Christ suffered will enjoy with him in Heaven. Rom.8:17 **“and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together”**. Those who enjoy unduly and torment others in this life as Satan is doing will suffer with Satan in Hell. Matt.25:41; Rev.20:10 **“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where[a] the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever”**. CF verse 15 and Matt.25:41.

2. DO YOU DENY THAT UPON CONVERSION, THE SALVATION OF A BELIEVER HINGES UPON THE FACT THAT HIS SOUL IS PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE AND THAT IS THE CONDITION FOR ONE TO RECEIVE IMMORTAL BODY AT THE RESURRECTION?

Our Response: This question is ambiguous. You are asking about eternal life, immortality and resurrection at the same time. How? Resurrection is for all souls but not all soul will get eternal life. Some will get eternal punishment or second death which is hell. See my responses regarding each of these terms in the below answers. What you should know is that in the resurrection, there will be no physical death again. Only heaven for the saved and hell for the sinners will remain. Rev.21:8 ***“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*** Heb. 11:16 ***“But now they desire a better [country], that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city”.***

3. WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE THAT PRESENTLY ONLY GOD HAS IMMORTALITY AS STATED IN 1TIMOTHY 6:16?

Our Response: I believe. However, God has made man in His image which is his spirit. The mortal earthy body is not the image of God. This part of man continues to exist after death. It has never been annihilated before since man has been dying and returning to the dust and it will never be annihilated. Does this not teach you that the spirit is quite different from the body? It can survive after mortality occurs. What language do you use to describe that part of man that does not die or that which continues to exist after mortal man is dead? The reason is that the Spirit emanates from God. It is not made to die but to continue to exist. This does not mean eternal life. The wicked in torment in hades since they died physically are not enjoying eternal life but are suffering in torment. Luke 16:23-25.

4. HOW CAN SUPPOSELY INCORRUPTIBLE SINNERS FEEL PAIN AND DECOMPOSED OR HAVE WORMS IN HELL?

Our Response: The sinners, hell, decompose or worms are all spiritual. Nothing physical will be in hell. The soul of the Rich man of Luke 16:23-25 was feeling pains in hades. That is exactly how they will feel pains in Hell or have you not read that those in Hell will see the saved while in torment? Now read this ***“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out”.*** Luke 13:28.

5. IS THE SMOKE OF EDOM LITERALLY ASCENDING FOREVER OR WAS GOD TALKING OF ITS DESTRUCTION AS A MEMORIAL?

Our Response: Which smoke of Edom are you referring to? You supposed to provide the referenced Bible passage. I did not see any smoke of Edom in the Bible.

6. IF DEATH IS MERE SEPARATION FROM GOD WHY DID HE PREVENT ADAM FROM EATING THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF LIFE? It is Not all deaths that are separation from God. You need to understand this clearly. Physical death is separation of the spirit from the body. James 2:26. However, spiritual death is separation from God. 1Tim.5:6. God prevented Adam from eating the fruit of the tree of life because “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” — Gen.3: 22. God does not want man to live on earth for ever with sinful body. Note that all this conversation relates to the physical man which must die and go to the dust. The spirit is immortal hence he continues to live on whether in Abraham’s bosom or in torment.

7. DOES SYMBOLIC REVELATION 20 OVERRIDE PLAIN PASSAGES IN OTHER SCRIPTURES?

Our Response: No. They comment each other. But you explained away plain Bible passages which show that the punishment will be everlasting. Matt.25:41, 46. When it comes to everlasting life, you explain that it is life without end but everlasting punishment you explained that it is punishment that it is momentary punishment and annihilation. John 3:16.

This is inconsistency. If the life will not end because it is eternal, the punishment will not end because it is everlasting. If the soul that sinned since Adam are in temporary torment in hades till date, then Hell will definitely be longer than 6000 years, in fact it is eternity? Luke 16:23,25. You need to accept these facts for once.

8. IS LUKE 12:4-5 SAYING THAT GOD CAN BUT HE WILL NOT CAST INTO HELL SINCE YOU CLAIM MATTHEW 10:28 IS SAYING GOD CAN BUT HE WILL NOT DESTROY?

Our Response: Luke 12:4-5 *“And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”*. This passage did not say God will cast into hell. Christ is only telling them He has power to cast into hell. If there is no other passage that says sinners will be cast into hell, we cannot conclude that Christ will cast sinners into hell per this Bible passage. Now the question comes to you. Are you saying God will raise Children to worship him from the stones because John the Baptizer said *“...For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones”*? Matt.3:9. Matt.10:28 never says God will kill any soul in hell but can which is not mandatory.

9. IN THE CONTEXT OF GENESIS 7:21-23, MARK 2:4 AND LUKE 6:9 DOES DESTROY LIFE ON EARTH MEAN TO KILL?

Our Response: *Gen.7:21 “And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit[a] of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive”*. Luke 6:9 *“Then Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?”* They mean to kill because they relate to physical death which involves separating the spirit from the physical body which get decayed. This is NOT the same with destroying the spirit which amounts to separation. The spirit or soul of man is not like that of animals that get extinct. It is eternal hence no matter God’s anger against man all through the history of the world, the soul still exists. If the soul is mortal why is it that man cannot kill it? Obviously, soul has never being mortal, it lives on. No Bible passages says it shall be extinct but subject to impairment or state of ruin or destroy or torment or punish. Eccl.3:11 *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end”*. According to Wayne Jackson, if you try to substitute death with Annihilation in the book of Revelation, what you will have is an absurdity viz: “the second annihilation.” It means the first death was an annihilation. Impossible. It is termed second death because it is the final separation from God of the soul of man. (Mt. 25:41, 46; Rev. 14:9-11; 20:10).

10. IF BODY IS LITERALLY DESTROYED AT EARTHLY DEATH WHY SHOULD DESTROY NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING WHEN BOTH SOUL AND BODY ARE DESTROYED BY CONSUMING FIRE IN HELL?

Our Response: It cannot be the same meaning. Spirit and physical body are not the same. Body is physical, spirit is spiritual. When the man was destroyed (i.e. died) we still see him until he get rottened but the spirit does not get rotten. Hence, when people were destroyed in Noah’s time, their spirits were not destroyed. They went to God for abode in hades. Eccl.12:7 *“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was. And the spirit will return to God who gave it”*. This is exactly what physical death means. CF James 2:26 *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”*. What will rotten in spiritual

death and what will go to God? Our problem with team 1 is that they make spiritual things equals physical things and they want them to be treated the same way. Hell is the place for the torment of the evil people. Spiritual death is separation from God. When you sin, you are dead spiritually. It is never annihilation. The consequence of your sin is permanent separation from God in an endless torment in hell. ***“But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented’”. Luke 16:25.*** This is the nature of the hell and heaven.

11. IF SATAN IS NOT ULTIMATELY DESTROYED AS FORTOLD IN HEBREW 2:14 WILL THAT NOT MAKE SIN, PAIN AND EVIL TO EXIST FOREVER AS THE OCCUPANTS OF HELL WAIL AND SUFFER ENDLESSLY?

Our Response: Heb.2:14 *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil”.* How? Who will commit the sin and evil and against who? How can people incapacitated and confined to torment in hell operate? Those evil people in torment in hades today, are they able to perpetrate evil or sin in hades? However, since it is punishment, they will continue to suffer pain in hell. Matt.13: 49-50 ***“So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”*** What will makes them to wail and gnash their teeth? It is pains. Since you believe that man will be burnt in hell, what will make them to die if they will not feel pain? By this your question, you are even advocating that man will not feel pains in hell when they will be burnt to ashes according to you.

12. YOU ASSERT THAT SEPARATION IN HELL IS ETERNAL DEATH, ARE YOU NOT CONTRADICTING INSPIRATION WHICH STATES THAT DEATH IS THE LAST ENEMY TO BE DESTROYED AND THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH?

Our Response: No, never. Death is the last enemy. Enemy of who? Man. Will man die again at resurrection? No. Note that the death being discussed in that passage is physical death clearly stated in 1Corinthians 15:55 ***“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”.*** Are you saying this is the second death? The second death is not for physical bodies but for spiritual. Revelation shows that both the wicked, death and hades will be cast into hell (which is the second death). Rev.20:14-15 ***“Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire”.*** Here it is clear as confirmed in 1Cor.15:55 that physical death will be no more but hell will continue, hell itself is the second death. Note that spiritual death is separation from God. It is never annihilation. ***“Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”*** Gen.4:13-14 (NIV). Cain was still alive but spiritually dead as he was driven away from the presence of the Lord (or separated from God).

OUR QUESTIONS:

1. “Why did God make hell of fire eternal, when it accomplishes the punishment of the wicked in burning up their bodies and soul instantly?”
2. What do you believe, the fire is eternal or the smoke is eternal, which is the evidence of the destruction of the evil? Rev.14:11

3. Was Cain's punishment for a moment or it actually means continuous punishment?
Gen.14:11-13?
4. In what way is Hell the opposite of Heaven or are they not?
5. If man is completely mortal, why is it that the soul continues to survive after mortality has taken place?
6. How long will the wicked be burnt in hell, if it is temporary?
7. Can you explain why God will waste his time to give a spiritual body to the soul of the sinners and be burnt to ashes in hell instead of burning them along with the earth in the great inferno of 2Pet.3:7-10?
8. Will God change the bodies of living wicked people at his second? Why and to what body?
9. If Satan and the wicked will not suffer in hell for ever and ever, what is then their punishment more than a righteous man burnt to ashes on this earth?

You may decide to provide answers or leave the above questions unanswered.

Warning: No one is permitted to delete or add anything to this document. You are however free to share it. Elijahprof16092017

A 3rd and follow up to the Religious Debate held at Church of Christ,
Ohikere-Apapa Lagos, Nigeria on Sat. May 13, 2017

THEME: IS IMMORTALITY CONDITIONAL

Olumuyiwa *Asaolu* on behalf of Team 1 (Sept 24, 2017)

(Whole Exchanges available for download from www.lainosint.com/download/faith)

This article has two Sections. The first Section is a review of the release by Team 2 dated 16/09/2017 wherein they attempt to address some pending passages and questions. The second Section is a recap of the discussion with additional scriptural material to buttress our affirmation. As in our previous Article 2B, we will NOT pose new questions for Team 2 in this lesson. Any query raised by us will be duly answered by us!

Section A

Bible exposition is not merely a repeat of the words in a passage but involves at a minimum, a contextual examination of the text to ascertain the facts it expressly states as well as what it implies. One may reference supporting/identical verses. It is not a license for one to expand a passage by reading into it so as to suppress or obscure its truthful connotations. We will briefly examine the textual analysis of the listed passages by Team 2.

Team 2 wrote that Psalm 37:2 'is irrelevant to our discussion.' You were requested to expound **Psalm 37:20**.

12 *The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.*

13 *The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.*

14 *The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.*

15 *Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.*

16 *A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.*

17 *For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.*

18 *The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.*

19 *They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.*

20 *But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.*

As at the time David wrote this Psalm the Israelites had possessed the land of Canaan. He was simply contrasting sinners with the righteous universally. (Interesting how he used the phrase '*gnasheth upon him with his teeth.*') He alluded to a day of the Lord to recompense both, of how the wicked will fail and undo themselves, with the upright assured of no shame but an **eternal** inheritance. He declared that the wicked shall perish and **the enemies of the Lord shall be burnt up** with ascension of their smoke. Since every sinner does not die in that manner on earth (but will in hellfire) and every saint does not literally inherit this earth (but has an inheritance in heaven), **it follows that this passage has something to do with heaven and hell**. It is not limited to happenings in Canaan as per its introductory verses but foretells the ultimate fate of mankind.

ISAIAH 33:14 - *The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"*

Team 2 asks 'Remember many wicked people have been burnt to ashes in this life, what sorer punishment is it if they (new body and spirit) are only burnt to ashes again in hell over a few minutes?'

The sorer punishment is that while burning on earth only eliminated them from this realm and destroyed or annihilated their physical body, being devoured in hell fire will end their existence and annihilate both their soul and new body. The sinners asked rhetorical questions to which the answer is '**Nobody**' not 'few sinners' or 'some sinners' or 'all sinners.' It is like the rhetorical questions in Matthew 16:25-26 - '*what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*' We earlier explained the answer is "Nothing" because it is not discussing losing the soul in this world which he has gained. It is about losing his life in the next age and not keeping it eternally -John 12:25.

ISAIAH 66:16 *For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.*

17 They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.

18 For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.

19 And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

20 And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

21 And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD.

22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

You purport to analyze a passage in a written debate (without page restrictions) and claim that the text is too long to quote. Since we insisted you should expound it, it was needful that you copy and paste same for the benefit of casual readers. We stated (Pg 46 of our initial Slides) that to those of Isaiah's day the prophetic utterance under consideration fitted the divine destruction of the Assyrian army which encamped around them.

The passage could have something to do with the post resurrection situation because:

(a) Christ and Paul taught that the Lord will come in flaming fire to slay his enemies with his word / sword – Luke 19:27, 2 Thess 1:8-2:8

(b) Jesus repeatedly described Hell as where 'their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched' – Mk 9:44-48.

(c) Peter and John both mention that 'new heavens and new earth' would be made after the present universe pass away -2 Pet 3:13, Rev 21:1.

Thus the prophet Isaiah passage isn't merely about what the people in Jerusalem will face but a prophetic allusion to how God ultimately destroys all his enemies and preserves the righteous. Phrases from the passage are **quoted** by Jesus and his apostles to teach the church about the end of this age.

MALACHI 4:1 *For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD

You claim not to see the relevance of this passage 'as it may suit the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70 more.' We believe that periodic divine retribution, such as the carnages upon Israel wrought by the Romans before and after Christ's earthly ministry are alluded to. Also, the opening verse envisages the day of the Lord in which the elements shall be burnt up and ALL the wicked are consumed in the lake of fire.

JOHN 6:51 *I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.*

We are neither disputing that 'this is talking about eternal life for those who accept Christ' nor contesting whether 'eternal life is reversed for them in heaven.' **The issue under debate is what the passage implies for those who reject Christ!** Contextually, Christ had just told His audience that their ancestors ate manna in the wilderness and are dead. The referenced verse to them imply that whoever partake of [receives] Jesus will forever live in bodily form & spiritually while he who rejects Him will not.

ROMANS 8:13 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

The context of the verse is that the Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead hence saints should be righteous. Whosoever lives in the flesh will eventually die in all respects whether physically or spiritually for the wages of sin is death (Rm 6:23). Hence each saint is to put to death 'the works of the flesh.' You WILL... live/die, in the referenced passage is futuristic and connotes living for ever and perishing respectively. Given that naturally each person would die physically and is warned against carnal or sinful living, and since sinners could be raised from spiritual death via repentance, it follows Paul is warning about a future death from which unrepentant persons **will NOT live** and a future life from which the righteous **will not die**.

GALATIANS 6:8: *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

Team 2 wrote 'This is a very clear Bible passage. You either inherit shame (torture) with Satan in Hell or you inherit glory (eternal life/enjoyment) with Christ in heaven.'

They must have forgotten how they interpret 'corruption, incorruption, incorruptible, etc.' in 1 Cor 15. **The referenced text contains NOTHING about inheriting 'shame (torture) with Satan in Hell.'** Rather it says carnal ones shall **reap corruption** while spiritual ones will reap life eternal, expectedly at harvest time or commencement of the age to come. It is about the body and the spirit, sowing and reaping; there is no basis for anyone to read or inject 'torture' into the passage for it's a different word from **corruption**. Recall the preceding verse states: 'Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.' The scripture which say that sinners will awake to 'shame and everlasting contempt' is Dan 12:1-3. It refers to their personal disgrace/dishonor and to the disgust with which they are held by the righteous. As Isaiah noted 'they will be an abhorrence to all mankind.'

2 PETER 2:12 *But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption.*

You persist in conflating various meanings of perish/destroy by citing the prodigal son again. When he said 'I perish with hunger,' he meant 'I am dying with hunger or hunger is killing me.' He would have subsequently, literally died to be destroyed from this world had he not come to himself and returned home. When natural beasts are caught and destroyed they are not removed from glory and kept alive useless rather they are removed from existence. God is neither making senseless comparisons nor using wrong words to indicate what will happen to spiritual rebels - **utterly perish** means total destruction; annihilation of body and soul.

LUKE 20:35-36 *But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.*

You are right the text affirms those worthy (of the next age) will not engage in marriage nor die anymore. It indicates those not worthy of attaining the next age can die again thus for such marriage cannot arise as they will be prevented from attaining or abiding in that age! Your statement positing that sinners will 'have their lot in hell and there will also be no marriage there because no peace, no comfort in hell' is an extrapolation.

PHIL.3:11 *If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

You were repeatedly beseeched to explain what Paul really meant by ‘if I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead’ and **whether sinners too will have their bodies transformed to be as Christ’s glorious body. You should have recalled that.** We do submit the apostle means if he might be ‘counted worthy to attain that age.’ We showed in our Article 2B that though every resurrected human will get a body such as the one Jesus arose with, after judgment only the saints will be glorified with immortality, shining as the transfigured / risen Lord.

HEBREWS 10:27 *But a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.*

Again you detoured from the text. The context (vs 24-31) is judgment; verse 27 mentions God’s wrath and fire to **devour** the enemies. The word used is **devour** which means consume, gulp down, dispose of, etc. It doesn’t refer to ‘torment... with no breathing space.’ God never promised to devour or destroy man in Hades so your reference to Lk 16:24 is unwarranted. You cited Mt 3:11 but should have proceeded to verse 12 to see what **devour** is synonymous with - ‘*Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will **burn up** the chaff with unquenchable fire.*’ Just as the intent is to annihilate the chaff so also is it to exterminate the adversaries. God would have inspired terminologies such as ‘to burn the enemy without consumption as the bush seen by Moses’ if he intends to put the wicked in **non-devouring** fire!

JAMES 5:20 *Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

Team 2 wrote: “The only way to understand them is to know that spiritual death or killing, perishing, devouring, etc is different from physical death, devour, perish, etc. Hence when people perish physically, their souls live on either in torment or bliss. The torment will continue in hell while the bliss will continue in heaven. Rev.14:9-11”

How convenient for your position to assert that a word do not retain its ordinary meaning when it applies to spiritual beings or concepts. You want to arbitrarily decide what it means in any context! The passage in question affirms that a sinner’s soul will die but could be saved upon conversion from his erroneous way. To **live** or ‘**save from death**’ is the issue (as in Ezekiel 18:20-24) not where a living person stays or whether the condition there is blissful. Our textual analysis of Rev 14:9-12 in our initial Slides 40-42 is yet to be refuted.

Below we analyze the answers that Team 2 has finally given to some of our pending questions. **Our reply shall be as <Note: coloured text> within their given response.**

1. WHICH BIBLE PASSAGE STATES THE SOUL OF MAN IS IMMORTAL?

Our Response: We do not establish scriptural authority only by direct command, we do infer also. If all mortal men who have died have their spirit still living then the spirit have survived mortality. Reasoning the word of God can be used to establish scriptural authority. We refer to it as Necessary inference.

<Note: Direct Statements are preferred but Necessary Inference is also an acceptable method for establishing authority. Its veracity is not under dispute. It is your faulty application of it that is alarming. The sinner's spirit survives the earth but that is no guarantee it will forever escape death in light of some passages. Mt 10:28 says God can kill/destroy the spirit/soul in Hell and Phil 3:19 says the sinner's END is destruction. These shall surely be fulfilled in the age to come and not in this world or in Hades. We expect the full realization of Psalms 145:20 *'The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy'*.>

For example Peter quoted David's prophecy that "you will not leave my soul in Hades nor allow your Holy One to see corruption" (v27). He reasoned: (1) David said "my" soul, but he could not have meant himself since he did die (v29). "Therefore" (conclusion), the reference must have been to the Christ, David's descendant (v30). (2) And if he did not see corruption, then he must arise from the dead (v31).

<Note: That was a Messianic Psalm in which the speaker was expressing the mind of the Christ. David therein identified the messiah as 'your Holy One.' He also knew himself would be gathered to his ancestors and unto Bathsheba's baby that died at infancy; not to return to this world. Thus Jesus' soul would not be left in Hades THOUGH He would die but the body would not decompose. Interestingly, your example shows that corruption means 'decay, inglorious dilapidation/disintegration, adulteration/denigration, etc,' NOT 'torture' as you asserted over Gal 6:8.>

The same reasoning is used to clearly establish that soul does not die, therefore immortal. Note that we are not saying God cannot wipe it off but He has never demonstrated that at all anything time.

<Note: You just made an assertion and did not establish anything! **Please read the question AGAIN. We cannot see any passage cited from which you purportedly infer that the soul is immortal. It is outright impossible for you to produce a verse or verses from which one can infer what you aver about the soul.**>

There are two ways, two places or two destinies for man. You are either in hell or heaven. You either enjoy or suffer. This is the principle of this life. Those who suffer for Christ here as Christ suffered will enjoy with him in Heaven. Rom.8:17 *"and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together"*. Those who enjoy unduly and torment others in this life as Satan is doing will suffer with Satan in Hell. Matt.25:41; Rev.20:10 *"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where[a] the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever"*. CF verse 15 and Matt.25:41.

<Note: Stay on the immediate subject please. We requested a passage on professed immortality of the soul. The passages you just cited have been extensively analyzed by us previously, especially Rev 20:10 on Pg 43-44 of initial Slides and in point 6, Pg 2 of our follow up Article 2, we showed it is figurative and not about men.>

2. DO YOU DENY THAT UPON CONVERSION, THE SALVATION OF A BELIEVER HINGES UPON THE FACT THAT HIS SOUL IS PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE AND THAT IS THE CONDITION FOR ONE TO RECEIVE IMMORTAL BODY AT THE RESURRECTION?

Our Response: This question is ambiguous. You are asking about eternal life, immortality and resurrection at the same time. How?

<Note: This is a discourse on eschatology and our Team deems the concepts to be germane so it is proper for you to explain each and to state whether or not these are related.>

Resurrection is for all souls but not all soul will get eternal life. Some will get eternal punishment or second death which is hell. See my responses regarding each of these terms in the below answers. What you should know is that in the resurrection, there will be no physical death again. Only heaven for the saved and hell for the sinners will remain. Rev.21:8 *"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which*

is the second death.” Heb. 11:16 “But now they desire a better [country], that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city”.

<Note: We expected you to deny or agree with our statement and then explain your answer. You addressed this inconsistently by positing those who do not obtain eternal life will remain in Hell. If every soul already has endless life as you posit then Christ won't promise man eternal **life**, at best He could offer only **enjoyment**.>

3. WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE THAT PRESENTLY ONLY GOD HAS IMMORTALITY AS STATED IN 1TIMOTHY 6:16?

Our Response: I believe. However, God has made man in His image which is his spirit.

<Note: You always claim to believe and always prevaricate with 'However, But...' What you imply above is that **“I won't openly deny 1 Tim 6:16 though I believe that the spirit/soul of man also has immortality, it is NOT only God who has immortality.”** You earlier wrote on different occasions: 'Since Satan, the fallen angels and the wicked people will be thrown into the same place clearly indicates both will have spiritual bodies and immortal... Satan, his angels and evil people are going to exist everlastingly. ... Your conclusion means it is only God that is eternal therefore the angels, the soul of man and Satan are mortal. Please show evidence.'

You have repeatedly asserted that Satan is immortal and eternal so everyone has seen you do NOT really believe that only God has immortality. The question was for you to tell us why you don't believe. We put it to you, the reason you do not believe 1 Tim 6:16 is because that truth utterly destroys your assumption about the human soul; it damages your doctrine of eternal torment.

You now posit that God's image is man's spirit. Previously in point 20 and last Pg of your first follow up Article you asked 'If the Soul is not the image of God, then tell us the image of God?' In the last section of Pg 15 of our Article 2, we highlighted what constitutes '*the image and likeness of God*' in man and showed that an image is NOT exactly the source. While you oscillate between spirit and soul of man as the image of God, we hold that it is more than both and is actually in a different sense. Consider the following passages, obviously neither 'spirit nor soul' is a synonym or equivalent of 'image/likeness' in any of them.

Genesis 1:26 *And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So **God created man in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Genesis 5:1 *This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him ...:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and **begat a son in his own likeness, after his image;** and called his name Seth:*

Revelation 13:14 *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15 And he had power to **give life unto the image of the beast**, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

These passages teach that something (an image) was brought forth 'to represent, to look like and to endeavor to practically behave as' another being (a source). **The verses neither state nor imply that:**

i God created man in his own spirit/soul. (Indeed, He is the father of spirits including angels which are not made in his image)

ii Seth was a spirit/soul of Adam (Identical to his father/Adam but Cain & Abel were not so described)

iii The image of the beast given life by the false prophet is a non-living spirit/soul or the actual spirit/soul of the beast. (Indeed this image at different eras may refer to diverse things –animate, technological, political, etc.)>

The mortal earthy body is not the image of God. This part of man continues to exist after death. It has never been annihilated before since man has been dying and returning to the dust and it will never be annihilated. Does this not teach you that the spirit is quite different from the body? It can survive after mortality occurs.

<Note: Your claim that the spirit will never be annihilated is false. While it survives earthly death and Hades reservation, the spirit needs to be saved by Christ (1 Cor 5:5) else it will be destroyed in Hell alongside the new body (Mt 10:28). When God destroyed the wicked of Noah's **material era** with flood, only 8 souls were saved. That means only 8 persons were physically preserved, the rest were wiped off from the earth. When He destroys such in the next **spiritual era** after judgment, only the righteous will be preserved, the rest will be wiped off.>

What language do you use to describe that part of man that does not die or that which continues to exist after mortal man is dead? The reason is that the Spirit emanates from God. It is not made to die but to continue to exist. This does not mean eternal life.

<Note: The language is '**long lasting**' not '**everlasting**.' The soul of man can die and the sinner's soul is scheduled to die after judgment, not before. It would eventually even if Christ tarries for another million years, the saint will live on because the Spirit of God quickens him. Just listen to your **contradictory-self**. You posit that the spirit of man 'is not made to die' and also dare assert 'this does not mean eternal life.'>

The wicked in torment in hades since they died physically are not enjoying eternal life but are suffering in torment. Luke 16:23-25.

<Note: Hades is terminal not eternal so no one can exist therein forever. Your over-reliance on Lk 16 is futile.>

4. HOW CAN SUPPOSELY INCORRUPTIBLE SINNERS FEEL PAIN AND DECOMPOSE OR HAVE WORMS IN HELL?

Our Response: The sinners, hell, decompose or worms are all spiritual. Nothing physical will be in hell. The soul of the Rich man of Luke 16:23-25 was feeling pains in hades.

<Note: We have not stated that the next age will be physical. We asked that you clarify your position that (spiritual bodies of) sinners feel pain and decompose into (spiritual) worm. Recall that while Bro. Elijah posits that raised sinners are incorruptible, Bro. Oji stressed their decaying in Hell during his Slides Pg 5 presentation. **We just want to be enlightened how possible it is for a spiritual body that is incorruptible to decompose!**>

That is exactly how they will feel pains in Hell or have you not read that those in Hell will see the saved while in torment? Now read this *"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out"*. Luke 13:28.

<Note: You just read your assumptions into the text again. Those rejected Israelites will see, their patriarchs and prophets in the kingdom **when they are** (while being) **thrust out of same**. Not endlessly keep seeing those saints forever from inside Hell. They must be in before they are cast out. Thus they see at the point of separation of the sheep from the goat not from within the lake of fire where they are consumed. We earlier showed (in initial Slides Pg 47-49) that '*weeping and gnashing of teeth*' implies 'fury/grief' and you have not refuted it.>

5. IS THE SMOKE OF EDOM LITERALLY ASCENDING FOREVER OR WAS GOD TALKING OF ITS DESTRUCTION AS A MEMORIAL?

Our Response: Which smoke of Edom are you referring to? You supposed to provide the referenced Bible passage. I did not see any smoke of Edom in the Bible.

<Note: If you had carefully read our Articles or followed our arguments, you would know we are referring to **Isaiah 34:9-10** first mentioned in our Slide Pg 42. (Verse 5 identifies it as Edom/Idumea)>

6. IF DEATH IS MERE SEPARATION FROM GOD WHY DID HE PREVENT ADAM FROM EATING THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF LIFE?

It is Not all deaths that are separation from God. You need to understand this clearly.

<Note: Your Team suggested so by only emphasizing that Adam died on the day he ate the forbidden fruit as if he did not die physically afterwards, and by positing that separation from God in Hell is the entirety of the second death as if man is not also separated from God while on earth or in Hades! >

Physical death is separation of the spirit from the body. James 2:26. However, spiritual death is separation from God. 1Tim.5:6. God prevented Adam from eating the fruit of the tree of life because “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— Gen.3: 22. God does not want man to live on earth for ever with sinful body.

<Note: Neither does God want man to live forever with a sinful soul and new body anywhere. Recall Christ says it is those who accept Him that shall live forever (Jn 3:16; 6:51). If sinners retain their unregenerate minds they will remain at enmity with God even in Hell and thus sin in their new spiritual bodies just as any fallen angel presently sin in its spiritual body. Out of the mind proceed evil thoughts, blasphemies, etc. Sinful man was not allowed to live forever on earth or to abide forever in Hades and will not be allowed to live forever in Hell. The wages of sin is death in all ramifications; sinners will be destroyed body and soul or annihilated.>

Note that all this conversation relates to the physical man which must die and go to the dust. The spirit is immortal hence he continues to live on whether in Abraham’s bosom or in torment.

<Note: We consider man in any and every existential mode. Your assertion that the spirit is immortal is still not backed with a single scripture. That it has not died yet does not mean it cannot die, several passages says the soul of a sinner will die. God alone is *the immortal and eternal One*. Team 2 does not accept this Biblical truth presented in our Slides Pg 6, Pg 12 of our Article 2 (we stated the time lags between deaths on Pg 5 of same.)>

7. DOES SYMBOLIC REVELATION 20 OVERRIDE PLAIN PASSAGES IN OTHER SCRIPTURES?

Our Response: No. They comment each other. But you explained away plain Bible passages which show that the punishment will be everlasting. Matt.25:41, 46.

<Note: We NEVER disputed that the punishment will be everlasting! We actually affirm it over and over. We teach that the *punishment* is *destruction* and it is everlasting because it is once-for-all and irrevocable. You however claim that it is *punishing*; namely *endless torture* by taking Rev 20 literally.

Matthew 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*

46 *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

We have repeatedly pointed out that it is the fire that is everlasting not the garbage thrown into it, Hell has been burning since creation and though empty of creatures now will equally be again after it consumes the wicked on the day of judgment.>

When it comes to everlasting life, you explain that it is life without end but everlasting punishment you explained that it is punishment that it is momentary punishment and annihilation. John 3:16. This is inconsistency. If the life will not end because it is eternal, the punishment will not end because it is everlasting.

<Note: Kindly re-study then try to refute our explanation in point 10, Pg 11 of our Article 2 where we distinguished between eternal attributes and actions.>

If the soul that sinned since Adam are in temporary torment in hades till date, then Hell will definitely be longer than 6000 years, in fact it is eternity? Luke 16:23,25. You need to accept these facts for once.

<Note: Hell is for eternity since the Bible says it is everlasting fire that is not quenched. The soul however is not described as such in scripture, we are expressly informed it will be destroyed.>

8. IS LUKE 12:4-5 SAYING THAT GOD CAN BUT HE WILL NOT CAST INTO HELL SINCE YOU CLAIM MATTHEW 10:28 IS SAYING GOD CAN BUT HE WILL NOT DESTROY?

Our Response: Luke 12:4-5 “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”. This passage did not say God will cast into hell. Christ is only telling them He has power to cast into hell. If there is no other passage that says sinners will be cast into hell, we cannot conclude that Christ will cast sinners into hell per this Bible passage.

<Note: Christ's warning in Lk 12:4-5 is void if God would not exceed man by actually casting into Hell. Psalms 9:17 & Mt 5:29-30 teach that the wicked will be cast into Hell. Mt 10:28 says God can destroy both the soul and body in Hell. 2 Thess 1:8-9 says they will undergo destruction in flaming fire. A necessary inference from these complementary passages is that God will cast the wicked into the fire of Hell and utterly destroy them in it.>

Now the question comes to you. Are you saying God will raise Children to worship him from the stones because John the Baptizer said "...*For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones*"? Matt.3:9. Matt.10:28 never says God will kill any soul in hell but can which is not mandatory.

<Note: We answered that before thus: "God once turned dust into man in Eden, dry bones into armies in Ezekiel's vision and Gentiles into Abraham's children!">

Furthermore, it is plausible John the Baptist was referring to by-standing foreigners/sinners not literal stones when he mentioned "**these stones**" in Mt 3:9. After all, he addressed human beings -the Pharisees and Sadducees as "**O generation of vipers**" in verse 7. All saints irrespective of their nationality and sinful past are scripturally termed 'lively stones' while Jesus is the chief cornerstone. This implies sinners are figuratively stones. What John means is that the ones who pretend to be religious should repent and change their stony hearts as foretold in Eze 11:14-21. His warning was not void for God did raise up children unto Abraham from amongst those castigated as unrighteous/Gentiles -Rm 9:24-26, Gal 3:27-29. Jesus also told the religious leaders: "...*the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you ...many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*" (Mt 21:3; 8:11) God did tell us in several passages that He will destroy the wicked (Psalms 145:20, Phil 3:19, 2 Thess 2:8) but He has not told us that he will turn actual stones into humans. If you continue to harp on literalism for Mt 3:9 then you should teach that lawbreakers literally turn their own hearts into stone (Zech 7:12). [Note that 'as' was inserted before stone by translators in KJV for the last reference, check other literal translations.]>

9. IN THE CONTEXT OF GENESIS 7:21-23, MARK 3:4 AND LUKE 6:9 DOES DESTROY LIFE ON EARTH MEAN TO KILL?

Our Response: Gen.7:21 "And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit[a] of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive". Luke 6:9 "Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?"

They mean to kill because they relate to physical death which involves separating the spirit from the physical body which get decayed.

<Note: Great! So you admit that 'destroy' could mean 'to kill' and the body could decay and be annihilated. It is a significant progress in our discourse. You omitted the last reference so I will provide it.

Mark 3:4 "And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.">

This is NOT the same with destroying the spirit which amounts to separation.

<Note: You just made an assertion based on assumption. You did NOT provide any passage to show that '**destroying** the spirit' is 'separation.'>

The spirit or soul of man is not like that of animals that get extinct. It is eternal hence no matter God's anger against man all through the history of the world, the soul still exists. If the soul is mortal why is it that man cannot kill it?

<Note: That man can not kill a human spirit does not make it immortal. **God is the only one who can kill/destroy it and he has appointed the Day of Judgment for that, it will be done in Hell. You can't stampede Him to do it now in order to convince you!**>

Obviously, soul has never being mortal, it lives on. No Bible passages says it shall be extinct but subject to impairment or state of ruin or destroy or torment or punish.

<Note: God has not made anything which he cannot destroy. When James 4:12 teaches Jesus *'is able to save and to destroy,'* it means He can save the spirit (1 Cor 5:5), save the soul (Jms 1:21), redeem the body (Rm 8:23) and any portion/person not saved will not be preserved.

We previously advised that you consult dictionaries/lexicons for the meaning of **destroy**. It was shown on Pg 1 of our first follow up Article that in English (Right Click in your word processor) **its synonyms are:** 'Obliterate, Wipe out, **Annihilate**, Demolish, Devastate, Tear down, Raze.' On Pg 3 of our second follow up Article 2, **we presented the various meanings of several root Greek words.** [At the Debate we established that even grammatically, when destroy is used as metaphor it implies a potential ruin which ultimately proceeds to an irreversible loss wherein the entity does not retain its composition and/or functionality. E.g. the car was destroyed in an accident or his career in the company was destroyed by the sack letter. If the car was damaged and repairable it wasn't really destroyed, and if he didn't lose his job then the career thereat wasn't really destroyed, subsequently getting re-employed there after a sack would connote his career there was revived or resurrected. We also explained how you could destroy a brother by your eating meat in Article 2.]>

Eccl.3:11 "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end".

<Note: You didn't indicate why you cited this verse. I understand it teaches that things made by God are beautiful according to His purpose/timing; His work causes man to **think of eternity** and seek after Him though humans cannot of their own discover His ways completely. It would be preposterous for anyone to assume the passage is literally saying that **'time without end'** has been put and confined inside the biological hearts of men. (The text is NOT discussing endless life but indicates that creatures dwell in time that has a beginning and an end.) In this dispensation, **God has put His laws into our hearts** (Heb 10:16). That is not to assume He actually dumped His precepts directly into our individual hearts rather it means His word dwells in us by faith once we receive it and meditate thereon in our minds (Col 3:16). That the LORD put something in human hearts is not a guarantee that it will endlessly be retained; the recipients must diligently keep it -Lk 8:5-15, Heb 12:5>

According to Wayne Jackson, if you try to substitute death with Annihilation in the book of Revelation, what you will have is an absurdity viz: "the second annihilation." It means the first death was an annihilation. Impossible. It is termed second death because it is the final separation from God of the soul of man. (Mt. 25:41, 46; Rev. 14:9-11; 20:10).

<Note: On Pg 4, Section 2, point 4 of Team 2's initial response Article, **they wrote:** "To perish as regards the physical human body is annihilated...">

Thus you concede that the body is annihilated at earthly death. Yes, the first death leads to annihilation OF THE BODY if corruption takes place hence resurrection of such person as human requires its reconstitution as a new body (1 Cor 15:35-44). Even Jesus whose body did not decay at death had his body transformed when raised. We analyzed that in Article 2B and the second death in Article 2.>

10. IF BODY IS LITERALLY DESTROYED AT EARTHLY DEATH WHY SHOULD DESTROY NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING WHEN BOTH SOUL AND BODY ARE DESTROYED BY CONSUMING FIRE IN HELL?

Our Response: It cannot be the same meaning. Spirit and physical body are not the same. Body is physical, spirit is spiritual.

<Note: We never said physical and spiritual are the same. We simply ask for consistent applications of the word 'destroy.'>

When the man was destroyed (i.e. died) we still see him until he get rottened but the spirit does not get rotten. Hence, when people were destroyed in Noah's time, their spirits were not destroyed. They went to God for

abode in hades. Eccl.12:7 ***“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was. And the spirit will return to God who gave it”***. This is exactly what physical death means. CF James 2:26 ***“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”***. What will rotten in spiritual death and what will go to God? Our problem with team 1 is that they make spiritual things equals physical things and they want them to be treated the same way. Hell is the place for the torment of the evil people. Spiritual death is separation from God. When you sin, you are dead spiritually. It is never annihilation. The consequence of your sin is permanent separation from God in an endless torment in hell. ***“But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented”***. Luke 16:25. This is the nature of the hell and heaven.

<Note: Our point is God would have used a different word if he did not really mean ‘destroy or destruction’ in passages such as Mt 10:28, Phil 3:19, etc. Another thing Team 2 fails to realize is that spiritual death does not take place in Hades or in Hell; it actually takes place on earth when a living sinner is cut-off from God. It was AFTER spiritual death that Adam was expelled from God’s presence in Eden. The wages of sin is more than mean separation from God whether in pleasure on earth (1 Tim 5:6) or in torment in Hades (Lk 16:25). It includes separating man’s component parts (body & soul at first death) and his LOSING both in the **consuming** fire of Hell at the second death. >

11. IF SATAN IS NOT ULTIMATELY DESTROYED AS FORTOLD IN HEBREW 2:14 WILL THAT NOT MAKE SIN, PAIN AND EVIL TO EXIST FOREVER AS THE OCCUPANTS OF HELL RAIL AND SUFFER ENDLESSLY?

Our Response: Heb.2:14 “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil”. How? Who will commit the sin and evil and against who? How can people incapacitated and confined to torment in hell operate? Those evil people in torment in hades today, are they able to perpetrate evil or sin in hades? However, since it is punishment, they will continue to suffer pain in hell.

<Note: Rather than address Heb 2:14 which not only affirms the present limitations but also **foretells the ultimate destruction of Satan**, you deflect again. Seems you did not understand the question for you even changed ‘rail’ to ‘wail.’ What we expect you to address is: ‘if the Devil is not ultimately annihilated as foretold in Heb 2:14, will he (while dwelling in the lake of fire as God’s adversary) not continually lead the occupants of Hell to make **railing accusations and blasphemies** against God?’ In the beginning he did same in heaven before he was cast down. The way to ensure there will be no more evil in the post-judgment age is for all the wicked, including **the Tempter** to be eradicated from existence in Hell otherwise they could be sinning in Hell.>

Matt.13: 49-50 “So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” What will makes them to wail and gnash their teeth? It is pains. Since you believe that man will be burnt in hell, what will make them to die if they will not feel pain? By this your question, you are even advocating that man will not feel pains in hell when they will be burnt to ashes according to you.

<Note: The wicked are conscious and in charge of their thoughts, emotions and sounds as they get burnt up in Hell. That is why they possess grief and rage (*weeping & gnashing of teeth*) in their dying moments there. In point 7, Pg 9-10 of our Article 2 we thoroughly refuted your Team’s assertion that sinners in Hell might be as Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego. We demonstrated from scriptures that when fire is described as consuming; such physical fire can hurt/kill/destroy material things while spiritual fire can do same to spiritual creatures when God so decrees. The Bible says God will destroy both soul and body with fire in Hell, not in Hades.>

12. YOU ASSERT THAT SEPARATION IN HELL IS ETERNAL DEATH, ARE YOU NOT CONTRADICTING INSPIRATION WHICH STATES THAT DEATH IS THE LAST ENEMY TO BE DESTROYED AND THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH?

Our Response: No, never. Death is the last enemy. Enemy of who? Man. Will man die again at resurrection? No.

<Note: It is commonly said that whoever is not born again will die again. Jesus did affirm in Lk 20:35-36 that it is those who are counted worthy of inheriting the age to come who cannot die anymore.>

Note that the death being discussed in that passage is physical death clearly stated in 1Corinthians 15:55 “So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”. Are you saying this is the second death?

<Note: No Bible passage suggests that ‘death is eternal/everlasting.’ As for Hell we know it is the lake of fire so we necessarily infer that Hell is eternal **because** the Bible expressly says the fire is unquenchable and even terms it ‘eternal fire/everlasting fire.’ We believe the Bible that sinners will be destroyed (‘body & soul’) alongside Satan in Hell. When death itself is destroyed at the end, it will be in ALL ramifications. Thus there will be no more physical death and no more positioning separation between the wicked and God since they no longer exist! That is the true and full meaning of the scriptural phrase ‘and there shall be no more death.’ When the unrighteous and Tempter are blotted out, death is NO LONGER needed for there is no sinful creature to kill again. Your view connotes that God gives eternal life unto the wicked and sustains them in a state of separation which you coined as ‘eternal death.’ Such reasoning is erroneous since Christ clearly teaches that the wicked will perish and shall not live forever. 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.* Certainly, the divine wrath abides on such sinner from earth till he is consumed in Hell so as not to have life in the post-judgment era>

The second death is not for physical bodies but for spiritual. Revelation shows that both the wicked, death and hades will be cast into hell (which is the second death). Rev.20:14-15 “*Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire*”. Here it is clear as confirmed in 1Cor.15:55 that physical death will be no more but hell will continue, hell itself is the second death. Note that spiritual death is separation from God. It is never annihilation.

<Note: Another point we wish to highlight is that you misconstrue the language used with the scriptural phrase ‘*this is the second death.*’ **You posit that Hell itself is THE second death, you are very wrong.** Rev 20:14-15 which you cited does NOT say so. Read it carefully again as well as Rev 21:8 ‘*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*’

Both teach that being cast into the lake of fire or having a part in the fire is the second death. Alternatively, to be in Hell is to be where the second death takes place. Thus ‘*this is the second death*’ is a concise way of stating all that transpires (raging/grieving, burning/devouring, etc.) in Hell which results in the destruction of body and soul therein. Let us clarify with examples of such language usage in scripture.

Revelation 20:4-5 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.***

The first resurrection is NOT the fact that the rest of the dead did not live until... actually it is the fact that selected dead souls (many of whom later became martyrs and rejected false worship) were given life while others were not, even though we know from other passages such as Rm 6 that this resurrection event takes place during a sinner’s conversion where belief, repentance, confession and baptism transpires to result in salvation.

Matthew 7:12 *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: **for this is the law and the prophets.***

The golden rule is not literally the law and the prophets but an apt phrase for summarizing the instructions of the patriarchal age, the laws given via Moses and the messages delivered through the prophets on inter-personal issues. Christ makes it the embodiment of all previous precepts and records on human relationships.>

“Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” Gen.4:13-14 (NIV). Cain was still alive but spiritually dead as he was driven away from the presence of the Lord (or separated from God).

<Note: That Cain was separated from God when made a vagabond is not disputed. Verse 7 indicates that he was rejected spiritually much earlier. The fact that he says whoever finds him **will kill him** shows he understood death to be more than his spiritual and physical separation from God while he was alive. He was still expecting the first death whereas 1 John 3:12, 15 shows he will even later partake of the second death.>

<Note: Furthermore, we wish to closely examine a passage that your Team has used for the claim that second death or destruction is the separation of sinners who are alive in Hell, away from God.

2 Thessalonians 1:5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

It is evident Paul wrote concerning the end of this age; the time of judgment and the second coming of Christ to reward each according to our works. The key text under review is verse 9. It shows the disobedient ‘shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord.’ **Your view is that it means eternal inglorious separation at a place away from the Lord’s actual presence. We however, understand the phrase to mean that irreversible destruction will emanate from the glorious power of the Lord upon them at his arrival.** Some translators insert ‘away’ after ‘destruction’ but that is unnecessary.

With respect to creatures, ‘*from the presence of the Lord*’ connotes “the departure or arrival of one in His front/vicinity or company” -Gen 3:8; 4:16, Job 1:12; 2:7, Jonah 1:3, 10. With respect to situations it connotes “originate from His majesty.” This is evident in Acts 3:19 *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.* Peter is not asking the Israelites to repent and expect a blissful moment with/without God in their front/midst. Rather he is saying their conversion will lead to them enjoying a refreshing period that originates from God irrespective of where He is.>

OUR QUESTIONS:

1. “Why did God make hell of fire eternal, when it accomplishes the punishment of the wicked in burning up their bodies and soul instantly?”

<Note: That is something you may have to ask Him at the end of this world to get a plain satisfactory answer (Deuteronomy 29:29). One can only make some deductions from the Bible. We already presented such deductions on Pg 8 of our first follow up Article, where we addressed your similar query ‘Why should the fire be unquenchable if man will be annihilated?’ Deductions or not, the truth of consuming fire stands!>

2. What do you believe, the fire is eternal or the smoke is eternal, which is the evidence of the destruction of the evil? Rev.14:11

<Note: This was fully addressed on Pg 40-42 of our initial Slides where Rev 14:9-12 was analyzed. We repeatedly affirm that the fire is unquenchable/eternal and the phraseology of 'ascending smoke' as a memorial was explained. It was your refusal to acknowledge these that prompted us to query you about the smoke of Edom. You are the one who should rather answer that pending question.>

3. Was Cain's punishment for a moment or it actually means continuous punishment? Gen.14:11-13?

<Note: Genesis 14:11-13 is about Lot's capture in Sodom and has nothing to do with Cain. I guess you intended Genesis 4:11-13 *And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.*

His pronounced punishment was stated once and never reversed, **it was the fact that he was cursed to be a roamer and unproductive fellow**, its consequence was to last for as long as he subsequently lived upon the earth. Cain of course misunderstood it and accused God of inflicting him more than he could handle or impliedly deserved, I hope you do not agree with Cain!

God has stated that the punishment of the wicked in Hell is total and irreversible destruction; a sorer punishment than the destruction of the body meted out upon the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Those homosexuals earthly destruction will be reversed by their resurrection from the dead but after they literally stand in judgment before their Maker, they will be annihilated in Hell. Their first death was to remove them from this realm or age while the second death will remove them from the age to come>

4. In what way is Hell the opposite of Heaven or are they not?

<Note: There are many ways but the most cogent is the fact that God dwells in heaven above which serves as his throne and eventual home to the faithful while Hell beneath will serve as his incinerator to consume all the wicked -1 Kg 22:19, Isa 66:1, Mt 23:22, Heb 11:16, Mt 25:41, Mk 9:47, Heb 10:27.>

5. If man is completely mortal, why is it that the soul continues to survive after mortality has taken place?

<Note: We previously fully addressed this query in point 4, Pg 8 of our Article 2.>

6. How long will the wicked be burnt in hell, if it is temporary?

<Note: We anticipatory addressed this issue on Pg 57 of our initial Slide. When you later asked 'How long will each person spend in hell before they are annihilated?' in your Slides, we clarified further on Pg 10 of our first follow up Article.>

7. Can you explain why God will waste his time to give a spiritual body to the soul of the sinners and be burnt to ashes in hell instead of burning them along with the earth in the great inferno of 2Pet.3:7-10?

<Note: You are the one who calls it is a waste of time. We addressed this issue severally: on Pg 46 of our initial Slides, in Section 2, Pg 11 of our initial follow up Article and in the second paragraph on Pg 3 of our Article 2B.>

8. Will God change the bodies of living wicked people at his second? Why and to what body?

<Note: We have asked you repeatedly whether sinners will be transformed to have Christ's glorious body type as the saints would be with you evading it! That was why we later insisted you should expound Phil 3:20-21. Our Articles 2 & 2B already analyze the transformation of the living and what body the dead will be raised.>

9. If Satan and the wicked will not suffer in hell for ever and ever, what is then their punishment more than a righteous man burnt to ashes on this earth?

<Note: We will **clarify more** on this query though we have addressed it before, most recently on Pg 1 of this Article 3 under Isa 33:14. The righteous man burnt to ashes on this earth loses only his physical body and perhaps some little extra years he might have used to function on the planet. The wicked will also lose his body after death into dust or ashes whenever his time is up on earth. What makes the final punishment of the wicked sorer (worse) is that he is not only killed in the physical, eventually unlike the righteous he will lose his new body and soul after resurrection and judgment as these are ultimately wiped out in Hell. Satan and his followers are deprived of living for ever and will never exist or function again when destroyed. They won't merely suffer torment in flames but will be **consumed** or burnt up. **Life itself is a gift in this present universe to both visible and invisible creatures. The gift of God unto the righteous in the age to come is eternal life.** >

We have previously answered most of the 9 questions above so it seems you are not really paying attention to our replies. We cited scriptures too hence what Team 2 ought to do, is fault our reasoning and show if we have misapplied referenced passages instead of repeating the same queries. Whenever we repeat a question it is BECAUSE you merely asserted something that cannot be supported with scripture or we have demonstrated that you misrepresented a verse after our critique of your response.

Section B: First a recap... At the oral Debate, presentations were made by both sides.

Team 1 divided its own into three Parts:

- (a) Addressed the Theme question 'Is Immortality Conditional?'
- (b) Affirmed that the wicked will be Annihilated
- (c) Refuted the opponents proposition and carefully examined many figurative phrases in scripture wrongly used to advance the view of Hell as a place of eternal torture.

Team 2 however made three presentations rehashing similar views of the Theme and their proposition.

Days afterwards upon receiving the Sildes of Team 2, we reviewed their statements in the light of the scriptures in other to highlight and offer detailed rebuttal of their presentations. They responded and we reviewed their subsequent release. We took pains to present a study on the body with which the dead are raised and gave an **unassailable allegory** on the wine and the wineskin when we noticed that these might help clarify issues. While we attempt to analyze the passages which Team 2 cites and also answer all their questions, they ignored the majority of ours. Hence we selected and repeatedly forwarded 12 Bible Passages and 12 Questions to them by WhatsApp between mid-June and mid-September, insisting these must be addressed. Section A of this Article 3 is an examination of their eventual Response to those 12 passages and 12 questions. We now proceed to unearth the **underlying assumption to the basic assumption** of the doctrine of eternal torment of sinners in Hell.

What is their basic assumption?

It is the notion that from creation and at birth, the soul of man inherently or intrinsically possesses immortality. With this supposition, it follows naturally for one to hold that the soul cannot die or be destroyed in Hell; it would have to live forever and could thus only be made subject to torment and inglorious existence. When scripture is viewed from such stand-point, words are distorted (e.g. life, death, destroy, destruction, consume, perish, etc.) to make them conform to the notion that the soul must be immortal.

Why do we term this an assumption?

It is an assumption because no Bible passage expressly states that 'the soul is immortal' and the assertion cannot be **necessarily** inferred from passages. Moreover, it is an error since many texts state that the soul can die, be destroyed, be saved from death and that God is '*the Immortal... who alone possess immortality.*' Team 2 is yet to believe such clear, non-figurative passages rather they posit the soul cannot die because such is yet to happen. We can only reiterate the words of Christ: "...**blissed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**"

What is the underlying assumption to their basic assumption?

It was expressed by Team 2 via several assertions such as:

- i. 'God is eternal therefore his part in mankind is equally eternal'
- ii. 'The soul of man is the God in man'
- iii. 'The image of God is the spirit which goes to him at death'
- iv. 'God has made man in His image which is his spirit'

It is the notion that at creation when God breathed into man, He put a portion of His own Spirit inside the mold of dust which He has formed and that is the spirit/soul of man.

Why do we term it an assumption?

It is an assumption because it is nowhere stated or implied in scripture. It is a fallacy since it connotes that Adam was more or less an incarnation of God! That only happened once when '*the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us...*' -Jn 1:1-14. Jesus did not become Emmanuel when the Spirit of God came upon him at baptism. He is from birth because he is God who took on human flesh and in him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily! When one performs CPR on a fainted or drowned person, he doesn't impart his own spirit. When man designs and makes an intelligent robot in his image/likeness, he doesn't impart himself in it also.

That man is made or created in the image and likeness of God is multi-facetious as earlier stated by us. God is Triune (Father, Word, Spirit) and man is compositionally (spirit, body, soul). In appearance man is in the form of God and this is attested to by visions of prophets and apostles who described the One sitting on the heavenly throne. In potential and knowledge, men '*are gods.*' The spirit in Adam or any of us is not a part of God's own Spirit; inspiration shows the distinction in several ways. 1 Corinthians 2:11 *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.* Paul states in same chapter that the spirit which the apostles received to preach and confirm the gospel is different from the spirit of man which they and every natural man are made or born with. What they received is actually spiritual gifts and empowerment. Furthermore, the human body is not the temple of the Holy Spirit from creation but could be '*by measure*' after redemption -Jn 14:17, 1 Cor 6:19-20. **The Spirit of God is received by believers by the hearing of faith** (Gal 3:2) **not literally or at natural birth.** Otherwise each would be worshipped as Christ is! Jesus preexisted before appearing in human form (Jn 8:58, Phil 2:6-7), so as a man he was worshipped by men and by angels (Mt 2:11; 14:33, Heb 1:6) including Thomas who rightly called him "*my Lord and my God.*" Now Christ dwells in our hearts by faith (Eph 3:17). Adam was not God manifest in the flesh and neither are we; man is not God. Men are made after the similitude of God. (James 3:9).

Man is NOT the same as His source or a part thereof rather he is a representation and a close approximation. Men are MADE; **every part of man is made by God, He is our Maker and it is an indisputable truth.**

Creation of the body - Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

Creation of the soul - Isaiah 57:16 *For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.*

Creation of the spirit - Zechariah 12:1 *The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.*

Since the spirit in man is formed as confirmed by Zechariah just as the body is formed as confirmed by Moses in Genesis, neither is a direct impartation of God's own Spirit or body, it follows that the soul in man 'is not the God in man' and the spirit of man is not eternal. If God put himself in whole or in part in anything, such thing would be Almighty with all the attributes of divinity, be it in the form of fire, a pillar of cloud, a dove, or ...the man Jesus. Conversely, if the spirit in man is immortal because it is a part of God then it must also be omnipotent. If it isn't omnipotent then it isn't immortal and is thus not God's own Spirit but a created spirit which He can destroy. With the basic and underlying assumptions exposed and refuted, we have finally dismantled the basis for the doctrine of Hell as a place of eternal torture of sinners. It remains for each truth seeker to jettison it from his mind. **Thank you for studying with us, we hereby quit these exchange series.**