

Levels

Levels of Eternal Reward and Punishment

1 Cor 3:10-15

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. **11** For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, **13** his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. **14** If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. **15** If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

NIV

2 Cor 5:8-10

9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

NIV

Matt 10:11-15

11 "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. **12** As you enter the home, give it your greeting. **13** If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. **14** If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. **15** I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

NIV

Matt 11:20-23

20 Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. **21** "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. **22** But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.

NIV

Luke 10:8-12

8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. **9** Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' **10** But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, **11** 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' **12** I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

NIV

Luke 12:47-48

47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. **48** But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

NIV

Heb 10:26-32

26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, **27** but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. **28** Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who

has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
NIV

Matt 10:9-15

Verse 15. [It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom ...] The cities here mentioned, together with Admah and Zeboim, were destroyed by fire and brimstone on account of their great wickedness. They occupied the place afterward covered by the Dead Sea, bounding Palestine on the southeast, Gen 19:24-25. Christ said that their punishment will be more "tolerable"-that is, more easily borne-than that of the people who reject his gospel. The reason is, that they were not favored with so much light and instruction. See Matt 11:23-24; Luke 12:47-48. Sodom and Gomorrah are often referred to as signal instances of divine vengeance, and as sure proofs that the wicked shall not go unpunished. See 2 Peter 2:6; Jude 7. Barnes Commentary

Matt 10:5-15

[3.] The condemnation of those that reject the gospel, will in that day be severer and heavier than that of Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom is said to suffer the vengeance of eternal fire, Jude 7. But that vengeance will come with an aggravation upon those that despise the great salvation. Sodom and Gomorrah were exceedingly wicked (Gen 13:13), and that which filled up the measure of their iniquity was, that they received not the angels that were sent to them, but abused them (Gen 19:4-5), and hearkened not to their words, v. 14. And yet it will be more tolerable for them than for those who receive not Christ's ministers and hearken not to their words. God's wrath against them will be more flaming, and their own reflections upon themselves more cutting. Son, remember I will sound most dreadfully in the ears of such as had a fair offer made them of eternal life, and chose death rather. The iniquity of Israel, when God sent them his servants the prophets, is represented as, upon that account, more heinous than the iniquity of Sodom (Ezek 16:48-49), much more now he sent them his Son, the great Prophet. Matthew Henry

PUNISHMENT, EVERLASTING

4. Gradation of Punishment: The fullest weight must further be given to what the Scripture so expressly says of gradation of punishment, even of the unsaved. It is not the case that the lot of all who fail of the eternal life in Christ is all of one grade. There are the "few stripes" and the "many stripes" (Luke 12:47-48); those for whom it will be "more tolerable" than for others in the day of judgment (Matt 11:20,24). Even "Sodom and her daughters" will be mercifully dealt with in comparison with others (Ezek 16:48-49,53,55,61). There will be for everyone the most exact weighing of privilege, knowledge and opportunity. There is a vast area here for the divine administration on which no light at all is afforded us. International Standard Bible Encyclopedia