



Message Outline
July 11-12, 2026
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How can a good God
send people to hell?
John 3:16-19, 36

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 – He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

**Processing an emotionally charged question
with irreversible eternal consequences:**

* _____ the question honestly.

** This question often isn't really about doctrinal belief. It's about whether there's any hope for people we care about.*

* **Surface underlying** _____.

1. "Sending" implies an arbitrary, external decision.

** The biblical picture of judgment is less God reaching down and throwing someone into a furnace and more God ratifying and making permanent a separation that the person has, in some sense, already chosen.*

2. "Good" and "judgment" are _____.

** The Biblical vision of goodness includes justice as a core component. A judge who never punished real evil wouldn't be "nice," they'd be complicit.*

3. God is _____ **about judgment.**

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

* **Identify what God has** _____
to prevent this from happening.

John 3:17 - For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

* **Acknowledge human** _____.

** A world where God simply overrides any person's choice to reject Him might eliminate hell, but would also eliminate the possibility of a freely chosen relationship – which is what God is seeking.*

* **Wrestle with the** _____.

** You will never be able to resolve every question your mind can generate, but the Bible provides enough evidence for you to trust God's character.*

A necessary paradigm:

Trusting God's _____ **while**
respecting His _____.

John 3:16a – For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.

Romans 9:20 - But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"

A key insight to remember:

The door is singular, but it's _____ **!**

* **Exclusivity is actually the most** _____
God could do.

* **The exclusivity is in the path, not the** _____.

* **"Whosoever" is one of the most** _____
words in the Bible.

The real question:

How do God's _____ **and mercy coexist?**

1 Peter 3:18a - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.