God is Loving AND Just.

A few notes…

Questions 1. *Is hell consistent with God's character?*

Question 2. *Will God be present in hell or does He separate himself from the people there?*

Answer 1. *God is Perfect. (Matt 5:48) God has authority over all things. Not believing in Him is sin. Sin is a big deal. "The wages of sin is death..." (Rom 6:23) 2 Pet 3:9 God is patient.*

"God doesn't send people to hell; people choose to go there.

The fault doesn't lie with God. The 'victim' mentality doesn't work."

Ezekiel 18:20 "…The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself."

God wants committed followers. Are you a committed follower?

Just like Grandma's Cookie Recipe has ingredients that can be sweet or bitter by themselves, so some of God's attributes can seem sweet or bitter by themselves.

But just like we can't have the cookies without all the ingredients, we can't have God without all His attributes.

Exodus 34:6-7 describes God: "The Lord, the Lord, the ***compassionate*** *and* ***gracious*** *God,* ***slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness****,* ***7*** *maintaining* ***love*** *to thousands, and* ***forgiving*** *wickedness, rebellion and sin.* ***Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished****;* ***he punishes*** *the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."*

If God did not punish sin, he would be unjust.

Psalm 89:14 " ***Righteousness*** *and* ***justice*** *are the foundation of your throne;* ***love*** *and* ***faithfulness*** *go before you."*

God balances His attributes and displays them all the time.

Answer 2. *Psalm 139:7-12 tells of God's omnipresence. Vs 8 "…****If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there."***

Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good." Job 26:6 "Hell is naked before Him…." Proverbs 15:11 **"***Hell and destruction are before the Lord:…"*

2 Thess 1:8-9 "He will give justice with blazing fire to those who don't recognize God and don't obey the good news of our Lord Jesus. They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction ***away from the Lord's presence*** *and away from his mighty glory."*

Is He there or isn't He? These verses seem to contradict. But we learn that ***God still rules hell.*** *The devil isn't in charge there.*

It's where God's wrath is poured out on any who reject His Son.

Rev 14:10 "9If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, ***10*** *they, too, will drink the wine* ***of God's fury****, which has been poured full strength into the cup of* ***his wrath****. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in* ***the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.*** ***11*** *And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name."*

*Rom 2:8 & John 3:36 both tell of the **wrath of God** " 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for **God's wrath** remains on them."*
<u>We're saved BY God, FOR God, & FROM God</u> (from His wrath)
*1 Tim 1:15-17 **15** Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**—of whom I am the worst. **16** But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, **Christ Jesus might display his immense patience** as an example for those who would **believe in him and receive eternal life.** **17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*
This knowledge should cause us to Be thankful for our salvation, pray for others and share the Good News.