

Dear Michelle,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked us if we had any suggestions as to how you were to respond to a young teenager, whom you barely know, whose grandfather committed suicide. You also wanted the names of web sites, books, etc. for helpful information on the subject.

Romans 6:23 tells us that “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” When Adam sinned, God instituted the curse of death, not only on Adam, but also on the entire human race even until this day. As you know Jesus came to earth to redeem the **entire** human family from this curse. “For in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall **all** be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:22) Notice, this scripture does not say only some will be made alive, but **all**. “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2) We can imply from this statement that there are two parts to salvation. The first part is for those who will be resurrected to a heavenly life. The second part is for those who will be resurrected on earth in the Day of Judgment, yet future. “For a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life [a heavenly reward], and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment [a thousand year judgment period on earth].” (John 5:28-29)

God's character is made up of four attributes: justice, wisdom, power and love. Because God so loved the world, in his wisdom he devised an incredible plan for his human creation where eternal torture has no part. God understands our mental infirmities and is merciful. In the coming kingdom on earth, for which we all pray in the Lord's Prayer (Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven), every man, woman and child who ever lived will have the opportunity to learn righteousness under the guidance of Christ and his Church.

As you perceive from our thoughts, we do not believe that hell is a place of eternal torment. We believe it is a name for the state of oblivion, or rest in the grave. In the Old Testament, its Hebrew name was “sheol.” It was the end result for everyone, good or bad. In the New Testament, the Greek word “hades” is used for “sheol.” But we find when reading scriptures that pertain to evil, translators have imposed the word “hell.” Conversely, they use the word “grave” to describe the ending that awaits the good.

Thousands of years ago, the righteous man Job, who was severely tried with physical and emotional afflictions, asked God to hide him in the grave until a set time in which God would remember him again. This ancient man knew there was to be a future earthly resurrection of the dead. (See Job 14:13-14) “You will call me and I will answer you; you will long for the creature your hands have made. Surely then you will count my steps but not keep track of my sin. My offences will be sealed up in a bag; you will cover over my sin.” (Job 14:15-17) Death to Job was a temporary release from life, not a place of torment and torture for sin.

Therefore, we firmly believe this teenager's grandfather will be awakened from the sleep of death with a clear mind. He will then have an opportunity under much better conditions to learn righteousness and allow God's laws to be written in his heart. At the end of this judgment period, if he is found worthy, he will have everlasting earthly life. (See Isaiah 35:5-10.) Then

“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.”  
(Revelation 21:4)

For more information on the topic of death, go to [www.dawnbible.com](http://www.dawnbible.com), click to enter, scroll down to Dawn Services and click on “Booklets.” Some of the helpful booklets that you can read on line are: “Life After Death,” “The Truth About Hell,” “When A Man Dies,” “Hope,” and “God’s Plan.” We hope we have answered your question as well as given you the wonderful hope of the future kingdom on earth. Please write us again.

Sincerely,  
Christian Questions Radio