

THE CONTENDER

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)

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"HELL"

The one subject that can cast terror into the heart of the blackest sinner and a sence of seriousness in all students of the Bible is the dreaded place called "hell". Jesus spoke of this place by comparison when He said: "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." (Matt. 5:29)

Before we look into the Scriptures and see just what hell is like, let us note two things false teachers have done to this subject to make it easier for you to go there.

I. No Such Place As Hell: Jehovah's Witnesses and others teach that no eternal torment awaits the wicked, that these people will be simply annihilated in the grave and forgotten. (Make Sure Of All Things p 154) The word "hell" is also minimized so as not to include punishment but note the following:

1. Rom. 2:6-9 teaches future punishment without mentioning the word "hell".
2. Matt. 10:15 "Verily I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city." This would be impossible if the Jehovah's Witnesses doctrine is true!
3. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal." (Matt. 25:46, John 5:28)
4. "And shall cast them into a furnace of fire, there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 13:42)

Tartarus Hades Gehenna

II. Just Preach Love: The subject of hell is simply overlooked out of "love"...forgetting the fact that both wisdom and knowledge begin from fear (Ps. 111:10 Prov. 1:7). God and Christ are pictured as just too loving to condemn a soul to hell for eternity even though it was Jesus who used the word 12 of the 13 times it appears in the Bible. Note the justice of hell. II Thess. 1:9 seeing it is a fact

INDIAN SUPPORT STILL NEEDED!

Brethren, at this writing I am still in need of support to preach the gospel in India. Words would fail to express adequate thanks to those brethren and congregations who have so unselfishly sacrificed of themselves that the truth might be spread abroad. Have you helped before or are you interested in sending the gospel where few of our race have ever been and the name of Christ has seldom been heard? If so, I need to hear from you as soon as possible. Acknowledgment of all contributions will be made when the goal is reached. Pray for us!

1. No criminal is permitted to determine the length or the kind of punishment he is to receive.
2. God is the Creator; man is the creature, and he has no right to criticize the Father, His way is always right. (Rom. 9:20, Gen. 18:25)
3. Sin violates God's law and justly carries a penalty. If God could not or would not enforce His laws, neither punish them who violate them, man would loose respect for God.
4. If we accept the fact that God is His mercy can permit a lifetime of suffering than it should not be to difficult to accept the fact that in justice He can permit the guilty to suffer eternally.
5. If a man dies in rebellion to the gospel of Christ, he will face eternity and the judgement that way. Punishment and suffering for sin in the next life will be for sins personally committed--that have not been covered by the blood of Christ. In Christ we have redemption through His blood (Eph. 1:7) We are baptized into His death and blood (Rom. 6:4) and

thereafter we must walk in the light and the blood of Christ "cleanseth us from all sin." (I Jn. 1:7) Remember God sends no one to hell...man sends himself by disobedience to God's law!

WHAT IS HELL LIKE?

I'm convinced that if all the once-a-week, dead, unsacrificing, lazy, "brethren" as well as the carnal, pleasure mad world would stop a minute and seriously consider what hell is really like they would have a strong motivation to obey the gospel of Christ and the Church would increase in numbers immencely overnight! Hell is real. It is no joke and YOU will find yourself there unless you obey from your heart the gospel of Christ! Can you conceive of a place where:

1. There Is Total Darkness: The fear of the unknown has always driven man's mind to new heights of terror. (Matt. 8:12)
2. There Is A Lake Of Fire: Swimming in outer darkness would be bad enough but this lake is of fire and as to heat described as a furnace. (Rev. 20:15, Matt. 13:42)
3. The Company Would Be Unspeakable: "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:48) This would be hideous enough to know that one would rub shoulders with the skum of the earth would truly be unnearving. There would be the total absence of anything good and the total presence of everything evil. Note the company: Death, Hades, Devil, The Beast, False Prophet (Rev. 20:10-14)
4. Personal Torments Being Beyond Belief: The only comfort one could have in hell is to know that one's loved ones don't go there. There is no pleasure in hell!

- A. Tongue on fire Jas. 3:6
- B. There is no rest Rev. 14:11
- C. Salt on wounds Mk. 9:49
- D. Brimstone Rev. 14:10
- E. Weeping and gnashing of teeth
Matt. 8:12

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* ORDER OF SERVICES *
* Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship **
* 7:30 p.m. Worship *
* Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Bible Study *

5. Time Never Ends: "And the smoke of their torment (Hell comes from the word GHEHENNA which is associated with a garbage dump) ascendeth up for ever and ever..." (Rev. 14:11) It is extremely difficult for the mind of mortal man to comprehend timeless eternity but remember heaven with its untold joys is just as long as hell with its horrors. If you can picture a ball of steel the size of our solar system and a small moth allowed only once in one billion years to ever so lightly touch it with his foot...by the time the steel ball is worn away to nothing eternity would just be beginning. We cannot spend eternity...it never ends!

THE SERIOUSNESS OF YOUR OBEYING THE GOSPEL: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, 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, and from the glory of his power..." (II Thess. 1:7-9)

TO THE CHRISTIAN WHO WOULD TURN BACK TO SIN: "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (II Pet. 2:20-22)

Friend, the saddest words in our language are "It might have been". Have you obeyed the gospel? See Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, and I Cor. 12:13. Come out of denominationalism and simply be a Christian a member of the Church of Christ