

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

February 4, 2020

What Is Hell Like?

By Ron Boatwright

People very seldom consider what it will be like to be lost in Hell. Jesus taught more on Hell than He did on any other subject. Hell is something Satan would like for us to forget about. Satan would like for us to reason Hell out of existence. Death is not the supreme tragedy because there is life after death. Everyone will continue to live either in Heaven or Hell after this life is over. But to stand before the Lord in judgment and to hear Him say, *"Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels"* (Matthew 25:41) will be the supreme tragedy. The tragedy of tragedies is a person lost in Hell.

Hell is a terrible place. There is no way to describe how dreadful it is. It is beyond our comprehension. There is no way our human minds can ever begin to imagine how horrible Hell will be. We read in Revelation 20:10,15 that those who are lost in Hell will be *"Cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."* Also we read, *"And the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever and they shall have no rest day or night"* (Revelation 14:11). Have you ever burned the tip of your finger? Remember the excruciating pain. Try to imagine what it would be like to be burning over every square inch of your body. Try to imagine you are also burning all on the inside and even your soul is eternally on fire, always burning, but never consumed. You are screaming and pleading for just one drop of water on the tip of your tongue. This goes on forever and ever. In Hell there will be no relief. Hell is a place where there is no hope. Hell is a hopeless and a helpless place.

Hell is permanent. It would be bearable if you knew that in a billion years it would end. But after one has been in Hell a billion years, Hell will have just begun. There is no way out of the place. There is no appeal to a higher court. It will never end. Hell is eternal and everlasting. Our Lord says in Matthew 25:46, *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life"*. Everlasting punishment will last as long as eternal life in Heaven. Hell is ugly and horrible. Heaven is wonderful and beautiful. What Heaven is on one hand, Hell is the direct opposite.

Everyone in Hell will be constantly screaming and begging for mercy, but there will be none. Jesus says those who are lost *"will be cast out into outer darkness: there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"* (Matthew 8:12). With all of the weeping, screaming, wailing, and gnashing of teeth, there will be no hope that the continued pain and suffering will ever end. In Mark 9:47-48 Jesus says the lost will be, *"Cast into Hell fire, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched"*. The fires of Hell will never go out.

Now is the time to be concerned, not when one gets into Hell. People in Hell will learn too late that God really means what He said. If one goes to Hell, he will only have himself to blame. Let's make sure we go to Heaven.

When The Good Becomes The Enemy of The Best

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41-42 NIV).

Mary realized that the Messiah was in their midst teaching them precious, eternal truths, while Martha was preparing dinner. Martha complained to Jesus that Mary, her sister, had left her alone to prepare the meal. Jesus defended Mary, and kindly admonished Martha for her misplaced concern.

No one would suggest that being a good hostess is a bad thing. No one would look at preparing a meal for others as sinful. So, why did Jesus reprove His friend, Martha? Well, in the first place there is what we call a priority of values. If we are able to make a wiser choice and fail to do it, there is room for Jesus' disapproval.

So often people are satisfied with their level of commitment because they are not doing anything sinful. Parents often put their children in sports, and see this as a way to help keep the children out of trouble, and to help them develop social skills needed in adult life. Children also learn by experience how to be humble in both victory and defeat. But if these "good" activities take children away from worship and Bible study then these good things are the enemy of the best.

When people choose concerts, guests, or other wholesome activities over the Lord's Day worship, is it not the truth that the good has become the enemy of the best? Today people are so wrapped up in the political and governmental issues of the day that they have no time for Bible study, private devotions, or Christian deeds. There's nothing wrong with being a responsible citizen who seeks the good for our country. But, again, don't they become wrong when these things displace what God wants for us? The good has become the enemy of the best.

Cooking a meal is a fine thing to do for others. Very commendable! But what if that becomes more important than listening to the word of God proclaimed? This is about priorities isn't it? Have we "chosen what is better"?

--Rob Redden

We Can't Be Friends!

One of the greatest compliments paid to anyone in the Bible is found in James 2:23. As in other New Testament contexts, when the subject of faith is discussed at length, the great patriarch of faith from the Old Testament—Abraham—is called out as a man to emulate.

In the context of James 2, the inspired writer was explaining the Biblical nature of true faith. James emphasized that *"faith [that] does not have works" cannot "save" a man* (2:14), for *"faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead"* (2:17). To illustrate (and prove) this point, James called to mind how Abraham was *"justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar"* (2:21). He then asked, *"Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?"* (2:22). Abraham was a man of true faith, for his faith was evidenced by and punctuated by his works. He would have never considered for one moment that his relationship with God could be established or maintained by having *"faith only"* (2:24), but only when his faith was put into action.

In verse 23, God told James to write that Abraham *"was called the friend of God."* God looked at Abraham and said, *"That's my friend."* What a thought! The trust, devotion, commitment and love that Abraham had for God was evident in his life. He wanted to be God's friend, and he made every effort to demonstrate that to his heavenly friend.

Only 25 verses later, James wrote about being friends with someone else. How interesting that in one book we read about being a friend of God, and then we read about a totally different friendship. Read this carefully: *"Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"* (4:4).

What a contrast between being *"the friend of God"* in 2:23 and *"an enemy of God"* in 4:4! What makes the difference? God says, *"If you're going to be friends with the world, then we can't be friends!"* If you're going to be more interested in what the world thinks than what God thinks...If you're going to be more desirous of the world's attention, accolades and approval than you are of God's...If you're going to long to hang out with and spend more time with the world than you long to be with God...then you cannot be God's friend! But, it's even worse than that! It's not merely that you can't be His friend, but in actuality, you are His enemy!

~ David Sproule

PRAYER LIST



Ron Griggs, father of Madison Griggs will have on his foot surgery soon.

Kenesha Sweezer is to see a doctor at Semmes Murphy Clinic in Oxford, this week about her back.

Bill Joe and Benita Garner are struggling with health issues. Billy Joe has another bladder infection.

*Several of our members were out sick Sunday with flu and other illnesses.

Continue to Remember:

Michelle Bell, Molly Clayton, Jerry Coats, Daniel Cross, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Prebble Foster, Eleta Grimmitt, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Ronnie Miller, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Mildred Shackelford, Josie Tidwell, Angela Victory, Cynthia White, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins: Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, J.D. Stroud

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Jerry & Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- February 15..... Greg Clayton
February 19..... Barbara Crotts
February 22..... Jennie Bell
February 28..... Brian Carpenter



RESPONSE

Perry Jones responded to the invitation Sunday, asking for the prayers of the church. He is struggling with stress in his life and needs prayers and encouragement to do what he needs to do daily to provide for his family both physically and spiritually. Please remember him in your prayers.

CARE GROUP MEETING

Care group 3 (Kelvin Simmons' group) will meet following morning services at the fellowship building on Feb.9th following morning services. You are asked to bring finger foods.



CYC

All who will be attending CYC (Christian Youth Conference) in Pigeon Forge, TN Feb. 28th-March 1st are asked to make sure you have meet with Jason Jennings concerning your reservation. Also, if you will be going snow tubing with the group while there, you need to give him your ticket money by Sunday, Feb. 16th.

AREA EVENTS

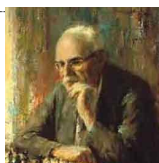
- The Ripley Church of Christ has scheduled 'Our Christ is King Lectureship' for Feb. 23-26. The guest speakers are the second year students from Memphis School of Preaching. The topic will be 'The Fruits of the Spirit'.
A Gospel Meeting will be held Feb. 9th-12th at the Hwy 15 Church of Christ in Pontotoc, with guest speaker Don Blackwell. Mon.-Wed. nights at 7PM
Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held at the Pontotoc Church of Christ Feb. 9th at 5:00pm. The guest speaker will be David Paden.

The Time is Brief

Because the longest life is brief
I must be swift in keeping
The little trusts with kindness,
Before the time of sleeping
I must be swift in reaching out,
To those whose hearts are yearning;
O, swift indeed to love them much
Before the long road's turning!
Before a sudden summons comes,
I surely must be saying
The words that I have failed to say ~
The prayers I should be praying.
~ Grace Noll Crowell ~

I've Learned...

Peace is the deliberate adjustment of my life to the will of God.



THE INFORMER

February 4, 2020

Volume 05

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Dean Dillard
 A.M. Prayer.. ...Richard Adams
 Closing.....Martin Crotts
 P.M. Prayer.....Phillip Young
 Closing.....Jerry Grimmatt
 Wed.2/12.....Richard Jennings
 Wed.2/12.....Owen Clayton
 Lock 2/09.....Jason Jennings
 Usher 2/09.....Randy Wall
 Security 2/09.....Dane Coggin

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....90
 Sunday A.M.....102
 Sunday P.M.....84
 Wednesday.....NA
 Contribution.....\$3,251.45
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



Beef Stew

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)
 Church of Christ
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652
 (662)534-4649

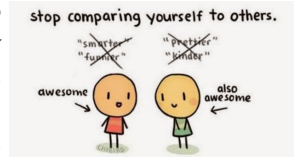
Periodical
 Postage Paid
 New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
 (Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
 148, New Albany, MS 38652

Comparing

By Ron Adams

If we compare ourselves with someone who is smarter, more talented, or more physically attractive, we look inferior. If we compare ourselves with someone who is less intelligent, less talented and less attractive, we feel superior.



If we compare ourselves with ourselves, we feel good. Yet we are the same person in all of the comparisons.

If we want to have a true measure of ourselves, measure ourselves by the true standard: the Word of God.

“Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 4:1-4