

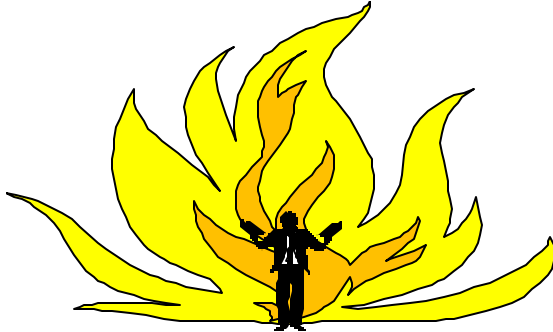
# Humbleheart Messenger

Summer  
2009

“Contending For The Christian Faith”

*"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:1-3) NASB*

## HELLFIRE & BRIMSTONE



With an ever-shrinking number of people who actually believe in a place called "Hell" as described in the Bible, it is no surprise that we see such a lack of fear and justice. It's been that way for ages as far as the world is concerned. Yet, many of those who are supposed to be in the world, but not of it, have also abandoned the fear of judgment and the desire to warn others. Therefore, the topic is often avoided in the pulpit, Sunday school class and Bible studies, in the home as well as the "Christian media." This happens when we lose sight of our eternal perspective. It is a consequence of turning away from the authority of Scripture. What is your view of a fiery hell? What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, "hellfire & brimstone"? Why is it so important that we know about and understand what the Bible teaches concerning this terrible place also called the "Lake of Fire"?

The word "evangelical" is intended to describe those believers who place an emphasis on the authority of Scripture. Ironically however, this is not the case with many churches bearing that title.

Now this is not meant to sit back and criticize any particular church or fellow believers, but rather to encourage all of us to not grow weary from the task of teaching the truth, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While sharing the Gospel, the "Good News" we must include exactly what Jesus has saved us from along with the message of the eternal life He has promised to those who believe.

In the Old Testament Hosea wrote "... *O Sheol, where is your sting?*" (Hosea 13:14) In the New Testament the Apostle Paul wrote, "*O DEATH, WHERE*

*IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

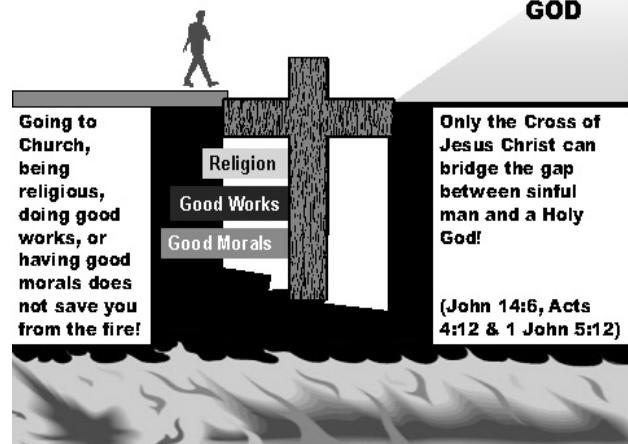
*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*

(1 Corinthians 15:55-58)

In verse 54 Paul uses the phrase: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory." Most of us are familiar with the steps to peace with God and the bridge illustration. It describes the Scriptural teaching that there is only "one way" to be saved. That salvation can only come through Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life. Paul wrote in (Ephesians 2:8-9) "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.*" This illustration includes the fiery consequence for those who reject God's gift.

**Sinful Man**

**HOLY GOD**



But is this an accurate depiction of what the Bible teaches us about salvation from a fiery hell, or is hell only a manmade myth? How or why would a loving God create such a horrible and terrifying place?

John 3:16 & 1 John 4:8, 16 - with out a doubt tells us our God is a loving God. Scripture also teaches us that God is Holy and we are not. Our God is a God of "Justice" and mercy. Consider the beautiful words of Isaiah 30:18 "*Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on*

you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.”

Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:41 that the eternal fire (Hell) was made for the Devil and his angels (the demons). This passage of Scripture verses 31-46 also reveals the separation between those who enter into eternal punishment and those entering into eternal life. Notice the fact that this passage is not only speaking of the Devil and his demons, but also people. Therefore, if you indeed place your trust in Jesus Christ and rely upon Scripture as your final authority, you will conclude that Hell is not a man made myth.

“Hades” is the Greek word for the Hebrew word “Sheol.” Gehenna is an English transliteration of the Greek word that is a transliteration of the Hebrew place name meaning, “valley of whining” or “valley of lamentation” and came to be used in New Testament times as a word for hell. The “Valley of Hinnom” south of Jerusalem was a place where the fire burned continuously for garbage, bodies, and other types of discarded waste. In Gehenna worms are constantly at work in a fiery environment that burns forever. This is the analogy Jesus used to describe a fiery Hell and the Lake of Fire. (Matthew 5:22)

In Luke chapter 16 the Lord gives us some detailed information concerning Hades and Paradise (the bosom of Abraham).

19 *“Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. 20 And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21 and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.*

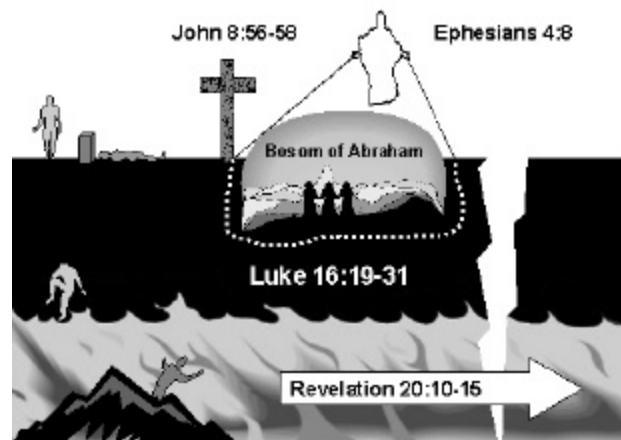
22 *Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. 23 And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.’*

25 *But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 ‘And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.’ 27 And he said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father’s house -- 28 for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’*

29 *But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 But he said, ‘No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ 31 But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”*

I would suggest all skeptics consider this passage of Scripture where Jesus Himself has spoken

and described to us what happens when we die. We can see what He has saved us from as we read the words like, “being in torment” - “agony of this flame” - “place of torment” - or many other passages in the Bible that state “to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire.” (Matthew 3:12, Mark 9:43, Luke 3:17) Jesus also uses the phrases “Eternal punishment,” “outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Obviously a place where you would not want to spend eternity!



The Bible reveals the great news that before Jesus came to die on the cross for us, no one could enter into the presence of God our Father in Heaven. Jesus led all those who were waiting in the bosom of Abraham (in the better part of Hades) into heaven. From that time on it is as the Apostle Paul teaches - we who believe are absent from the body and at home with the Lord when we die. (2 Corinthians 5:8) The fate of those who reject the Lord’s gift of Salvation through Jesus Christ is hopelessly grim. They shall be thrown into the lake of fire. “This is the second death, the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:14)

Only a fool says in his heart there is no God! Only a fool says in his heart there is no “fiery Hell” at the end of a Christless life! The wickedness of man dreams there is no such judgment of hellfire and brimstone from a HOLY GOD. He lives as though there is nothing after his last breath on earth. The message from Scripture is urgent! Will the angels of heaven carry you away to be at home with the Lord? Or, will you be cast into the abyss and unquenchable fire? Is your name recorded in the Lambs Book of Life?

MARANATHA!

### CONCERT

Friday October 16, 2009 7:00 PM - Witnesses Now For Jesus Convention - Blue Mountain Christian Retreat  
1 Christian Lane, New Ringgold, PA (Allentown)

### Humbleheart Ministries

11883 Findley Lake Road, North East, PA 16428-3909  
(814) 725-1229 ~ Email: hefrees@aol.com  
Website: www.humbleheart.org

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