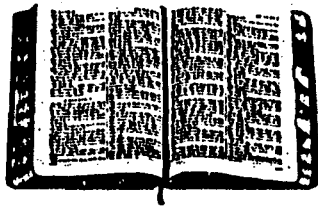


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

Volume 39

APRIL, 2002

Number 4

"THE JUDGMENT"

A CERTAINTY

The fact that there will be a *day of judgment* is obvious from a reading of the Scriptures. It is just as certain as death. Hebrews 9:27 says: "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." In 2 Cor. 5:10 Paul declared that "...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." To the Athenians in Acts 17:30-31 Paul preached that God "...now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath give assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." NOTE: *God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world!*

UNIVERSAL

The judgment will be universal in that all people of all nations will face God in judgment. Expressions like "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment", "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ", "he will judge the world" and "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before

God...and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books" certainly indicate the universality of the judgment. (Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20: 12-15). Also see Mt. 25:31-46).

INDIVIDUALITY

When we stand before God to be judged, we will not be judged as a nation, a state, a county, a city, a community, a church or as a family. Each person will stand before the Judge as an individual and will be judged *as an individual*. In Rom. 14:12 Paul said: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Speaking of God in Rom. 2:6 Paul declared, "Who will render to every man according to his deeds." You will not be judged according to the deeds of others, but according to your own deeds. You will not be given credit for the deeds of others nor will others be given credit for your deeds. *You will be judged individually and God will render to you according to your deeds!*

GOD'S WORD WILL JUDGE US!

Since there is going to be a judgment, there must be standard by which we will be judged. What is the standard of judgment? Is it the doctrines and

(Continued on page 4)

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

<i>ELDERS</i>	<i>DEACONS</i>
Lionel Gary	Mike Pack
Rex Henson	Jerry Tucker
Carrol R. Sutton	Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950

(256) 878-0920 or crsutton@Hiwaay.net
Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

HELL! IS THERE A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED?

So-called "Jehovah Witnesses", Seventh Day Adventists, Edward Fudge and other "Materialists" teach that *the wicked will not be tormented eternally*. They contend that the wicked will be annihilated. In fact, the "Jehovah Witnesses" teach that "The ultimate end of Satan is complete annihilation." (Let God Be True, p. 64).

"Jehovah Witnesses" blaspheme the teaching that *the wicked will be tormented eternally in a place called hell* by calling it a "God-dishonoring doctrine" (*ibid.*, p. 88).

DOES "HELL" REALLY EXIST?

The Old Testament speaks of *hell*. Speaking of a harlot, Prov. 7:27 says, "Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death." NOTE: This is *not saying* that "her house is the way to the grave, going down to the chambers of the grave". *Hell* as used here does not mean *the grave*. The righteous go down to the grave as well as adulterers, but here warning is being given to those who patronize harlots. Also see Prov. 5:5; 9:18.

Psalms 9:17 says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God." NOTE: Here is a warning for the *wicked*. This warning is *not* for the *righteous*. There is no indication that *the righteous* shall be turned into *hell*. These passages do not refer to the grave.

NOTE: In the above passages the word *hell* obviously refers to "the unseen state" of the dead. In the above passages the wicked are being warned against *hell*. The bodies of both the righteous and the wicked go to the grave and their spirits (or souls) go to "the unseen state."

The New Testament speaks of *hell* (ASV says *Hades*) referring to "the unseen state" of the dead in a number of passages. Here are some of them.

1. Luke 16:23- "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." NOTE: The body of the rich man was buried in the grave, but *in Hades* he lifted up his eyes. He was in "the unseen state" or "world". Although in torments, he was *not* in eternal hell fire! FURTHER NOTE: The beggar went to "*Abraham's bosom*" (a place of comfort) in *Hades* (the unseen state" or "world"). There is "*a great gulf*" between *Abraham's bosom* and the place of *torments*. See Luke 16:22-26.

2. In Acts 2:27 Peter applied Psalms 9:10-11 to Jesus. He said, "Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (ASV says *Hades*), neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." NOTE: Jesus died and His body was buried and *His soul* went to "the unseen state" or "world" referred to as *Hades* (*hell* in the KJV), but it was not left there.

3. Rev. 20:13-14 says: "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (AVS says *Hades*) delivered up the dead which

were in them...And death and hell (ASV says *Hades*) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

NOTE: *Hell* as used in these verses in the NT means *Hades* (the unseen state or world). It does not mean a place of eternal torment for the wicked.

DOES A PLACE OF TORMENT CALLED HELL REALLY EXIST?

There are numerous passages that tell us about a place called *hell* where there is torment for its inhabitants. Here are some of them.

1. Matthew 10:28- "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell." NOTE: The footnote under *hell* in the ASV says "Gr. *Gehenna*". FURTHER NOTE: The word translated *destroy* is defined by THAYER'S LEXICON to mean "to devote or give over to eternal misery." There is no way that *hell* as used here could simply refer to the grave.

2. Matthew 18:8-9: "...It is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting (ASV says *eternal*) fire. .It is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire." NOTE: The expressions "*everlasting* (or *eternal*) fire" and "*hell fire*" are used interchangeably in this passage. Obviously, they mean the same thing. NOTE: "*Eternal fire*" and "*hell fire*" do not refer to the grave! These expressions refer to a place of *eternal* fire that is called *hell*!

3. Matthew 23:15- "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." NOTE: *Hell* does not mean the grave! The proselyte was *not* made a child of the grave, but a child of *hell*!

4. Matthew 23:33- "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

NOTE: There is *no* damnation of the *grave*, but there *is* the damnation of *hell*!

5. Mark 9:43-47- (v. 43-44) - "And if thy hand offend thee (ASV says *cause thee to stumble*), cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (v. 45-46) - "And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off. It is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (V. 47-48) - "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: It is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hellfire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

NOTE: The expressions "*to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched*", "*to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched*" and "*to be cast into hellfire*" certainly indicate that there is a place of unquenchable fire into which the wicked will go as a result of being cast into it. FURTHER NOTE: The fire that is mentioned here "*never shall be quenched*" or put out. The word *quench* means "1. a: to put out: EXTINGUISH b: to put out the fire or light of..." (Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dict.).

It is a necessary conclusion that if the wicked are cast into a fire that cannot be put out, they will suffer pain, anguish and torment.

After the separation of the *righteous* (on His right hand) and the *wicked* (on His left hand), the Son of man will say to those on His left hand (the *wicked*), "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels...And these shall go away into everlasting punishment..." (Mt. 25:41, 46). *Yes, there is a place of eternal torment called hell!* (CRS) (To be continued)

THE JUDGMENT (Cont'd from page 1)
 commandments of men? Is it human traditions and customs? Is it feelings of men? Is it the preferences of men? A thousand times "NO" to each of the above things! We must allow the Scriptures to tell us what the standard of judgment is by which each of us will be judged in the last day.

In John 12:48 Jesus said: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." NOTE: *The words of Jesus Christ will judge us in the last day!*

In Rom. 2:16 Paul said: In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel." NOTE: *The gospel Paul preached will be the standard by which men will be judged!*

James (2:12) said: "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." NOTE: *We will be judged by the law of liberty!*

John said: "And I saw the dead, small and great stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works." (Rev. 20:12). NOTE: The dead will be judged by those things which are written in "the books" according to their works. FURTHER NOTE: When we take all the information we have in the Scriptures on this subject, it is obvious that "the books" that will be opened at the judgment will be "the books" containing the Scriptures. Yes, the Word of God is the standard by which we will be judged in the last day!

FINALITY

The judgment rendered at that time will be final! There can be no appeal! The judgment scene in Mt. 25:31-46 ends with these words, "And these (the wicked - CRS) shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

SENTENCE SERMONS

Think big thoughts but relish small pleasures. (Carolyn Belinda Mitchell)

* * * * *

Preach the gospel in everything you do, and in words.

* * * * *

Education is the progressive discovery and removal of ignorance.

* * * * *

Works of faith and labors of love of a Christian are never lost!

* * * * *

Many are not willing to obey God because they enjoy the pleasures of sin too much.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
 4777 US Highway 431
 Albertville, AL 35950

Second-class postage