

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

AUGUST, 2002

Number 8

THE PSALMS –A PART OF THE JEWS’ LAW?

In an effort to justify the use of mechanical instruments of music in the public assemblies of the church, an appeal is often made to the book of Psalms, which it is claimed is not a part of the law given to govern the Jews that was nailed to the cross. For example, one may refer to Psa. 33:2-3 that says: **“Praise the Lord with the harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.”** or Psa. 150:3-5 which says: **“Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs...”** etc.

If we were still under the teaching of the book of Psalms, we would be justified in **offering animal sacrifices, burnt offerings, incense**, etc. according to Psa. 20:3; 50:7-8 and 66:13-15.

If we were still under the teaching of the book of Psalms, we would be justified in hating the enemies of God with perfect hatred according to Psalms 139:21-22. We would also be justified in saying to the Lord, as did David in Psalms 144:1: **“Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands**

to war, and my fingers to fight.”

In John 10:30-36 we read that the Jews took up stones to stone Jesus after he stated that He and the Father are one. The Jews accused Him of blasphemy because He, being a man, they said, made Himself God. [NOTE: We learn from John 5:18 that Jesus had said **“that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”**] In verse 34 we read: **“Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scriptures cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?”**

NOTE THESE FACTS: (1) Jesus was speaking to the Jews! (2) He said the expression, **“I said, Ye are gods”** is written in the Jews’ law! (3) The only place you can find that expression written is in Psa. 82:2. It says: **“I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.”** (4) It necessarily follows that **the Psalms are a part of the Jews’ law!** (5) Since we now live in the gospel age *we are not under the Psalms or any part of the Jews’ law!* (CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(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? (NO. 5)

In our four previous studies we discussed the subject of *Hell*. It was pointed out that so-called "Jehovah's Witnesses", Seventh Day Adventists, Edward Fudge and other "Materialists" teach that *the wicked will not be tormented eternally*. They contend that the wicked will cease to exist or will be annihilated.

"Jehovah Witnesses" blaspheme the teaching that the wicked will be tormented eternally in a place called hell by calling it a "*God-dishonoring doctrine*" (Let God Be True, page 88). They assert, but they do not *prove* that such is the case.

In our first two studies it was *proven by the Scriptures* that there is a place called *Hell* where the wicked will be tormented. It was proven by referring to passages in which the word *hell* is used and passages which do not use the word *hell* but use words such as *fire, flaming fire, furnace of fire, lake of fire* and *brimstone, everlasting* or *eternal fire* and *unquenchable fire* to describe such a place.

In our third study we gave passages that use such words as *punish-*

ment, destruction, torment and *suffering* to describe the *suffering* and *torment* that the inhabitants of *hell* will experience. In our fourth study we gave passages that use words (or expressions) like *mist or gloom of darkness, outer darkness, blackness of darkness, wail-ing (weeping) and gnashing of teeth* and *perdition* to describe what awaits or is in store for the wicked

ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS

As we resume our study let us consider some additional *Scriptural arguments* that *prove* that *there is a place of eternal torment for the wicked!*

I. JESUS WARNS US ABOUT HELL!

1. Mt. 5:22- "...but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."

2. Mt. 5:29- "...for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." Verse 30 gives a similar warning!

3. Mt. 18:8- "...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 fire." Verse 9 gives a similar warning, but says, "be cast into hell fire."

4. Mark 9:43-44- "...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." Verses 45-46 give a similar warning but say, "to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." Verses 47-48 give a similar warning but say, to be cast into hell fire: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

5. In addressing the Scribes and Pharisees in Mt. 23:15 Jesus said: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is mad, ye make him

two-fold more the child of hell than yourselves." In verse 33 Jesus said, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

6. In Mt. 10:28 Jesus said: "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 soul and body in hell." In Luke 12:4-5 He warned: "...Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." NOTE: The expression "destroy both soul and body in hell" in Mt. 10:28 is equivalent to "cast into hell" in Luke 12:5.

OBSERVATION: In the above passages when Jesus warns about hell, hell fire, everlasting fire, fire that never shall be quenched, children of hell and the damnation of hell, it is obvious that *He is not warning us about the grave where a person's body is placed after death!* Only those who are either grossly ignorant of, or those who have no respect for, the *Lord's Word* would make such a claim.

II. JESUS DESCRIBES HELL!

1. In Mt. 18:8 Jesus mentions "everlasting fire" and in verse 9 He says "hell fire". He uses these words interchangeably. So *everlasting fire is hell fire!*

2. In Mark 9:43-44 Jesus mentions "hell" and then describes it as "...the fire that never shall be quenched; Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Also see verse 45-46). In verse 47 He said "...hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

OBSERVATION: According to Jesus, "hell" is *everlasting fire that never shall be quenched: where*

their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched! That settles it! *Hell* is not the grave where the body is placed!

3. In Mt. 23:33 Jesus warns of "the damnation of hell". Obviously, Jesus is warning of the condemnation to hell. He is warning of the penalty to be suffered in hell! Those who die in sin cannot escape it! NOTE: No, Jesus is not warning of the damnation of the *grave*. There is no damnation in the *grave*. He is warning of the damnation of *hell!* God's Word is clear on this subject, isn't it?

OBSERVATION: In the above passages Jesus Christ is *not* describing the *grave* when He describes *hell!* This should be obvious to every reader of these verses.

III. GOD CAN CAST THE WICKED INTO HELL!

1. In Luke 12:4-5 Jesus said: "...Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." NOTE: Killing the body is *different* from *casting into hell!* Jesus was *not* warning about being cast into *the grave* but "*into hell!*" A person's body will be placed in the *grave* (generally) whether the person is good or evil.

In Mt. 10:28 Jesus said: "...fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell." NOTE: (1) The word translated "*destroy*" means "...Metaph. to devote or give over to eternal misery" according to THAYER'S LEXICON, p. 64. (2) Commenting on the word translated "*soul*" THAYER'S LEXICON, p. 677 says: "*The soul as an essence which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death.... Mt. 10:28...*" (3) "*Kill*" and "*destroy*" are *not* interchangeable in Mt. 10:28. (4) "*Destroy*" and "*cast into hell*" are equivalent. Neither (Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

means "ceasing to be" or "annihilation." (5) According to Jesus, man can kill the body, but he can not destroy either the body or soul in hell. "Kill" and "destroy" do not mean the same thing in these verses. (6) Man can kill the body and cast it into the grave, but only God has the power to destroy the body and the soul into hell! God's Word is clear, isn't it? (7) According to Jesus in Luke 12:5, after God has killed He has power to cast into hell! Therefore, killing is one thing and casting into hell is something else! FURTHER NOTE: Killing can not be annihilation because after God has killed He has power to destroy (or cast) the body and soul into hell!

2. JESUS SAID "...unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:..." (Mt. 25:41). Verse 46 says: "And these shall go away into everlasting (eternal - ASV) punishment: but the righteous into eternal life." OBSERVATIONS: (1) Obviously, the "everlasting fire"

here into which the wicked are told to depart is "hell" that Jesus had already warned about. (2) Instead of "these shall go away into everlasting punishment" here, it is rendered "Those people will be punished forever" in the CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION. (3) The word translated "punishment" in Mt. 25:46 is translated "torment" in 1 John 4:18 ("...Fear hath torment..."). (4) The cursed will depart into the eternal fire, prepared for the devil and his angels! They will enter into punishment, torment! It will be forever and ever! (See Rev. 14:10-11; 20:10). (CRS) (To be continued)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

BEATTYVILLE, KY with Carrol R. Sutton preaching September 1-6, 2002. EAST ALBERTVILLE with Charles Maples preaching Sept. 15-20, 2002 at 7:00 PM. KETTERING, OHIO with Carrol R. Sutton preaching October 13-18, 2002. CORRECTION: August 4-9, 2002 the meetings were at Sturgis, MS instead of Starkville, MS.

CORRECTION: Last month's issue of The Instructor should have been dated "Volume 39" instead of "Volume 38". Sorry! Please correct.

SENTENCE SERMONS

"There are no short cuts to spirituality. ---Tommy Poarch

* * * * *

The man, who rows the boat, seldom has time to rock it.

* * * * *

No matter what your lot in life may be, build something worthwhile on it.

* * * * *

Sometimes silence may be golden but sometimes silence is just plain yellow.

* * * * *

"We must learn not to want sin. We must learn to tell Satan to 'Get thee hence'! ---Bob Waldron

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

Second-class postage