

# 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)

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## "THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH"

In 2 Thess. 2:10-12 Paul said, "...in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." NOTE: Many will be lost because they do not have "the love of the truth, that they might be saved." For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie and be damned. Because of their lack of *the love of the truth* they did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in sinful things.

### TRUTH FREES

Speaking to some Jews that believed on Him, Jesus said: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). NOTE: We can never be made free from sin unless we know the truth!

### TRUTH PURIFIES

1 Peter 1:22 says: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit..." NOTE: Without the truth our souls cannot be purified. Truth is essential! *The gospel is truth!* (Cf. Rom. 1:16). It must be believed and

obeyed! (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rom. 6:17-18).

### TRUTH SANCTIFIES

In His prayer to the Father, Jesus said: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17). NOTE: God's Word, which is the truth, sanctifies! It is necessary!

### ERROR WILL NOT SAVE

The doctrines and commandments of men will cause worship to God to be in vain! (Cf. Mt. 15:7-9). It will turn people away from the truth. (Cf. Titus 1:10-14; 2 Tim. 4:1-4). In Rom. 1:25 we read of some "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

### MANY LIES PREACHED

In Jer. 23:32 we read of *lies* and *lightness* causing people to err. The same is true today.

When a preacher tells *lies* about *how to be saved, how to worship* and *how to live and make light of the truth*, it is because *He does not have the love of the truth that he might be saved!* **Do you?**

Hearing the Word of God produces saving faith. *Carefully study to learn the truth.* (CRS)

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## Editorial...

### HELL! IS THERE A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED? (NO.4)

In our three 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).

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 last study we gave passages that use such words as *punishment, destruction, torment* and *suffering* to

describe the *suffering* and *torment* that the inhabitants of *hell* will experience.

As we resume our study let us consider some additional passages that describe what awaits or is in store for the wicked.

### MIST OR GLOOM OF DARKNESS

2 Peter 2:17- "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist (*gloom* - NKJV) of darkness is reserved forever." NOTE: This passage tells what is reserved forever for those who are wicked.

### OUTER DARKNESS

1. Matthew 8:11-12- (Jesus said) "...That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." NOTE: It is obvious that those who are cast out into outer darkness are conscious because they will be weeping and gnashing their teeth!

2. Matthew 22:13- "Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." NOTE: Jesus spake this in a parable. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king..." (Mt. 22:2).

3. Matthew 25:30- (In discussing the parable of the talents, Jesus said) "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

NOTE: In each of the three passages it is obvious that Jesus is not speaking of the righteous, but he is speaking of the wicked being cast into outer darkness. It is also obvious that the wicked are conscious although they are in outer darkness. If not, they could not weep and gnash their teeth. Denying or refusing to accept the truth taught in the Scriptures will not change it.

## BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS

Jude 13- (Speaking of the wicked, especially false teachers) **“Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”** NOTE: Here we see that the blackness of darkness is reserved forever for the wicked.

### WAILING (WEEPING) AND GNASHING OF TEETH

1. Matthew 13:42- **“And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”** Also verse 50: **“And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”** NOTE: The wicked ones who are cast into a furnace of fire will obviously do the wailing and gnashing of teeth. This certainly indicates that they will be conscious there. FURTHER NOTE: The word that is translated *wailing* in the above verses is translated *weeping* in the following verses.

2. Matthew 24:51- **“And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”** NOTE: This certainly teaches that the wicked will suffer!

3. Luke 13:27-28- **“But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.”** NOTE: Also read Matthew 8:12; 22:13 and Matthew 25:30. FURTHER NOTE: In Acts 7:54 we read that those who had been betrayers and murderers of the Just One **“When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him (Stephen – ed.) with their teeth.”** A short time later they stoned Stephen to death! They could not have **“gnashed on him with their teeth”** if they were not in existence and conscious.

Neither could the wicked who will be cast into a furnace of fire *weep or gnash with their teeth* if they are not in existence and conscious. We must conclude they, the wicked, *are in existence and are conscious* in a furnace of fire in view of the above Scriptures.

### PERDITION

1. 2 Peter 3:7- **“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”**

NOTE: The word translated *perdition* is the same word that is sometimes translated *destruction*. According to THAYER’S LEXICON, p. 70-71, it means **“...passively, a perishing, ruin, destruction; a. in general:...let thy money perish with thee, Acts viii.20;...with the included idea of misery, 1 Tim. 6:9;...destructive opinions, 2 Pet.ii.1;...b. in particular, the destruction which consists in the loss of eternal life, eternal misery, perdition, the lot of those excluded from the kingdom of God...”** NOTE: According to THAYER’S LEXICON *perdition* is **“the destruction which consists in the loss of eternal life, eternal misery...”** It is “the lot of those excluded from the kingdom of God.” Yes, perdition involves eternal misery! That requires existence and consciousness!

2. 2 Thess. 2:3-4- **“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”** NOTE: This one who is called *the son of perdition* is destined to the loss of eternal life. He will receive eternal misery!

3. Hebrews 10:38-39- **“Now THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH: BUT IF ANY MAN DRAW BACK, MY SOUL SHALL HAVE NO PLEASURE** (Continued on page 4)

IN HIM. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." NOTE: The Hebrew writer was exhorting the Christians *not* to draw back unto *perdition*, but to be faithful to the Lord to the *saving of their souls*. They would receive eternal life, i.e., eternal well-being! However, if they drew back unto *perdition*, they would receive *eternal misery!*

4. 1 Timothy 6:9- "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." NOTE: Here we have men "drowning" in *both* "destruction and perdition." It is obvious that the word *destruction* and the word *perdition* cannot mean loss of being, annihilation, ceasing to exist. One could not have loss of being, annihilation, ceasing to exist twice! FURTHER NOTE: STRONG'S

GREEK DICTIONARY defines the word translated *destruction* to mean "ruin, i.e. *death, punishment:- punishment*" He defines the word translated *perdition* to mean "*ruin or loss* (phys. spiritual or eternal): - damnable (-nation), destruction, die, perish, pernicious ways, waste."

VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS says (commenting on the words that are translated *destruction* and *perdition* in 1 Tim. 6:9): "...in 1 Tim. 6.9, of the consequences of the indulgence of the flesh, referring to physical ruin and possibly that of the whole being, the following word *apoleia* (see No. 1) stressing the final, eternal and irrevocable character of the ruin." (CRS) (To be continued)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**

**STARKVILLE, MS** with Carrol R. Sutton preaching August 4 - 9, 2002.

**BEATTYVILLE, KY** with Carrol R. Sutton preaching September 1-6, 2002.

**KETTERING, OHIO** with Carrol R. Sutton preaching October 13-18, 2002.

**SENTENCE SERMONS**

Consequences of sin are both temporal and eternal. --Bob Waldron

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God does not need you to serve him in an advisory capacity.

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We must not change the message of truth, but allow it to change us.

\* \* \* \* \*

The liquor dealer is a business man who should be ashamed of his best customers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Be careful how you speak. Blunt words may have sharp edges.

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