

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

JUNE, 2002

Number 6

ABOUNDING IN LOVE

The idea of abounding in love is found in a number of statements found in Scriptures. Here are some examples.

1. Philippians 1:9-11- "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

2. 1 Thess. 3:12- "And the Lord to make you increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you."

3. 2 Thess. 1:3- "We are bound to thank God always for you... because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity (love - NKJV) of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth."

NOTE: Without question, *we are to abound in love* in knowledge and all judgment *toward all!*

Love is the very spirit of Christ and the gospel! (See John 13:34; 15:12; Rom. 8:35, 37; 2 Cor. 5:14; Eph. 3:17-19; 5:25 and Rev. 1:5).

The *importance of love* is shown in 1 Cor. 13:1-3.

What love does or causes one to do is shown in 1 Cor. 13:4-8. In addition to what is stated in 1 Cor. 13:4-8, love will prompt rebuke and reproof when needed. In Rev. 3:19 Jesus said: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent." For an example of this read Mt. 23. Also read Mk. 10:21.

We should abound in love toward God! See Mt. 22:37; 1 John 4: 8.

We should abound in love toward Christ! (See John 14:15, 21, 23)

We should abound in love toward the brethren! (See 1 Thess. 4:9; 1 John 4:7, 20-21; 3:11, 14; 5:1-3).

We should abound in love toward our neighbors! (See Mt. 22:39; Gal. 5:14; Rom. 13:9).

We should abound in love toward our enemies! (See Mt. 5:43-48; Rom. 12:20).

In Rom. 12:9 Paul said: "Let love be without hypocrisy..." (NKJV).

As we love, "Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18). (To be cont'd) (CRS)

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USPS # 581680)

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

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Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

HELL! IS THERE A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED? (NO. 3)

In our two previous studies we discussed the subject of *Hell*. It was pointed out that 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 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 those studies we *proved by the Scriptures* that there is a place called *Hell* where the wicked will be tormented by referring to passages in which the word *hell* is used and passages which do not use the word *hell* but use other words to describe such a place. Let us continue our study. In this study we will be considering passages that specifically use words that mention the *punishment, suffering, anguish, torment, etc.* that the wicked will receive in *hell* after the judgment. Let us consider some of them.

PUNISHMENT

Please consider the following passages in which the word *punishment* (or *punished*) is used.

1. Matthew 25:46- "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

2. Hebrews 10:28-31- "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, the Lord shall judge his people.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

3. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10- "Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints..."

4. 2 Peter 2:9- "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."

NOTE: The word *PUNISHMENT* is defined as follows: "1: the act of punishing 2 a: retributive suffering, pain, or loss b: A penalty inflicted on an offender through judicial procedure

3: severe, rough, or disastrous treatment.” (Webster’s Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary) FURTHER NOTE: The suffering, pain, loss of *well being* (not loss of *being*) for the wicked *will be in flaming fire and will last just as long as eternal life* (or well being) *will last for the righteous.*

DESTRUCTION

Let us now consider some passages in which the word *destruction* (or *destroy*) is used.

1. Matthew 7:13- “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.” NOTE: Many people are in the broad way that leadeth to *destruction!*

2. Romans 9:22-24- “What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction...” NOTE: The vessels of wrath are fitted to *destruction* in contrast with the vessels of mercy that are prepared unto God’s glory!

3. Philippians 3:19- (Speaking of the enemies of the cross of Christ, Paul said:) “Whose end is destruction...” NOTE: Instead of *well-being* the end of the enemies of the cross of Christ is *destruction*. It is the *loss of well-being*. It is *ruin*.

4. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9- “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.” NOTE: The word that is translated *destruction* in this passage is defined in the New Strong’s Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament to mean *ruin*, i.e. *death, punishment*. It does not mean *annihilation!*

5. Matthew 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.”

NOTE: The word *destroy* as used in this passage means “to devote or give over to eternal misery” according to THAYER’S LEXICON, P. 64.

In a similar passage 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...” NOTE: In Mt. 10:28 He said “...is able to destroy both body and soul in hell” but here in Luke 12:5 He says “after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell.”

TORMENT

1. Revelation 14:10-11- “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” NOTE: The man who worships the beast, etc. *shall be tormented with fire and brimstone* and will have no rest day nor night!

2. Revelation 20:10- “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” NOTE: The wicked ones who are represented by “the beast and the false prophet” are in the lake of fire and brimstone along with the devil who shall be *tormented* in the lake of fire and brimstone day and night for ever and ever! This does not sound like there is no torment in *hell*, does it? (Cont’d on p. 4)

(Continued from page 3)

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

SUFFERING

Jude 7 says: 'Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance (punishment-ASV) of eternal fire.' NOTE: Although it is not stated that the inhabitants of Sodom, etc. are now in hell (based on other passages they would be in hades to await the resurrection, etc.), it is stated that they are presently (at the time Jude was written) suffering punishment of eternal fire.

FURTHER NOTE: Luke 16:23, 24, 25, 28 tells us that the rich man was tormented in Hades while waiting for the resurrection and judgment. OBSERVATION: In an effort to deny the truth that is taught in Luke 15:19-31 "Jehovah's Witnesses" claim it is a parable. There is absolutely no

proof that such is the case. They assume and assert that Luke 16:19-31 is a parable, but they do not prove it.

Although "Jehovah's Witnesses" claim that "the Bible hell is mankind's common grave" (ibid., p. 92) and there is no torment there, the Scriptures we have given in this article certainly proves otherwise.

When we consider the meaning of such words as punishment, destruction, torment and suffering as used in the Scriptures in connection with the wicked in hell after death, we should be impressed with the "un-get-around-able" fact that hell is a place of eternal torment for the wicked!

(To be continued)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Eastside in Red Bay, Alabama with Carrol R. Sutton preaching July 14-19, 2002.

Starkville, Mississippi with Carrol R. Sutton preaching August 4-9, 2002.

Beattyville, Kentucky with Carrol R. Sutton preaching September 1-6, 2002.

Please make plans to attend. Tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

"To conquer sin, we must not only not practice it, we must learn to hate it". (Bob Waldron)

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Do not shift your tongue into high gear before you get you brain running.

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Our love for God should cause our love for others to abound!

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"The sin of pride will cause more people to be lost than any other sin". (Tommy Poarch)

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The first place to look for a helping hand is at the end of your arm.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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