

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

MAY, 2002

Number 5

"TAKE HEED UNTO THYSELF"

The apostle Paul besought Timothy (his son in the gospel) that he should "charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith..." (1 Tim. 1:3-4) In v. 18-19 he charged Timothy to "...war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience..." He then pointed out various things that Timothy was to teach.

In 1 Tim. 4:16 Paul exhorted him to "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." From this statement we can see that Paul knew that Timothy needed to take heed unto himself in order to be saved. So must we.

In taking heed unto himself, Timothy would need to learn what Paul wrote that he might "know how" he ought "to behave himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Tim. 3:14-15). He would need to follow Paul's advice in 1 Tim. 4:12 where he said: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Timothy was *not* to "receive" an accusation against an elder, "but before two or three witnesses" and he was to rebuke those that sinned. (1 Tim. 5:19-20) He was not to "be partaker of other men's sins" and he was to keep himself pure! (1 Tim. 5:22). He was to flee the things associated with the love of money. He was to "follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." He was to "fight the good fight of faith" that he might lay hold on eternal life. (1 Tim. 6:8-12). In Mt. 24:4 Jesus warns his disciples to "Take heed that no man deceive you." In Mt. 26:41 Jesus said: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." In Lk. 12:15 Jesus warned, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

In view of the fact that Paul said, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12) and that God "will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6) we should do as 2 Cor. 13:5 says. It says: Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves..." Let each of us *take heed* unto ourselves! (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.

ELDERS

Lionel Gary

Rex Henson

Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Mike Pack

Jerry Tucker

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. 2)

In our study last month we began a study on 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" (*ibid.*, p. 88).

In our study last month we *proved by the Scriptures* that there is a place called *Hell* where the wicked will be tormented by primarily referring to passages in which the word *hell* is used. Let us continue our study. In this study we will be considering passages that describe *hell* (a place of torment), but they do not use the word *hell*. Let us consider some of them.

FIRE

1. Matthew 3:10- "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and is cast into the fire."

2. Matthew 7:16-20- Warning the disciples of false prophets who come in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves, Jesus said: "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." NOTE: One lesson we get from this is that false prophets shall be *cast into fire!*

2. Matthew 3:12- "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

FLAMING FIRE

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, and to be admired in all them that believe ...in that day." NOTE: This passage clearly teaches when Jesus comes again He will come in *flaming fire* to take vengeance upon the wicked and they will be punished with "with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

FURNACE OF FIRE

1. Matthew 13:40-43- "As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall

gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them that do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father..."

2. Matthew 13:49-50- "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just. And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." NOTE: Not only fire, but *a furnace of fire!* There will be "wailing and gnashing of teeth". Sounds like *suffering and torment in hell*, doesn't it?

LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE

1. Revelation 19:20- "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." NOTE: All of the above wicked ones were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone!

2. Revelation 20:10- "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. NOTE: The devil was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone with those who are represented by the "beast and the false prophet" and all of them will be tormented "day and night for ever and ever."

3. Revelation 20:14-15- "And death and hell (ASV says *Hades*) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." NOTE: Death will cease to have power. It has been conquered. In the above passage the word *hell* obviously refers to "the unseen state" of the dead. The place where people (their

spirits) go after death to await the resurrection and judgment will no longer be needed. Both "death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire."

4. Revelation 21:8- "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." NOTE: Since the lake "burneth with fire and brimstone" it is obvious that those who are cast into it will suffer anguish and torment.

EVERLASTING OR ETERNAL FIRE

1. Matthew 18:8- "Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: 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." NOTE: The expression "*everlasting fire*" of this verse is used interchangeably with the expression "*hell fire*" of the next verse. It is obvious that "*everlasting fire*" is "*hell fire*".

2. Jude 7- "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, 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 of eternal fire."

NOTE: The same word (both in English and Greek) that is used to describe "*life*" in the world to come in such passages as John 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; Luke 18:18, etc. is also used to describe "*fire*" in Mt. 18:8. The same word (both in English and Greek) that is used to describe "*life*" in such passages as Titus 1:2; Mk. 10:30; Rom. 6:23, etc. is also used to describe "*fire*" in Jude 7.

UNQUENCHABLE FIRE

1. 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 expression "into the fire that never shall be quenched", certainly indicates that there is a place of *unquenchable fire* into which the wicked will be cast.

2. Matthew 3:12- "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Also see Luke 3:17). NOTE: The text says

"unquenchable fire. FURTHER NOTE: Since the fire is *"unquenchable"*, it is a fire that *"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.). The expressions "fire", "flaming fire", "furnace of fire", "lake of fire and brimstone", "everlasting fire" (or "eternal fire" and "unquenchable fire" (or "the fire that never shall be quenched")) are expressions that obviously refer to *fire that is associated with hell!* No, these expressions *do not refer to the grave* where the body goes after death. Only those who are blind or refuse to see will fail to see the truth as revealed in the Scriptures on this. (To be continued) (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS --- East Albertville Church of Christ - June 16-21, 2002 at 7:00pm (Exc. Sunday). Tim Sutton of Lacey's Spring, Alabama will be preaching.

SENTENCE SERMONS

To be almost saved is to be totally and completely lost!

* * * * *

We must set the sail in order to go in the right direction, but it is God who makes the wind.

* * * * *

If you allow the devil to ride with you, he will soon be driving.

* * * * *

Please be careful in your speech because stretching the truth will ruin it!

* * * * *

To save, faith must function, not fizzle.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

Second-class postage