

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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KINDNESS

In Nehemiah 9:17 God is spoken of as "...a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness..." Speaking of God, Jesus said: "...for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil..." (Luke 6:35). We should deeply appreciate God because of His *great kindness*.

Most people notice and appreciate *kindness* shown to them by others. Usually *kindness* strikes a responsive cord. It melts the hearts of those who are "hard hearted".

Boaz complimented Ruth because of the *kindness* she had shown (See Ruth 3:10). Saul pointed out that the Kenites had shown *kindness* to all the children of Israel when they came up out of the land of Egypt (See 1 Samuel 15:6). The men of Jabesh-Gilead showed *kindness* unto Saul by burying him after he was slain (See 2 Samuel 2:5). King David showed *kindness* to Mephibosheth (the son of Jonathan) who was lame by granting him the privilege to always eat at his table as one of the King's sons (See 2 Samuel 9:1-13).

After the death of King Solomon, his son Rehoboam was to succeed him as King. The people had been under hardships and wanted

their burdens made lighter. Rehoboam asked for counsel from both the old men and also "If thou be kind to this people, ... they will be thy servants forever." The young men advised him to make the people's burdens heavier. He forsook the counsel of the old men and followed the advice of the young men. As a result, the kingdom of Israel divided and became two kingdoms (See 2 Chron. 10:1-19). Jereboam became king over ten of the 12 tribes of Israel. NOTE: This illustrates that a lack of *kindness* can divide people.

In describing the *virtuous woman* "...whose price is far above rubies", Proverbs 31:26 says: "She openeth her mouth with wisdom: and in her tongue is the law of *kindness*." NOTE: Those who are truly *wise* and *virtuous* will be kind.

The apostle Paul declared that *charity (love)* "suffereth long, and is kind" (1 Cor. 13:4). In 2 Pet. 1:7 Christians are exhorted to *add brotherly kindness* to godliness. Col. 3:12 says: "Put on...*kindness*..." Eph. 4:32 says: "And be ye kind one to another..." We are told to "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love..." (Rom. 12:10).

Yes, we should manifest *kindness!*
Are you a kind person? *Be kind!* (CRS)

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Editorial...

HELL! IS THERE A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED? (NO. 7)

In our prior studies on 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 *punishment, 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, wailing (weeping) and gnashing of teeth* and *perdition* to describe what awaits or is in store for the wicked.

In our last two articles we gave six additional arguments that prove there is a place of torment called *hell*. They were I. JESUS WARNS US ABOUT HELL. II. JESUS DESCRIBES HELL. III. GOD CAN CAST THE WICKED INTO HELL. IV. PUNISHMENT WORSE THAN DEATH FOR WHO DO CONTRARY TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE SCRIPTURES. V. THE LORD WILL TAKE VENGEANCE ON, RECOMPENSING TRIBULATION TO AND PUNISHING THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY HIM. VI. THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WILL BE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE WHERE THE DEVIL, THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET ARE AND WILL BE TORMENTED FOREVER AND EVER.

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!*

VII. *INDIGNATION AND WRATH, TRIBULATION AND ANGUISH WILL BE UPON EVERY SOUL OF MAN THAT DOES EVIL*. In Romans 2:8-9 Paul said: "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile." NOTE the following facts that are stated (Cont'd on page 3)

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in this passage.

(1) Those who are *contentious* and *obey not the truth*, but *obey unrighteousness* are specifically named as the ones who will receive the "curses" that are mentioned.

(2) The curses that are specifically named are *indignation*, *wrath*, *tribulation* and *anguish*.

(3) Consider how Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary defines these words.

Indignation—"Anger aroused by something unjust, unworthy, or mean".

Wrath--- "...2. *retributory punishment for an offense or a crime : divine chastisement.*"

Tribulation--- "... *distress or suffering resulting from oppression or persecution; also: a trying experience.*" COMMENT: The idea of distress and suffering is included.

Anguish--- "*Extreme pain or distress of either body or mind.*" COMMENT: This word certainly includes the idea of *extreme pain* or *distress*.

NOTE: Surely these words are *not* describing blessings that can be summed up as "*eternal life*". They denote what the wicked (those who do evil) will receive at the same time that the righteous (those who do good) will receive "*eternal life*." Without question, they denote *suffering*, *anguish*, *pain*.

FURTHER NOTE: TODAY'S ENGLISH VERSION SAYS: "**Other people are selfish and reject what is right, in order to follow what is wrong; on them God will pour out his anger and fury. There will be suffering and pain for all those who do what is evil...**" (Rom. 2:8-9). Further evidence that the "curses" mentioned in Rom. 2:8-9 will be received at the last day can be seen by reading verse 5-6, which say: "**But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous**

judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds."

In view of the truth that is taught in Rom. 2:5-9, we should clearly see why "**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**" as Hebrews 10:31 says.

VIII. MEN WHO WORSHIP THE "BEAST AND HIS IMAGE" AND RECEIVE "THE MARK" OF HIS NAME "SHALL BE TORMENTED WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE".

In Rev. 14:9-11 we read: "...If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 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 forever 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." Consider the following facts.

1. *Men* are under consideration here. The expressions "**if any man worship the beast...**" "**the smoke of their torment**", "**they have no rest day nor night who worship the beast**" and "**whosoever** receiveth the mark of his name" certainly indicate that this is the case. They are wicked ones.

2. These wicked ones will "**drink of the wine of the wrath of God**". God's indignation prompts His actions toward and upon these wicked ones.

3. These wicked ones "**shall be tormented with fire and brimstone.**"

4. These wicked ones "**have no rest day nor night.**"

5. The wicked ones "**shall be tormented with fire and brimstone**".

6. The smoke of their "**torment**" will ascend up "**forever and ever**".

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NOTE: The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (published by the Watchtower Bible And Tract Society of New York, Inc.) says: "...If anyone worships the wild beast and its image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, he will also drink of the wine of the anger of God that is poured out undiluted into the cup of his wrath, and he shall be tormented with fire and sulphur in the sight of the holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever, and day and night they have no rest, those who worship the wild beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

Yes, the wicked shall be tormented forever and ever!

VIII. THE LORD IS RESERVING THE UNJUST UNTO THE DAY OF JUDGMENT TO BE PUNISHED. We read in 2 Pet. 2:9 that "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of

judgment to be punished". Consider the following facts.

1. The unjust (as well as the just) will be raised from the dead to be judged. (See Heb. 9:27; John 5:28-29).

2. God knows how to "reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment".

3. The purpose in reserving the unjust unto the day of judgment is that they might "be punished".

NOTE: It is obvious that the unjust did not (and will not) cease to exist at death. Neither did (nor do) the just cease to exist at death.

QUESTION: Is Peter saying that the Lord knows how to reserve the unjust until the judgment so that they might be annihilated (put out of existence)? Surely not! They are reserved "to be punished".

(CRS)

(To be continued)

CORRECTION: In The Instructor last month on page 1 under "NOTE THESE FACTS", the reference given should have been "Psalms 82:6" instead of "Psalms 82:2". Please correct.

SENTENCE SERMONS

He who can truly give thanks for little will always find he has enough.

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He who is clothed with humility is greatly blessed.

* * * * *

A true friend will never turn his or her back on you.

* * * * *

When truth and righteousness are involved, fence straddlers are worthless.

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There is no free tuition in the school of experience.

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