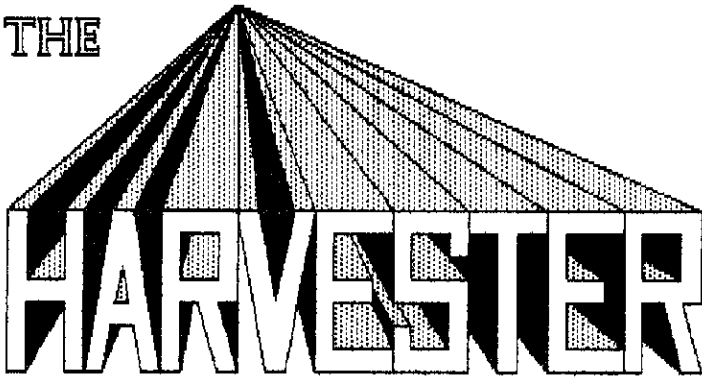


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*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

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## A GLIMPSE OF HELL

Having a discussion on religious matters, my friend ended his part of the conversation with this statement: "I don't care what happens to me after I die, if I go to hell or not, but at least I'm going to enjoy myself now and do the things I want to do." It is indeed sad that he had this kind of attitude and unfortunately, many people do. I had to wonder if he truly realized how horrible hell is. Let us take a glimpse now.

In Matthew 25:30 we find that hell is pictured as "outer darkness." *"And cast*

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*ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*" Many of us have probably been in some type of cavern where it was very, very dark. It was so dark that we could FEEL the darkness. For some, this is an awesome and frightening experience. We are reminded of the ninth plague which affected Egypt for three days during the time of Moses. There was *"darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt."* (Exo. 10:21) However, hell will be much worse than this because the "outer darkness" will be eternal -- not just three days!

We find some more descriptive language about hell in the book of Mark. *"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 hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."* (Mark 9:47,48) Hell is definitely not painted as a pretty picture. The sight of maggots (worms) is enough to turn the stomach when we think about these creeping creatures feeding off of decaying carcasses. As long as the carcass exist, the worms remain. Thus we see the connection between the worm that does not die and fire that is not quenched or extinguished. Both are illustrations of the perpetual condition of hell! Hell will last forever and be eternal. This is the warning we must share with everyone we meet. That is why Jesus emphasized the same point three times: *"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."* (vs. 44,46,48)

We are given yet another glimpse into the harsh reality of hell when Jesus tells us the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. *"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."* (Luke 16:23-24) We can only imagine the intense pain that the rich man was going through when we think of the small request he made. But he was in a terrible place of anguish, with little relief in sight. From this passage we learn that hell is indeed a place of torment, a "lake of fire". (Rev. 20:14)

Jesus presents the final statement about hell -- those who do not obey the gospel *"shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."* (Matt. 25:46) Everyone who refuses to believe and be baptized (Mark. 16:16) shall be sent to hell! Friends, can you imagine living in a condition of outer darkness, worms, fire, and torment for all eternity? This is what hell is all about! It is destruction at its very worst. *"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."* (Matt. 10:28)

My purpose in writing this article so bluntly was not to scare people TOWARD heaven but to scare them AWAY from hell. Hell is a condition to avoid at all costs. The Bible teaches us that fact!

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

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It is even God's deepest desire that not a single person would have to go there (2 Pet. 3:9). Nonetheless many will end up in hell due to their foolish choices (Matt. 7:13,14). The majority will suffer that "second death": *"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."* (Rev. 21:8) Friends, if you belong to any of the ungodly groups just mentioned above, I ask you to reconsider your position and realize your destination will be eternal. It is far better to *"suffer affliction with the people of God"* and go to heaven *"than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season"* and go to hell (Heb. 11:25).

RAY McMANUS

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June 1983, August 1983

**AN APOLOGY IS A GOOD WAY  
 TO HAVE THE LAST WORD**

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. The spies sent out by Joshua lodged in whose house?
2. What two things does the Psalmist declare that God himself gives to the people?
3. Teachers, or leaders, may expect what, according to James 3?
4. Who does Isaiah report that the Lord will sweep with the broom of destruction?
5. Why was a farmer not to plant two kinds of seeds in the vineyard?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who would lead Abraham's servant to find Isaac a wife? AN ANGEL (Gen. 24:7)
2. In Psalm 23, where did the psalmist say he would dwell? HOUSE OF THE LORD (Psa. 23:6)
3. What was the first command given to Gideon by God? TO THROW DOWN THE ALTAR OF BAAL (Judg. 6:25)
4. When Daniel gave the unpleasant interpretations to Belshazzar, what did Belshazzar give to Daniel? THREE REWARDS (Dan. 5:29)
5. Which book of the Bible records the description of a virtuous woman? PROVERBS (Chapter 31)

## ANTICHRIST

Certain matters in the field of religious thought appear to attract more than usual attention. This is especially true of a spectacular subject such as the end of time and events which relate to it. It is encouraging that increasing concern is being aroused about such matters -- but along with warranted concern have also arisen improper views. The matter of antichrist is one subject about which there is considerable misunderstanding, and it will be interesting to learn what the Bible really does say about this.

Despite the many speculations in regard to "antichrist," direct reference is made only by John and in only four passages:

*"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time" (1 John 2:18).*

*"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son" (1 John 2:22).*

*"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world" (1 John 4:3).*

*"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (2 John 7).*

It is to be observed from these passages that antichrist is not one individual who

will yet appear in the future. John said, "Even NOW are there many anti-christs" (2:18), "even NOW ALREADY is it in the world" (4:3), and "ARE entered into the world" (2 John 7). Each of these passages refers to antichrist as being then present as the words were being written.

Having determined that antichrist has already come, we now need to determine who he was and is. John explained, "HE is antichrist, THAT DENIETH the Father and the Son" (2:22), "EVERY SPIRIT that CONFESSETH NOT that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh...is that spirit of ANTI-CHRIST" (4:3), and "WHO...CONFESS NOT that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. THIS is a deceiver and an ANTICHRIST" (2 John 7). Antichrist, as these passages clearly show, is anyone who denies Christ.

Antichrist is not one individual and is not yet future, but rather he who denies that Jesus is God's Son come in the flesh. This spirit of denial arose in times past, it is present now and it will no doubt continue until the end of time.

Some have been inclined to tie together the "beast" of Revelation 13 and antichrist spoken of by John. While the "beast" definitely serves the will of Satan and not of God, he is not spoken of in Scripture as antichrist. The "man of sin" referred to by Paul in 2 Thess. 2:3-4 also serves the purpose of the devil, but the Bible does not identify him as antichrist. Regardless of the sensational

(continued next page)

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
May 2 - 7 (Su-F)	West Broad St. Church Wedowee, AL 7:00 PM weekdays	Jim Pritchard (Shawnee, OK)
May 3 - 7	Chestnut Grove Church Parksville, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 7 - 9	Antioch Church Monroe, TN	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
May 9 - 14	Bethany Church Russell Springs, KY	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
May 10 - 16	Ashlock Church near Celina, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
May 17 - 21	Hopkinsville, OH	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 6 - 11	Taylor's Crossroads Roanoke, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)

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(continued from page 7)  
 circumstances often associated with this matter by various religionists, anti-christ is simply explained in Scripture as anyone and everyone who denies that Jesus is God's Son come in the flesh. Antichrists existed in John's day of the First Century and are not to be confused with spectacular future events.

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