

THE

HARVESTER

"Therefore said he unto them, 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)

June 1987

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WHERE WILL WE SPEND ETERNITY?

I have been impressed for some time to write an article on heaven and hell, and to picture as best I can both places as we are told in the Bible. We will spend eternity in one or the other. The Bible contains much scripture on both.

I have been made to wonder if in recent years there has been enough preaching and teaching on the horrors that face those who do not accept Christ and the teaching of God's word. Many people are saying in this age, "If God is a God of love, He will not suffer anyone to be lost."

Now let us notice some scripture along this line of thought. Matt. 10:28, *"Fear not them*

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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." In Psa. 9:17, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Luke 16:19-24, "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 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." Matt. 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." Matt. 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." Psa. 32:10, "Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about." Rev. 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."

Now who wants to spend eternity with all the bad people? No sweet little children will be there; no sweet darling babies to brighten

things up. You will have an eternity to regret not accepting Christ, besides being tormented forever. Now all is not well with the wicked here in this life because sin carries with it sorrow, remorse, regret, sadness, unrest, broken homes, premature death and many other sorrows.

As we look at the other side of the picture, let us listen to the words of Christ in Matthew 11:28-30. *"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* What comforting words from one who is able to fulfill His promise.

What a wonderful thought to be on praying terms with Christ at all times that we might have someone to whom we can carry our burdens to and expect careful consideration and an answer that will be for our best spiritual interest. Without this privilege I would be a miserable man.

Now let us get a glimpse of heaven as John sees it. Heaven is God's dwelling place, the Father's house of many mansions. In this world we walk by faith. Up there we will actually see His face and be with Him throughout the ceaseless, endless ages. No more death, no tears, no pain, no heartaches or sorrow. How wonderful to be there. The twelve thousand furlongs pertaining to the measuring of the temple was the symbol of God's people, representing the completed, perfected and glorious state of redeemed creation. The names of the twelve tribes being inscribed on the gates and the twelve apostles on the foundation may be meant to indicate that the founders of the city would never be forgotten. But throughout the endless ages of eternity would be held in loving remembrance by the city's inhabitants.

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As John sees it, the city itself was of pure gold, the walls of diamond, the foundation sparkling with the colors of the rainbow. Each gate a pearl, the whole composed of the most valuable and most beautiful material things known to man, constructed in a city beyond imagination, beauty, glory, peace and eternal security. Oh how we hope to be there. Won't it be a joy to see the little children so happy and the darling babies, and I would not be surprised to see the babies there that are being killed by the thousands yet unborn. I am glad to give my life here to be there. I hope that some who are not prepared to go there may read this and accept Christ.

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Do all the good you can
 By all the means you can
 In all the ways you can
 In all the places you can
 At all the times you can
 To all the people you can
 As long as ever you can.

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FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

ABOUT BACKSLIDERS

Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: (Deut. 8:11)

He striketh them as wicked men in the open sight of others; Because they turned back from him, and would not consider any of his ways: (Job 34:26,27)

I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly. (Psa. 85:8)

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself. (Prov. 14:14)

When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die. (Ezek. 18:26)

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:62)

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: (Gal. 1:6)

But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? (Gal. 4:9)

For some are already turned aside after Satan. (1 Tim. 5:15)

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (Heb. 3:12)

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they

shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. (Heb. 6:4-6)

AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS

(A Series to Promote Church Attendance)

In Matthew 7 we have the Golden Rule stated as follows: *"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."* (Matt. 7:12) It is no secret that we would like to have a large attendance at all church services. During the annual summer meeting, the congregation also appreciates any attendance from members of other congregations in the area. So why not "do unto them as we would have them do unto us"? Why don't we go to those meetings being held in our own vicinity? We certainly want them to come to ours!

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we should definitely help one another. *"But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."* (Heb. 3:13) We can encourage each other and share fellowship together when we attend another congregation's revival meeting.

By going there we would also be better informed about the Scriptures, if we take the time to truly listen! A gospel meeting is such an excellent opportunity for Christians to study together. It is an atmosphere where we can *"warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men"* (1 Thess. 5:14). Remember, one can never hear the Word of God preached too much.

Another advantage to attending another congregation's meeting is that we would learn more about our brethren. Isn't it a shame when two brothers in Christ from neighboring towns do not even know each other because they never venture out of their home congregations? We are told *"to know them which labor among you"* (1 Thess. 5:12). By observing these fellow brethren, we can know who to call on to lead songs or lead prayers when they come to our meetings.

Numerous times I have heard brethren express disappointment over their meetings because of the "slim crowds and poor support" from the neighboring congregations. Yet these same brethren would not attend anybody else's meeting except their own. Why do they expect special treatment? So let's apply the Golden Rule when it comes to church attendance. We can help our own congregation most when we learn to help others first. *"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."* (1 Thess. 5:11)

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TO KNOW, DO!

There is a maxim among educators
which states that a person remembers 10
percent of what is heard, 20 percent of
what is seen, 50 percent of what is read,
and 90 percent of what is done.

DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!!!

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
June 1-5	Taylor's Crossroads Roanoke, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 7-13	West Point, GA 7:30pm EST	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
June 7-14	La Prada Church Dallas, TX	Various speakers
June 8-14	Sunny Hill Church Woodbury, TN	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 14-19 (Su-F)	Mt. Carmel Church Woodland, AL 7:00 each evening	Marty Livingston (Oxford, AL)
June 14-20 (Su-Sa)	Pleasant Grove Church near Alex City, AL 7:00pm	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
June 14-20	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
June 19-21 (F-Su)	Freefield Church State Line, MS 7:30pm - Fri. singing - 3:00pm Sat.	Chris Melton Bruce Kessler Richard Sargent
June 21-26	Godby Road Church Atlanta, Ga	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 21-26	Claud Church between Claud and Tallassee, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
July 5-9	Cloud Nine Church Sierra Vista, AZ	Sam Dick & Gerald Carter
July 10-12	West Gadsden Church Gadsden, AL	Bill Prince Jr. (Oxford, AL)