

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 22

2021

Hell Is No Joke

The other day while doing some reading, I came across a survey that recently concluded that only 32% of Americans believe that hell is an actual place of torment and suffering. Now think about that for a moment. That means about 7 out of 10 people in America are unaware of the truth concerning hell. I do not know about you, but as for me, I was surprised to learn that there are so many out there who either do not believe in or fully understand the seriousness of hell and its consequences. With that thought in mind, let's examine the seriousness of hell, beginning with...

It Is No Joke That Hell Is A Place of Unquenchable Fire.

Jesus described hell as a place of unquenchable fire when He said, *"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched..."* (Mark 9:43). Friend, it does not get any plainer than that, for Jesus firmly declares that there is a hell, and it burns with fire that shall never be quenched.

It Is No Joke That Hell Is A Place of Outer Darkness.

Not only did Jesus describe hell as a place of unquenchable fire, but He also describes hell or the future abode of the wicked as a place of outer darkness (Matthew 22:13, 25:30). You see, Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12) and those who do not follow Christ walk in darkness. Therefore, darkness is generally affiliated with wickedness (Ephesians 5:11), and those who do not obey the gospel

of Christ will someday spend eternity in a place of outer darkness, forever separated from God and His glorious light.

It Is No Joke That Hell Is A Place of Wailing and Gnashing of Teeth.

We know that Jesus describes hell as a place of unquenchable fire and outer darkness, but He also informs that hell will be a place of wailing and gnashing of teeth. In Matthew 13:41-42, Jesus, while explaining His parable of the tares said, *"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."* When defined, wailing is "a cry of pain," and gnashing of teeth is "the grinding of ones teeth together or biting down in pain, anguish, or anger." To be simply put, hell, as Jesus informed, will be a place of pain and torment. It will be a place of wailing and gnashing of teeth.

It Is No Joke That Hell Is A Place of No Relief.

In Luke 16:19-31 we read about the rich man and Lazarus. While being in torments, in Hades the rich man cried out and requested for Lazarus who was in the place of comfort to dip the tip of his finger in water and to come to him to cool his tongue. Why? Well because the rich man was tormented in the flame (Luke 16:24); however notice in verse 26, we go on to learn that once one dies there is no passing from one place to another. Therefore, my friends, once one enters the place of torments they will be forever tormented in the flame just as the rich man was with no relief in sight!

It Is No Joke That Hell Is A Place of Eternal Unrest.

In Revelation 14:11, John revealed that those in the place of torment will have no rest either day or night. Therefore, we learn that hell will be a place of eternal unrest, where there will never be any relief from the unquenchable fire, outer darkness, and wailing and gnashing of teeth. With that in mind, may we all strive to live a life of righteousness. For, I venture to say, there is no one who wants to spend eternity in a place of eternal unrest.

Once more my friends, hell is no joke! Therefore, fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13), and always keep in mind these words of Jesus, “*And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell*” (Matthew 10:28).

✍️ Brad Phillips

“Why don’t you use instrumental music?”

Frequently we are asked about our practice of observing a cappella music in our worship services. Folks are curious. They want to know why we don’t have instrumental music. Our practice is different - we’re not like the majority of other religious groups. What is the reason? People really want to know. So they ask, “Why don’t you use instrumental music?”

With no intention to be flippant, we might very well respond with a counter-question: “Why should we?” That’s fair, isn’t it? Those who think that instrumental music is right and proper ought to be able to tell us why they think so. When we ask this question, the typical responses are:

“We really like instrumental music.” Be careful here - - remember that our goal is to please God, not men, not even ourselves (Gal.1:10).

“Well, everyone else is doing It” Anyone who thinks that this proves the real acceptability of a thing needs to be reminded that Jesus said the majority of people (even the majority of “religious” people) will be condemned in the day of judgment. Read Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23.

“God gave certain people musical talent, and they ought to be able to use it” If this logic works, then the fella who is a talented mechanic would be justified in rebuilding a car engine

during the worship services, too. And the surgeon who wants to glorify God could do an appendectomy before the assembled congregation. Surely we can see the flawed thinking behind this argument.

”They used instruments in the Old Testament” True, but we are no longer under that law (Col. 2:14-16). We need to find our authority in the New Testament - and there is none.

In the final analysis, everything we do religiously must be based on the authority of the Lord (Col. 3:17). If we cannot defend a practice by appealing to the Scriptures, then we ought not to do it. There is simply no New Testament authority for the use of instrumental music in our worship. That settles it!

✍️ Greg Gwin

Note

Our Upcoming Gospel Meeting Is Scheduled For September 12-17

Speaker: James Hahn

Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, and 5:00 pm

Monday-Friday: 7:00 pm

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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