

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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“There is no fear in love;
 but perfect love casts out
 fear, because fear
 involves punishment, and
 the one who fears is not
 perfected in love,”

— 1 John 4:18

**Servants during April/May:**

Songleader: Larry (7), Peter (14),
 Stanley (21), Larry (28)

Reading: Stanley

Announcements: Marty

Table: Larry, Mike B, Peter, Mike M

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (3), Kris (10),

Larry (17), Stanley (24), Kris (31)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Larry
 (7), Kris (14), Marty (21), Stanley (28)

Meetings: Phil Campbell, 5/7-10,
 various speakers; Brookhill Church,
 5/7-10, Alan Yeater

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Number 50

Is Hell a Real Place?

by Robert F. Turner

Question: Do you believe in Hell as a real place where lost soul's burn forever? Give me three scriptures for it.

Reply: I do not know how to “place” Hell or Heaven, for “place” is a space-related word, and does not conform to the nature of “eternal”, “immortal,” and the like. (“Where” is God? Perhaps the best answer is “Where isn't He?” cf Psa 139.) But I believe God is real, even though I cannot limit Him to some “place” and I also believe Hell and Heaven are “real.”

The same kind of language that “places” Heaven, and gives it certain characteristics, also defines and describes Hell. The “new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells,” 2 Pet 3:13, have their counterpart in “hell [Gehenna, rt], where their worm does not die, and the

fire is not quenched,” Mk 9:47,48. Some say “Gehenna” was a valley near Jerusalem, where refuse fires burned continually. I'm not surprised. Jerusalem was the beloved city of the Jews. It is not unusual for unknown, eternal conditions to be described in terms known and understood. If “New Jerusalem” can describe the dwelling “place” of the redeemed, on earth and in eternity, Heb 12:22; Rev 21:1,2, it is no marvel that the stinking, burning Gehenna should be used to depict the punishment of the wicked.

Will souls be lost in Hell? Yes! Jesus said, “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell,” Mt 10:28. Luke's record reads, “fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast


into hell [Gehenna, rt],” Lk 12:4,5. The word from whence “destroy” comes, is used for “lost,” Lk 15:4,8, but never for “annihilate” or word of like meaning. In these passages the “soul” is made distinct from the body, and from life or “animal spirit” which departs the body at death. The “soul” lives on to be “lost” in hell fire, or saved.

How long in Hell? It is of the same duration as God—as Alexander Campbell once wrote, “There is no word in human language that expresses duration without end, which is not applied to the future punishment of the wicked.” God’s honor and glory is “forever and ever” (Greek: *aionas ton aionon*, 1 Tim 1:17), and the Devil will be cast into the lake of fire and tormented “forever and ever” (Greek:

aionas ton aionon, Rev 20:10). His followers will share His fate, v14,15.

The King James Version used “hell” when the Greek has “hades”—the place of the dead, or the “nether-world”—not necessarily referring to punishment. To avoid quibbles, we have limited ourselves to passages which use the Greek “Gehenna”. Death itself (personified “Hades”) will be cast into “the lake of fire” with Satan, Rev 20:10.

C. S. Lewis said, “I have met no people who fully disbelieved in Hell and also had a living and life-giving belief in Heaven,” (Letter to Malcolm). This has been my experience. Time spent in trying to argue around Hell had better be spent getting ready for judgement and eternity.

--via Plain Talk, Aug 1974, originally under the column, “?You Know What?” 

Exodus 7 and 8.

For a time, it seems like these Egyptian occultists can keep pace with Moses, the prophet of God. Moses’ brother Aaron throws down his staff so that it becomes a serpent; the magicians do the same. Admittedly, Aaron’s snake proves to be a little higher up the food chain than theirs, but they make the miracle look less extraordinary.

The same thing happens with the first and second plagues. Moses turns the Nile to blood; they turn water to blood. Moses creates frogs; they create frogs too. However, when Moses brings forth gnats for the third plague, the magicians are baffled. They are revealed as pretenders to the power that the prophet wields, and we see no more of them in the story.

Paul warns us that those who use the gospel to satisfy the flesh are on a similar track. For now, they can resist the truth. Such resistance can take two different forms, either contradicting the gospel directly or bringing it into disrepute through luxurious living. How many people sneer at Christianity because of what they have seen from televangelists or from corrupt leaders in

their own congregations?

However, just like the magicians didn’t have true power, the pretense of Christianity doesn’t have any power either. False teachers have no answers when life gets hard or when tragedy strikes. How can they call others to surrender everything to Jesus when they themselves have not surrendered?

Finally, the hypocrite always ends up being exposed. Thankfully, this seems to be happening a lot more in this life these days. Countless predatory clergy have been brought to shame by the people they abused and ruined years or decades ago. The IRS catches up with a fair number of embezzlers and cheats too.

Far worse is the certainty of being exposed in the next life. On the day of judgment, God will reward both the faithful servant and the scoundrel far beyond what either had imagined was possible. Untold billions will watch the downfall of the lying teacher.

The point is plain. Don’t be a worldly, corrupt Christian. Especially, don’t be a worldly, corrupt church leader. The devil wants you to believe that you will get away with it.

You won’t. 

The Progress of the Hypocrite

by M. W. Bassford

The first nine verses of 2 Timothy 3 contain one of the most brutal condemnations of the wicked in the entire New Testament. However, its subject does not appear to be people in the world. Instead, it describes Christians who have been corrupted by the world. Normally, we think of hard times for the faithful as being the result of external persecution. In this case,

though, Paul says that internal decay will cause the hard times.

Among the worst of the fallen are those who use the gospel as a pretext for seducing foolish women. Paul compares these evil men to two other men named Jannes and Jambres. He does not further identify them, but contextually we can link them to the magicians deployed by Pharaoh in

Remember in Prayer

More of a son to **Hazel** than a son-in-law, **Shane Reed**, passed away from Leukemia early Monday morning (5/8).

John and Sylvia Pollard’s newborn, Paige, suffers from “Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood (AHC),” but has been able to return home!

Mike Beckman is being treated for cancer (a carcinoid neuroendocrine

tumor, or C-NET); and **Joyce** continues to deal with brain cancer.

Let’s continue to pray for **Betty, Buddy, Dot**, and **Carolyn**.

Our meeting with **Nick Woods** has completed; let’s to pray for him, his family, his work with the Jennings Chapel church, and further good to result from his efforts! 