

November 14, 2021

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

What Men Have Done To Hell

By Bill Crews

1. Atheists, skeptics and modernists have eradicated it by their “wonderful” powers of “reason”.
2. “Christian Scientists” have attributed it to improper thinking, the figment of bad imagination, or “malicious animal magnetism”.
3. Universalists have removed the need of fearing it since they teach that all will be saved anyway.
4. Unitarians and others have decided that the only real heaven or hell are encountered by men in this life by pleasant or unpleasant experiences.
5. “Jehovah’s Witnesses” have reduced it to annihilation, eternal non-existence rather than eternal punishment.
6. Many Protestant denominations have taken away any concern about being lost from millions by their doctrine of “once saved, always saved”.
7. Catholicism has assured millions that they will not go there because of her sacraments and rituals, and has caused many to be more concerned about an imaginary “purgatory”.
8. Many have sought to remove the eternal duration and the awful torment of hell by their own concept of God’s love.

But what the Bible says about hell remains true. You may read about it in: Matt. 18:8-9; 25:41,46; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Rev. 20:10, 15; 21:8.

Once the Devil was walking along with one of his cohorts. They saw a man ahead of them pick up something shiny. “What did he find?” asked the cohort. “A piece of the truth,” the Devil replied. “Doesn’t it bother you that he found a piece of the truth?” asked the cohort. “No,” said the Devil, “I will see to it that he makes a religion out of it.” — *Klyne Snodgrass*

The Reign Of The Righteous King

By John Isaac Edwards

Psalm 72, which tells of the reign of the righteous king, points to Acts 2 when Jesus began His reign. Let's take a look.

He Shall Judge Thy People with Righteousness (v. 2). Isaiah prophesied, “. . . and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge. . .” (Isa. 11:3-4). Again it is written, “Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness. . .” (Isaiah 32:1). Paul preached, “. . . he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained. . .” (Acts 17:31).

In His Days Shall the Righteous Flourish; and Abundance of Peace (v. 7). Paul wrote the Romans, “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous” (Rom. 5:19). The Lord said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. . .” (Jn. 14:27) and “. . . in me ye might have peace . . .” (John 16:33). “. . . we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

He Shall Have Dominion from Sea to Sea, and unto the Ends of the Earth (v. 8). Zechariah prophesied of the coming King, “. . . and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth” (Zechariah 9:10). The Lord told His apostles, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18) and “. . . ye shall be witnesses unto me...unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

All Nations Shall Serve Him (v. 11). In prophesying concerning the Lord's house, Isaiah said, “. . . all nations shall flow unto it” (Isaiah 2:2). The Lord commissioned His apostles, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations. . .” (Matt. 28:19).

He Shall Redeem Their Soul (v. 14). Redemption “is in Christ” (Romans 3:24). “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

Men Shall Be Blessed in Him (v. 17). “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

Have you submitted to King Jesus?

Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.

Do To Others

By Robert F. Turner

The Lord gave me a yardstick by which to measure every relationship in my life. It is easy to understand, and easy to apply if I have the will to do so. It involves no complicated formula; it is with me every wakeful hour. Its strength is in direct proportion to my weakness; binding me with cords of my own weaving, or freeing me as I free my own heart. It comprehends my whole duty to man.

While yet a child I learned it as: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you;” but later I found it is properly stated: “*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). “*All things*” is very broad. This includes my driving on the highway, selling a rifle, working for an employer, living with my wife, writing to my brethren, or about them. “*Whatsoever ye would —*” is not “whatsoever they do.” This rule does not depend on the other fellow — it is determined in my own heart. How would I like to be treated? The rule is so reasonable, so unquestionably just, that it defies objection. It asks no pound of flesh, because its regulator would give none. It prescribes fair, honest treatment, because the party of the first part desires such. Self-interest, which so often blinds me to my duty to others, becomes the very indicator of those duties. God made the rule, but I am left to apply it — with the intensity gendered by man’s most powerful inner force, self-love. “*No man ever yet hateth his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it. . .*” (Eph. 5:29).

“*Do ye even so —*” Lenski comments: “what we would like to have men do to us, whether they do that to us or not, we are to keep doing (poieite, durative) to them.” Till seven times? Nay, but until seventy times seven. This regulates conduct, but it is far more than a law of “doing” — it is a basic principle of attitude, of under-lying motive, which demonstrates itself in what we do. “*The law and the prophets*” Jesus said; making it clear that this is no new rule, but one inherent in God’s will for man in all times. Further, this clearly relates the rule to the giver of law, emphasizing the external authority of God. Those who seek to limit the “whole duty of man” to humanitarian obligations seem to miss this all-important point. 1 John 3:14 and following clearly relates our love for our fellow man with our prior love for God. Because He laid down His life for us, we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (Vs. 16) “*And this is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment*” (Vs. 23).

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Christians are in a position to understand and apply the “Golden Rule”, as are none others. But the sad fact is that many so-called Christians make little practical application of this rule in their life, and seem a bit embarrassed if the preacher uses it as a text. Until we learn well the “second table of the law” (Matthew 22:39) we preach the “gospel” (?) in vain.

A Point To Ponder

If a great number of psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, geneticists, biologists, and many other various experts in the sciences dealing with the human race make the claim that homosexual lifestyles are both normal and acceptable; and the Bible — in passages such as Gen. 19:1-25; Lev. 18:22 and 20:13; Deut. 23:17; Rom. 1:26-27; and 1 Cor. 6:9-10 — makes the opposite claim; then where must a child of God take his stand on the matter?

The Bible:

Read it, Believe it, Obey it!

**Don't Let Yesterday
Take up
Too Much Of Today**

November Birthdays:

The 9th Jesse Green; The 17th Sandy Merritt; The 20th Joann Haynes

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Valley Grove Church Of Christ
2110 East Stateline Road
P. O. Box 461
Southaven, MS 38671

This Bulletin is a weekly publication of the
Valley Grove Church Of Christ, Southaven, MS

Sunday
Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

Phone: 662-342-1132
www.valleygrovechurchofchrist.com