



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 28, 2024

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Larry Hill
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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Heed the Warning!

Tornado sirens catch our attention, especially if we live in close proximity to the tower from which its piercing alarm emanates. Depending on circumstances, levels of concern differ from person to person. A possible radar-indicated tornado will not be taken as seriously as an eye-witness account of a large tornado on the ground headed in one's direction. Even then, there is an element of uncertainty. The tornado may change directions, lift back up into the clouds, or dissipate altogether. Tornadoes can be as fickle as the weather. Experience, however, teaches us to give heed to warnings whether they actually materialize or not.

There are many clearly-stated warnings in God's word. Many of these warnings relate to specific nations in existence at the time—warnings of disaster or invasion. These warnings were often connected to an alternative outcome, depending on the peoples' willingness to repent and change their ways. The people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah and the threat of God's judgment was delayed for many years (**Jon. 3:10; Mt. 12:41**).

On other occasions, God's warning of impending doom continued beyond the point of repentance. On the eve of Babylonian Captivity, Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, spoke of Judah's hopeless condition, saying, "*Harvest is past, summer is ended, and we are not saved*" (**Jer. 8:20**). While many warnings of national judgment of a temporal nature occur in a context of possible repentance, there are times when swift and certain judgment can no longer be delayed.

The day of the Lord's return is known only to the Father (**Matt. 24:36**). Though used as a source of derision by some, His delay is for the purpose of allowing more time for repentance (**2 Pet. 3:9**). God "*desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (**1 Tim. 2:4**). But, the day of the Lord will come and this present universe will pass out of existence (**2 Pet. 3:10**). Judgment will follow and the wicked "*will go away into eternal punishment and the righteous into eternal life*" (**Matt. 25:46**). The warning has been sounded and the certainty of these events is squarely based on the unchanging nature of God's word (**Matt. 24:35; Heb. 6:18**). Therefore, today is the day to heed God's warning and turn to Jesus in loving obedience.

Glen Elliott - www.facebook.com/InformationandstudieschurchofChrist

Do Only Bad People Go To Hell?

When people are mourning the death of their loved ones, they will say things like, "*He is in a better place now,*" or "*At least she isn't feeling any more pain,*" or "*He will be watching over us from above.*" These kinds of sentiments bring comfort to those who are grieving. However, as often as we hear them, we can begin to wonder if Hell still exists.

I remember an occasion on which I was talking with a person about her need to be saved. Her response was, "*Why do I need to be saved? I am not a bad person.*" I get the feeling that many people share this opinion. They believe everyone is automatically going to Heaven unless they are a terrible person or do something really bad. What does the Bible say about this?

The question about who is going to Hell is not about who is bad, but about who has sinned. We have all sinned (**Rom. 3:23**), so we must all be saved.

Revelation 20:14-15 gives us a picture of final judgment: "*Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*" Notice, it doesn't say that only bad people were cast into the lake of fire, but those whose names were not found in the Book of Life (those who were not saved). When the Lord returns in judgment, He is coming "*in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (**2 Thess. 1:8**). Jesus is not bringing fiery vengeance upon bad people, but upon those who do not believe in God and do not obey His gospel.

Jesus was once asked a question about how many people were going to be saved. "*Then one said to Him, 'Lord, are there few who are saved?' And He said to them, 'Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able'*" (**Luke 13:23-24**). It doesn't sound like everyone is going to Heaven, does it?

Why is this important? If the devil can fool us into thinking we are not bad enough to go to Hell, then he can keep us on the broad way that leads to destruction. The Bible does not tell us to take a relaxed approach to where we will spend eternity. We are to "*strive to enter through the narrow gate.*" Paul warned the Philippians to "*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*" (**Phil. 2:12**). Hell is not avoided by being better than bad people. Hell can only be avoided by being saved from our sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.