



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 10, 2014

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Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
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Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

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THE STORY OF EVIL

“Behold, he travails with wickedness, and he conceives mischief and brings forth falsehood. He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, and has fallen into the hole which he made. His mischief will return upon his own head, and his violence will descend upon his own pate” (Psalm 7:14-16).

View carefully these three metaphoric pictures of evil and watch its horrid story unfold.

First, evil is a terrible birth of a sinister idea. *“Behold, he travails with wickedness, and he conceives mischief and brings forth falsehood” (Psalm 7:14).* As we picture a birth, it is usually within the confines of a beautiful beginning, but here we see a birth that is a tragic ending. There is the conception, the development, and the awful coming to life of evil. Sin is born of evil parents; its life will do the work of evil. The writer names the child “falsehood.” He is hurt and devastated by the child (see **James 1:14-15**).

Second, evil is something expressed as a vicious trap, as a pit that is dug for others. *“He has dug a pit and hallowed it out...” (Psalm 7:15).* The pit is something like what a hunter or trapper would use to snare a wild animal. The designer of the trap, however, has dug the pit for a person, not an animal. The pit is created to hurt, destroy and deceive.

Third, it is a boomerang, an evil deed that returns to plague the person who committed it. *“His mischief will return upon his own head, and his violence will descend upon his own pate” (Psalm 7:16).* Sin has a way of swiftly returning and landing at the feet of the person who sends it out. God is the hound of heaven who pursues us with His love until He wins us back. Sin is the hound of evil that relentlessly tracks us down, enslaves us, haunts us, and scars us.

Key Thought: The story of evil has three chapters: Falsehood rises up out of a wicked birth; it becomes, very quickly, a vicious trap for some unsuspecting soul to fall into; and it sends out a stream of pain that comes back again and again to whoever embraces it.

Eddie Cloer

WHERE THE DEAD GO

The King James reads, “*Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption*”... “*And, He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption*” (**Acts 2:27, 31**).

The word translated in the KJV as “hell” is from the Koine Greek *hades*. This is a blatant mistranslation of the text. Hades is more accurately translated to be the “place of the dead.” It is the place where all souls go when we depart from the earthly scene.

The account of the rich man and Lazarus in **Luke 16:19-31** more accurately portrays Hades. As we read the message Jesus gives to His disciples (some believe this to be a parable), we see clearly that the sinful man went to a place of torment whereas poor Lazarus went to rest in Abraham’s bosom. This clearly designates two parts of the whole.

Paradise is the term most scholars refer to as the place where Lazarus went. Remember, Jesus told the thief on the cross, “*Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise*” (**Luke 23:43**). Jesus did not go to Hell when He died, He went to Paradise.

I Thessalonians 4:15-17 teaches us that the “*dead in Christ*” will rise with Him at the Judgment Day. These souls are said to presently be asleep. Since Jesus never told a lie, whether when teaching a parable or an actual even, it is plausible to agree that the Hadean realm actually exists. I challenge you to find one verse in the entire Bible that says Christians go directly to Heaven when they die. This could only be the case if Paradise is located in the third heaven.

Where do we go when we die? Children of God go to Paradise, resting on Abraham’s bosom, while lost sinners descend into torment. In **Luke 16** Jesus said there is a “*great gulf*” between the place of torment and “*paradise*.” No person can cross from one to the other. Does this imply that a judgment of sorts actually takes place the moment we pass from this temporal life? It does.

So then, the Great Day of Judgment will serve as an eternal sentencing of souls to live with God or without Him in the place prepared for the Devil and his angels. Also noteworthy, is that Jesus told through the Revelation of John that the tree of life and God’s manna are in Paradise (**Revelation 2:7; 3:17**).

Is Paradise in Heaven? It is conceivable. Paul spoke of a man who was caught up into the third heaven. He said, “*he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter*.” (**II Corinthians 12:1-4**). By induction we may conclude that Paradise is located in Heaven. That being valid, believers do go to Heaven when they die, yet not in the final resurrected state. According to **I Corinthians 15** there will be resurrection and at that time we will be given a spiritual body, a body that will never corrupt. We shall be eternally changed. Jesus went to Paradise when He died. He was raised from that place of the dead so that we too may have the hope of everlasting life.

Donny Weimar