

Introduction: In our last study, we looked at two reasons for the revelation of the wrath of God recorded in Romans 1:18 – sin and suppression of the truth. We also saw in our last study that Romans 1:19-23 answers the frequently asked question: “What happens to innocent people who have never heard about Jesus?” God has revealed Himself in conscience and in creation (Romans 1:19-23; cf. Psalm 19:1-3). When you walk in the light that God gives, God will give more light. In our last study, we begin to look at some statements in relation to this question: “What happens to innocent people who have never heard about Jesus?” Today we will continue to examine some statements in relation to this question.

- I. There Are No Innocent People in the Eyes of God (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; cf. Isaiah 64:6).**
 - A. All are born with a sin nature except Jesus (Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Romans 3:10, 23; 5:12; cf. Isaiah 64:6).**
 - B. Jesus did not have a sin nature because he was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35; cf. Isaiah 53:9; John 8:46; 18:38; 19:4, 6; 2 Corinthians 5:21 Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 2:22; 1 John 3:5).**
 - C. People will go to hell because of their sins (Romans 3:23; 5:12; Revelation 20:12-13; 21:8, 27).**
 - D. The Bible teaches that there will be no innocent individuals in hell (Genesis 18:25; Psalm 72:2; 85:13; 96:13; 97:2; 111:3; Revelation 20:12-13).**
 - E. The Bible answers the question: “What happens to those who are not concerned about those who have never heard about Jesus?” (Ezekiel 33:1-9; cf. Acts 20:18-27).**
 - 1. God ordained both the end and the means: Prayer, evangelization, missions...**
 - 2. Jesus is concerned about those who are lost (Matthew 9:36-38; 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:8).**
 - 3. Paul was concerned about those who believed in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; but were lost (Romans 9:1-5; 10:1-4).**
 - 4. The book of Jonah illustrates God’s concern for the lost...**

- II. Jesus Is the Only One Who Can Deliver from Sin and the Wrath of God:**
 - A. One of the reasons Jesus came was to deliver from sin and the wrath of God (John 3:16, 36; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:10).**
 - B. Jesus paid the penalty for sin (Isaiah 53:5-6; John 1:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21).**
 - C. The Old Testament believers were saved on credit (Romans 3:25).**
 - D. Prophetic pictures and promises in relation to the cross are seen throughout the Old Testament:**
 - 1. The first prophecy concerning the Cross (Genesis 3:15).**
 - 2. The ram that became a substitute for Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18; cf. Isaiah 53:5-6; John 8:56).**
 - 3. The Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:1-36; cf. 1 Corinthians 5:7).**
 - 4. The bronze serpent on the pole (Numbers 21:4-9; cf. John 3:14).**
 - 5. The furniture in the tabernacle was arranged in the shape of a cross (Exodus 40:16-33).**
 - 6. The Scarlet Worm (Psalm 22:6; cf. John 12:24, 32).**

- E. God has provided a righteousness that rescues us from His wrath (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21)...
- F. Salvation is in Jesus Christ alone (John 3:16, 36; 14:6; Acts 4:12).
 - 1. Belief in a higher power will not save (James 2:19).
 - a. Four kinds of faith in relation to salvation:
 - 1) Doctrinal faith involves a body of beliefs (Acts 14:22; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:7; Jude 1:3).
 - 2) Dead faith which involves the intellect only (James 2:14-17).
 - 3) Demonic faith which involves the intellect and the emotions (James 2:18-19).
 - 4) Dynamic faith which involves the mind, the emotions, and the will (James 2:20-26).
 - b. Dynamic faith saves (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - 1) We keep doctrinal faith, but dynamic faith keeps us.
 - 2) Dynamic faith kept Job, Joseph, David, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Paul, Peter...
 - 3) Dynamic faith has to be fed (cf. Job 23:12; Romans 10:17)...

III. God's Ways Are Not Our Ways (Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33).

IV. The Bible Teaches That There Will Be Two Eschatological Judgments in Relation to Rewards and Punishment:

- A. The *Bēma* (βῆμα) Judgment (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10).
 - 1. "Judgment Seat" translates the Greek noun *bēma* (βῆμα).
 - 2. The *bēma* judgment will involve believers only and will be a judgment to determine their reward in heaven (Matthew 5:11-12; 2 John 1:8; Revelation 22:12).
- B. The Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).
 - 1. The Great White Throne Judgment will involve nonbelievers only and will be a judgment to determine their degree of punishment in hell.
 - 2. There will be degrees of punishment in hell (Matthew 11:20-24; Luke 12:47-48; John 19:11; Romans 2:5-16; James 3:1; Revelation 20:12-13; cf. Psalm 62:12; Proverbs 24:12; Jeremiah 17:10; Ezekiel 18:30).
- C. Three Greek words that are translated hell by the AV:
 - 1. *Tartaroō* (ταρταρόω) – the noun form of this verb is "Tartarus." This is the place of confinement for some of the fallen angels (2 Peter 2:4; cf. Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:3-4, 9).
 - 2. *Hadēs* (ᾗδης) the Hebrew equivalent is "Sheol."
 - a. *Hadēs* is the place where the souls and spirits of the lost go immediately after death until the Great White Throne Judgment (Luke 16:22-23; cf. Revelation 20:13-14).
 - b. *Hadēs* occurs 11 times in the Greek New Testament and is translated by the AV "hell" 10 times (Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27, 31; Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13-14) and "grave" once (1 Corinthians 15:55).
 - 3. *Geenna* (γέεννα) – This Greek noun refers to the final hell, which is the lake of fire (Matthew 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5; James 3:6; Revelation 20:10, 15; 20:8).
- D. Assignments: Read and meditate on Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15...

Pastor-Teacher, Julius R. Malone