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soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28), the English word “hell” is translated from the Greek “Gehenna” which is a transliteration from the Hebrew words for “Valley” and “Hinnom”. The damnation Jesus warned all sinners against is meant to provoke horrifying thoughts of idolaters offering their children in flames to a pagan god.

Appropriately, the notion of eternal condemnation consistently involves fire. Repetitively quoting the final verse of Isaiah (Isaiah 66:24), Christ preached, *“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched — where Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.”* And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be *cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched — where Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.* And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be *cast into hell fire — where Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched*” (Mark 9:43-48).

Unquenchable fire is not only the stuff nightmares are made of, but is the eternal reality for every sinner who does not repent. *“The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death”* (Revelation 21:8). Flaming fire and unending destruction await all who disobey the gospel. There will come a day *“when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 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. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”* (2nd Thessalonians 1:7-9).

While the prospect of unending agony in a fiery pit is decidedly unpleasant, fear is an appropriate motivation to prepare for judgment, as it is written, *“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men”* (2nd Corinthians 5:10-11).

THE UNKNOWN

Chadwick Brewer

“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you” (2nd Chronicles 20:12).

In the time of the Divided Kingdom, Jehoshaphat began a reform in Jerusalem. During this reform, three nations came together to battle Judah. The outlook was bleak, if not utterly impossible. Judah was a divided and weakened nation that was already tired from war. With the future unknown, Jehoshaphat turned to God, allowing Him to provide and protect. God told them to simply hold their positions, and they would not even need to fight. The next day, the battle was over, and not a single man from Judah had to lift a sword.

We too face many difficulties and battles that seem unwinnable. Perhaps that is why there are so many of these stories in the Bible. We find times in our lives that we say, *“We do not know what to do.”* Our next statement should also be the same as Jehoshaphat’s by saying, *“Our eyes are on You [Oh, God].”* Just as the answer they received was surprising, so, too, will ours be when God provides and protects. So, when facing the unknown, have confidence, but let the confidence rest in God.

THE ILLUSION OF CLEAN

Tim King

“There are those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth” (Proverbs 30:12).

This is what happens when people convince themselves they’re fine with God while ignoring the sin that’s still in their life. They measure “clean” by feelings, reputation, or comparison – not by God’s word.

You see it when someone says, *“I’m a good person”* or *“At least I’m not like them.”* They think moral effort or religious activity equals purity. But Scripture says you can look clean in your own eyes and still be filthy in God’s.

***"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"***

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

***"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"***

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

***"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"***

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN"

PROVERBS 25:11

"Sometimes, God doesn't change
your situation because He's busy
changing you."

GIVE ME THE BIBLE

KDNF 840AM

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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HINNOM VALLEY

Bryan Matthew Dockens

When the Jews fell into idolatry, one false god they bowed to was the Ammonite deity Molech (1st Kings 11:7). The worship of Molech involved the hideous ritual of child sacrifice (Leviticus 18:21; 20:2), specifically sacrifice by burning. *"The children of Judah have done evil in My sight," says Jehovah. 'They have set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to pollute it. And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart'* (Jeremiah 7:30-31).

Whomever Hinnom may have been, his identity and that of his son is lost to history, for by the time Israel conquered the promised land, there was already a place near Jerusalem variously identified as *"the valley of Hinnom"* or *"the valley of the son of Hinnom"* (Joshua 15:8; 18:16). Regardless, the place bearing Hinnom's name is permanently associated with burning children in sacrifice to an idol.

The Valley of Hinnom is not some relic of a bygone apostasy, an obscure place to consider while studying events of the Old Testament. No, that place name has been immortalized – quite literally. Every instance in which Christ warned of hell, he invoked the memory of the Hinnom Valley. When He warned, *"Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both"* – Continued on page 2 –

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