
Words of Truth

It's Not Some Game

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How seriously do you take the matter of where you will spend eternity? How seriously do you consider the consequences of your sins? How seriously do you take what Jesus came to earth and did for you in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension into Heaven, and to come in His future return? How seriously do you take the Scriptures you read when you study, hear when they are preached, and sing in our song worship to God?

Israel thought they could toy with God. Notice: *"Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it... Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves... They have belied the LORD, and said, It is not he; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine: And the prophets shall become wind, and the word is not in them: thus shall it be done unto them... Behold, they say unto me, Where is the word of the LORD? let it come now"* (Isaiah 5:18-19, Isaiah 28:14-15, Jeremiah 5:12-13, and Jeremiah 17:15).

Are you like the children of Israel were? Do you think the Lord will never return to judge the world? That would not be new of you if you thought that way. There were people that thought that way even in the first century (II Peter 3:3-4). Do you really look at God as though He is some fictional character and that you can toy around with Him and your soul? We all need to, regularly, take a step back and consider the seriousness of life, sin, THE JUDGMENT, and where we will spend eternity.

It Is Not A Game

First, we know that God does not lie (Numbers 23:19 and Titus 1:2). Therefore, as we proceed further, don't take what He says on what we will discuss as some half statement of truth or a joke. Those people that look at God's judgment like there is nothing to fear need to consider these two Scriptural references: *"Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it... For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment,*

suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, where with he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Amos 5:18-20 and Hebrews 10:26-31).

After reading those Scriptures, do you really want to test God and see if He will judge you? Sin is serious. Sin separates you from God (Isaiah 59:1-3 and I Peter 3:12). Sin brings eternal damnation (Matthew 25:31-46, Romans 6:23, and James 1:13-16). God is not unconditionally forgiving (Luke 13:3). Remember, God doesn't lie. Thus, if you can treat sin like it is not serious, it is you lying to yourself.

After considering the seriousness of sin, how can you be in sin and not take the Judgment Day seriously? Jesus promised this: *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation”* (John 5:28-29). Jesus will SURELY return. We will SURELY stand before Him in Judgment (II Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, we should be motivated to live pure lives knowing that the Judgment Day is real and serious (II Peter 3:10-14).

People dismiss Hell and act as though it is not a place of eternal existence for anyone. Heaven is overly stated in that people exaggerate what little we really know about Heaven and turn it into some worldly vision of bliss. What is true is that Jesus has gone to prepare a place we know little about (John 14:1-3). Hell is a place of eternal fire (Mark 9:43-48). It is everlasting destruction (II Thessalonians 1:7-9). If you can downplay either Heaven or Hell, something is seriously wrong with you. If there are sinful things in your life you should be really scared of what is to come. You should not take your salvation lightly.

Consider This Before Taking Salvation Lightly...

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator” (I Peter 4:17-19).

Conclusion

Faithful Christians labor hard spiritually to obtain eternal life (John 6:27). We know Hell is not where we want to be. Faithful Christians realize it is not a game. The question is, are you a faithful Christian? If you are playing with your soul – YOU'RE NOT A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN! If you are poking God in the chest and challenging Him to do something about it – YOU'RE AN ABSOLUTE IDIOT! The good thing is, you can change. God allows idiots to repent and be converted (Titus 3:3-8; cf. Acts 2:14-41 and Acts 3:19). It's not some game. If you have not taken your soul seriously, change that today. Make things right between you and your Creator so that you can have the peace that comes through knowing you are saved (Philippians 4:7).