

# HELL IS NOT A JOKE!

By Keith Greer

Sadly, we often hear people joke about hell. Years ago, a person told me he couldn't wait to get to Hell because all his friends would be there and they'd have a great big party! Others jokingly say the devil is afraid for them to come to Hell because they might take over. Such joking is beyond belief. For the following reasons, it is not funny to consider Hell as a joking matter.

**Unquenchable fire.** *"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.'" {Mark 9:43,44}* Will there be literal fire in Hell? I'm not certain, but consider the picture this passage graphically describes? We've all suffered burns, and we know that fire brings a lot of pain—albeit, only temporarily. Hell's fire will never go out. In other words, the torment and pain will last forever! *"As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." {Jude 7}*

**Outer darkness.** *"And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." {Matthew 25:30}* Many years ago, I visited Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. Down inside the cave, for just a few minutes, they put a group of us in a room that had absolutely no light of any kind. We couldn't even see our hands in front of our faces! After a few minutes, the darkness begins to grip you, and you feel it. The light from just one match supplied a welcome relief from the darkness. In Hell, there will be darkness that grips one in utter terror; only there will be no light there. People in Hell will be separated from God—the true light of the world.

**Gnashing teeth.** *"The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." {Matthew 13:41,42}* Why gnashing teeth? Those in Hell will be in so much pain and torment, they will grind their teeth in agony!

**The Lord's vengeance.** *"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." {2 Thessalonians 1:8,9}*. Hell will provide the unfaithful with their much-deserved retribution and indignation from a righteous Lord. *{Hebrews 10:29-31; Romans 11:22}*

**No relief.** *"He himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." {Revelation 14:10,11}* It won't be for just a little while. There'll be no appeal process, and the sentence will never be commuted. It will last forever!

**With all the condemned.** *"And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." {Revelation 20:15}* During their lifetime, most people refrain from associating with

those who are evil—murderers, child molesters, sexually immoral, hateful, worldly minded, and greedy. But if your name is not written in the book of life, you will be spending eternity with these evil people!

What could possibly be funny about any of this? Do you still think Hell is something to joke about? Unfortunately, men seek to just explain this place away by saying it's nothing more than a "scare tactic" by religious folks. Consider this—if heaven exists, and it does, so does the other place. Sadly, just refusing to discuss it, ignoring it, or worst say God's love us too much to send one there won't change the truth about it! We'd better consider it seriously and avoid it! \*\*\*