

Hell Is Fear Porn

Commentary for December 15, 2024 — [My title, DWS] by Dr. Ernest Martin, 1976

The Bible teaches that there is a hell fire. Christ mentioned it as a reality. And when He referred to it, He meant it to be taken seriously (Matthew 5:22, 18:9; Mark 9:43, 45, 47). But Christ never misused the doctrine of hell as some religious leaders have over the ages. Pagans also abused the teaching of hell in order to control the masses of people under them. The 1st Century BC, Greek historian Polybius wrote:

“... but seeing that every multitude [mob] is fickle, and full of lawless desires, unreasoning anger, and violent passion, the only resource is to keep them in check BY MYSTERIOUS TERRORS and scenic effects of this sort.

Wherefore, to my mind, the ancients were not acting without purpose or at random, when they brought in among the vulgar those opinions about the gods, and the belief in THE PUNISHMENTS IN HADES.”

• [Polybius, Histories Book VI. 55–56](#)

The ancients used hell fire to scare the people to do as the government had predetermined. They invented many things about hell to frighten the common people into submission. And while there is hell (Greek, *Gehenna*) the doctrine can be (and is) misused.¹

It was much abused in the Middle Ages when the church used it to scare people into staying within the church. Today, people also resort to the same abuse if they say that leaving a denomination will send them into a fiery hell. This is a scare tactic. It is crude and cruel. It is unscriptural. Any who resort to such methods really do not possess the necessary intellectual proof to retain the members of their denomination.²

But who is the judge of whether one goes to hell or not? Is it men on earth? No! All judgement is now in the hands of Christ (John 5:22) and not with any man. And it is Christ who will save all His people who are not attached to Him in love (John 10:28). No Christians need have a terrifying fear of hell.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation [Greek: judgement]; but is passed from death unto life.”

• [John 5:24, KJV](#)

Christ says that Christians will not come into judgment if they simply believe with the heart on Him (For more on the subject of the believer’s security read John 6:35–40, 47, 10:27–30; 1 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24; Jude 24–25; and especially Philipians 1:6.)

¹ Dr. Martin explains the three words translated “hell” in most English translations his short article [“The Biblical Teaching of Hell” DWS](#)

² Read [“The Pagan Immortal Soul and Double Doctrine”](#) compiled from Dr. Martin’s research. *DWS*

The Christian need not fear hell if we love Christ and serving His written Word, the Bible. Being in or out of a denomination has nothing whatever to do with it. One should only be concerned about hell if we are not keeping the words of the Bible (John 12:47-48).

But some may feel that a nonattachment to a particular group means that a person is on the way to a fiery hell, or could even in this life — as some imagine — get cancer or some other incurable disease, have a heart attack, or incur some awful accident as a result. Such an attitude is not Christian! Christ utterly condemns it.

When the disciples found Samaritans not wanting to receive Christ, they desired a curse to be placed on them — they wanted fire to come down from heaven upon the Samaritans. **“But He [Christ] turned, and rebuked them, and said, ‘you know not what manner of spirit you are of’”** (Luke 9:55). Such a wish on their part was wrong. It was satanic! If anyone has such a wish today, it is still wrong.

Are Christians to bring a curse on anyone, be it sickness, accident, or hell fire? Absolutely not.

“Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.” (Romans 12:14)

“Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” (Luke 6:28)

“... being reviled [said Paul], we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat ...” (1 Corinthians 4:12-13)

“See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow [pursue] that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.” (1 Thessalonians 5:15)

“Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that you are thereunto called, that you should inherit a blessing.” (1 Peter 3:9)

These Scriptures, and there are many others, state quite categorically that a Christian is not to pray a curse on anyone. We are commanded to bless even our enemies. Let none of us adopt the pagan way of cursing people into hell fire, into cancer, into accidents, into any misfortune. Nor are we to fear people who might proclaim such things to those who do not belong to particular denominations.

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

Forget the false fears that man may try to impose on God’s people. Trust God and His Holy Word — but fear no man.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear has torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:18)

Let us be spiritually grown men and women who step out in faith, trusting in God and following His Word. And let us not be caught up in the childish fears that are not an expression of mature Christian faith!