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**Where the Fire  
Is Never  
Quenched**

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# Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

Don't you just love to pick up a book and turn to the end and see how it turns out before you read the rest of it? You don't? Well, I'm one of those strange people who hates to waste a lot of time reading details, when in a matter of minutes, I can find out what's going to happen and move on.

God, I think, shares that thinking to some degree. Although He wants us to read everything in between, He has no problem with our knowing ahead of time how it's all going to end. In fact, He has told as much about the conclusion as He has about the beginning. One reason is that knowing the conclusion ought to have a profound impact on the kinds of decisions we make along the way. Another reason is that knowing how it will end gives us a measure of hope that otherwise would be difficult in the kind of world we live in.

But in either case, we have a graphic picture of the final chapter of God's book of history. We know how it will turn out. We know in great detail how it will turn out. None of us should be caught off guard or taken by surprise, but many *will* be surprised. They have believed the lie that these descriptions of the last days and the entrance into eternity are parables or analogies designed to exaggerate the truth. What the Bible says, Beloved, *is simply true*. It will happen, word for word, line for line, *just exactly as God said it will*.

Satan, no doubt, has a copy of the Scriptures. We know that, for he used it in the wilderness, trying to tempt Jesus. He knows the Word of God. He does not act on it, but he knows it. He knows, and he trembles. So, he knows what lies ahead. He does not, however, understand spiritual truth, and he likes to take the Scriptures any way but literally, *so he may have just deceived himself into thinking that God will change his mind, or that the picture painted in Scripture isn't really all true*. Oh, is he in for a shock.

We have been traveling through the time capsule of Scripture looking at how Satan was created, how he fell, who he took with him, and what he and his cohorts do all day. He wanted to be independent of God, and he thinks that's what he's accomplished. In reality, however, he is really only free to do what God allows him to do. He is, in effect, a tool God uses at will to accomplish His purposes in the saints. He thinks he is destroying us by bringing into our lives tribulation, persecution, sickness, failure, and trials

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

of every kind. He thinks that physical pain and suffering will drive us to renounce God. What he can't get through his once-angelic head is that *every move he makes only gives God the raw materials to change us, spiritually*. He ought to be able to figure it out, because he has to have God's permission to even touch us, and God alone gives him the parameters of our testing.

But Satan doesn't have the mind of Christ. He cannot grasp spiritual truth. So the deceiver, who is himself deceived, keeps on beating up on us, all the while playing right into God's sovereign hands.

His name is "the tempter". That name has many facets. He is a murderer; he is a liar; he is a seed-snatcher; he is a boxer or striker; he is a hinderer. He is all of that and more. But what he doesn't realize is that he is also a slave. He who desired to be free from servitude to God now goes about doing God's bidding, and he is too deceived to even realize he is in bondage. But don't feel sorry for him, and don't wonder if he will ever get his. Oh, Beloved, sit up and take note.

One fine day, not too long from now, this world as we know it will come to an end. It will happen in a series of cataclysmic stages, beginning with the trumpet call and the angels' shout, and the rapture of the believers who are alive on Planet Earth into the heavenlies, where they will be with the Lord forever and forever.

Surrounding or following that experience will be a time of torture and fear and warfare such as man has never experienced. Sin will be rampant. The world will fall under the spell of one of Satan's mouthpieces, who will appear for a time to be the savior of the world. But, of course, the Savior came 2,000 years ago. And this man with all of his charisma and charm will only prove to be a puppet of the demonic leader who is pulling the strings of his life. Death will reign supreme. This one who is called "the murderer" will personally engineer the deaths of millions. It may even appear for a time that he will be the victor. But, Beloved, *read the end of the book*. Oh, praise God, read the end of the book. That is precisely what we are going to do in this lesson.

We have seen what havoc Satan has wreaked on Earth. We saw how he deceived Eve, how he hassled Job, how he tempted Jesus. We have seen how his whole life is devoted to separating us from the quality of fellowship with God we were intended to have. We have seen all that.

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

Now, let's look at the *rest of the story*. Let's see what God has been leading up to all this time. Let's see if our Lord, indeed has a plan that will satisfy His incredible holiness. Let's see how it all turns out. Let's read the end of the book.

We acknowledge at the outset that this is not a popular subject. Though it is sometimes referred to, it is seldom preached about and often ignored. We must, however, finish the journey with Satan and his demonic host. We must walk that last mile with them into the lake of fire and let our righteous God complete what He began in eternity past, so that we can see the whole plan of God as it was intended to be. Hell is not easy to talk about, and we will not dwell upon it beyond this lesson. But for today, hell is the subject, Satan is the object, and the nature of God is the overriding issue.

### I- THE REASON FOR HELL

We have to begin any treatise of hell with an understanding of the relationship between good and evil, God and sin. Every doctrine in Scripture has at its roots some aspect of the nature of God. Never forget that. The doctrine of hell is vital to us because it speaks of the righteousness of God. If God were not perfect righteousness, there would be no need of hell. If God were not total holiness, there could be a heaven and an "almost heaven". If God's Word were not fashioned on absolutes, there could be sins and "almost sins". If God were not God, we could decide for ourselves what is and what isn't sin, and we could create a substitute for hell that didn't have all the attributes of heaven, but didn't have the heat index we hate to talk about. We could. But we would all be lost and without hope. Without hell, a Holy God is a fraud; His salvation is a joke; and His promises of eternal bliss cannot be true. If you long for a heaven without a hell, *you do not understand the nature of God*.

The righteousness of God is based on who He is. It is not an attribute He has added to His personality; it is the essence of His being God. As perfect righteousness, the Scripture says,

Thou art not a God that hath pleasure in sin, neither shall  
evil dwell with thee.

(Psalm 5:4)

Sin itself is the antithesis of God. God, by nature, demands obedience. That is why He created man "in His image", that is, to be totally obedient, as an image is to its source in a mirror. Sin, the act of being independent from God, defies everything God stands for and makes both His nature and His purposes to be a sham. Therefore, at any point at which God were to condone sin, or take

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

sin lightly, He would cease to be God and the absolutes which He, as God, has defined for us as believers would become null and void. It would all be a joke.

In the case of the unbeliever, God's righteousness reflects itself in judgment. He has offered free salvation to all men. He has offered to give them His righteousness in exchange for their sins, and they have simply chosen to remain in their sins. That leaves no option but for His righteousness to consume them, in order to destroy their sins. By refusing to be separated from those sins, they choose to die with them. In the case of the believer, God's righteousness reflects itself in mercy. It demands that sin be eradicated. Man could not do that, so God did it for him, and then offered it as a free gift, *because His name is not only righteousness, but also mercy*. By simply receiving that gift, given without merit, man exchanges his sinfulness for God's holiness, and the mercy of God destroys every trace of that sin. Thus, God is able to look upon redeemed man as completely whole and holy. What an incredible gift.

But only when the gift is received, does God's righteousness reveal itself in mercy, rather than in judgment.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:11-13)

The truth is this: God's righteousness cannot be satisfied in the presence of sin, so He took our sins, bore them on the Cross, and what would have been certain judgment, became mercy and love, instead. Now we can have fellowship with Him once again, because His righteousness has been satisfied. There is, however, a key to understanding the righteousness of God and the need for hell.

### II- THE REALITY OF HELL

To understand hell and to grasp how God's righteousness affects mankind, you must see it through the lens of fire. Fire is a key expression of God's nature. To the unbeliever, it represents judgment and death. That is what hell will be all about. To the believer, however, fire represents purification and direction. Hell itself is a picture of fire. It is the ultimate in judgment. Mark, chapter nine, describes God's view of hell this way:

For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

shall not lose his reward.

And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt (lame) into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

Where their worm dieth not, and *the fire is not quenched*.

(Mark 9: 41-48)

That's God's description of hell. "Where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched". Think about that. The word translated "worm" is used several times in the Bible to describe man in his unregenerate condition, aware of sin, but unrepentant. Your consciousness of sin and of your lost condition will never leave you in hell. It will not be a "let's regret it for a few weeks and forget it" experience. As long as eternity is, and it is eternal, the soul in hell will grieve over its lost condition. The key characteristic of hell will be how hot it is. It will be brutally hot, and the temperature will never vary. The thermostat will be stuck wide open. The fire will never, no never, go out. The cool breeze of God's presence will never come. Think of the hottest thing you can imagine; a burning furnace fired to its maximum, searing temperature. You might be saying, "At least at that temperature, you'll burn up quickly". No, the fire will never be quenched, and you will never burn up. The burning bush in Exodus 3:2 is an example of how it works. The bush was on fire, but never consumed. The fire of God is capable of burning without destroying. In that case, it was demonstrating the mercy and direction of God as the fire of His Spirit was revealed to Moses, His servant. But when that same fire is revealed to a rejector in hell, it is the fire of judgment. It will burn with all the heat of a thousand suns, *but it will not consume you*. You will plead to be burned up, but the flames will not lessen, nor will your eternal body be destroyed by the heat.

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

I think it is important to refer to the unbelievers as “rejectors”, because “unbelievers” alone might imply that they never had a chance to believe. God does not will that any should perish. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Yet, “to as many as received Him, to them gave He the power...” So, all men are without excuse. Those who spend eternity in hell will do so having made one of two choices: either they consciously rejected God’s free gift, or they simply postponed thinking about it. They made a choice not to choose. In either case, they *are in hell by choice*.

Hell is described by God as a place “where the fire is never quenched.” To the rejector, fire speaks of judgment. It always has. It speaks of judgment, first of all, to the nations, and then to all who reject God’s precious gift. When God wanted to demonstrate to a nation or a people what hell would be like, because they had rejected His plan or His purposes, He used fire. Look at just a few of the passages that confirm this:

The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah  
brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all  
the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the  
ground. (Genesis 19:23-25)

And how do we know that was a picture of hell? Read Jude:

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their  
own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under  
darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in  
like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going  
after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the  
vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 6,7)

I believe that the demonic host in God’s holding tank are regularly shown pictures of Sodom and Gomorrah on their big screen televisions to remind them of what awaits them. They suffered the vengeance of *eternal fire*, the fire that will never be quenched. The very presence of God is described as a *devouring fire*. Look at these verses:

And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the  
mount.

And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the  
cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto  
Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

And the sight of the glory of the LORD *was* like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.

(Exodus 24:15-17)

Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

(Psalm 11:6-7)

God's name is "The righteous Lord", and His righteousness demonstrates itself in the form of fire when it is manifested to unbelieving nations and peoples.

Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.

(Psalm 21:9)

How long, LORD? wilt thou hide thyself for ever? shall thy wrath burn like fire?

(Psalm 89:46)

For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

(Isaiah 66:15,16)

Now look at God's definition of the final fire, where Satan and his demonic friends will spend their eternity being toasted, if you will:

The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*;

The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

(Matthew 13:38-43)

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

(Matthew 25:41)

There is no doubt that God uses fire to express the refining



## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

process by which He separates those who are His from those who aren't, and by which He will separate the gold from the dross, as well.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:6)

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

(I Corinthians 3:13-15)

Fire, then, is the essence of the nature of God that brings judgment to the one who has rejected His precious gift, and that brings the refiner's cleansing into the lives of those who belong to Him. Fire is the essence of His righteousness, and as such, it will be the tool He uses to demonstrate justice and holiness as it pertains to hell. II Thessalonians 1 closes the circle:

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. (II Thessalonians 1:5-10)

At the end of the age, it will be the fire of God that ultimately destroys this earth as we know it.

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

But, Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

*Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

(II Peter 3:7-13)

And the angelic host that defied the God of eternity? The closing chapters of the book of Revelation clearly define the scenario:

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Revelation 19:19,20)

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

cast into the lake of fire.

(Revelation 20:10-15)

Now, Beloved, this is not a fairy tale. This is not an allegory. This is not any less fact than the fact that Jesus was born of a virgin, died on a Cross, and rose again. Either this book is the Word of God or it isn't. Either it is 100% true, or it might as well be a total lie. Either God has spoken and His Word will forever stand, or we have absolutely no basis for our faith. This is the Word of the Living God, and the Living God is a consuming fire to those who choose to believe not. To those who believe, He is the power of God unto salvation. The fire that exudes from His very presence becomes the Shekinah Glory that leads His children through direction and discipline into the Holy of Holies, near to His precious heart.

### III- THE REFLECTIONS OF HELL

Hell is real. Don't let anyone confuse you or deter you from understanding truth, just because it contradicts the natural mind. Hell is real, and hell will be hell, indeed. There are actually five classifications of hell listed in Scripture. They are:

Tartarus- This word is used in I Peter 3:19, and II Peter 2:4, as well as Jude, 6 and 7. It is a word to describe the prison house for fallen angels who sinned before the flood.

Paradise- (Luke 16:19-31, 23:43). This was the abode of the righteous after physical death until Christ conquered death, hell and the grave.

Hell- (Matthew 16:18, Luke 16:19-31). This is the torment compartment of sheol/hades where unbelieving souls have always gone and will go until the end of the millennium.

The abyss or bottomless pit- (Luke 8:26-31, Romans 10:7, Revelation 9:1-3, 11:7, 20:1-10). This is the abode of some demons. No humans ever go there.

The lake of fire- (Revelation 20:6, 20:11-15, 21:8, 22:15). This is the final hell prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41), and all who reject the plan of God in Christ Jesus. It is eternal (Matthew 25:46, Revelation 14:9-14, 19:20, 20:10-15).

The Scriptures are clear. You may not like it. It may not compute with your concept of God's love, or your concept of God's nature. If so, that is only because your concept has come from some source other than the Word of God. And the Word of God is the only source of truth about the nature of God.

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

Satan and his host have their futures emblazoned on the scrolls of Scripture, and *no matter how much pain they cause us on this earth as they march to and fro, seeking whom they may devour*, they are marching headlong into the abyss, where they will be deep fried for all of eternity. They will still be alive 10,000 years from now, aware of their separation from the God they once adored and served, and they will be just as aware then as they were at the moment they descended headlong into the lake of fire. The fire will never be quenched. That's an absolute. God won't change His mind and decide that His plan was too harsh. His plan was gracious and merciful. No one deserved to be saved; but everyone was offered salvation. It could not be more gracious than that.

Satan is having a field day, but the end of his day is not too far away. And when it comes, he and all his ungodly cohorts will be totally powerless to do anything but burn.

Our God is a consuming fire. And one day, Satan and all of his army of losers will be consumed by that fire. They will be contained for 1,000 years, loosed for a season, and then finally thrown into the lake of fire forever and ever. In the meantime, they will harass us, try to confuse us, and if possible, move us from any place that is close to the heart of God.

Beloved, don't ever look at fire the same way again. When you see a devastating, blazing inferno consume a house or a forest or a building, and see the devastation it brings, remember the judgment of God. But when you see a furnace burn natural gas, bringing warmth and light to a cold, dark world, while not destroying, only helping, think of the fire of God as it warms and leads the believer, day by day.

### IV- THE RESPONSE TO HELL

There is, however, one last truth that begs to be discussed as we close the door on this somewhat unpleasant look at the end of the age. That truth, by now, must have made itself incredibly plain to you. It is this: Even as Satan and his demonic host are assigned an eternally overheated future, so is every man and every woman on the face of this earth who has not or will not, in quiet faith, simply reach out and receive the precious gift of God that was purchased for them at Calvary by Jesus Christ, our Lord. Remember this verse:

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was  
cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

That has nothing to do with church membership. It has nothing to do with good works. It has everything to do with accepting the free gift of love that God purchased with His own blood on our behalf. I remind you, in love, Beloved, that *everyone who has ever lived will spend eternity either in heaven or in hell*. I know this is a difficult subject, and if you have had a loved one die and were not sure that he or she died in Christ, this is extremely hard for you.

We do not know men's hearts. But God does. He will make absolutely no mistakes. And there will be no "almost saved" Christians, who simply lived too good a life to be assigned to hell. They are not assigned to hell because they are good or bad. Hell is the place where men and women have to go who die in their sins, because the fire of God's righteousness *must consume their sins*. If they have never received the gift of God, which separates them from their sins, *they have chosen to go to hell, and God has no choice but to let them*. It breaks His heart. Watch Jesus weep over Jerusalem, and you will see how the Father cries each time someone dies without having taken the gift of life.

You cannot force a man or woman to choose heaven over hell, Christ over death, a mansion in glory over an eternity in the lake of fire. That is not our job. But for some strange reason, it seems to have become quite fashionable, even in evangelical circles, to treat evangelism as a part of our name and not a part of our calling. It seems quite fashionable, as well, to treat hell like a dirty word, just because that's how the world uses it, all the while, by the sin of silence, invoking the idea that it is a relic of a religion no longer relevant in an upscale, computerized world. We think we can get on the internet and prove by consensus that hell doesn't exist. No, Beloved, hell is real. It is eternal. It is gruesome, and it is the lot of all who do not take God at His Word and receive His Son, Jesus Christ. Too narrow? It is only narrow because *"they who travel thereon are few"*. It is as wide as God's heart and only as narrow as man makes it.

Every person you meet tomorrow will either be on their way to heaven or hell. The vast majority, Scripture teaches, are on their way to hell. Some have deliberately chosen that path, rejecting God's gift because it isn't in harmony with their concept of what God should be like, or because they do not want to confront the subject of sin. There are others, however, who are waiting by divine decree for someone to lovingly tell them they have a choice; to tell them that a loving God doesn't want them to go to hell. They need to hear

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

about a Cross, a Savior, a resurrection, and heaven. And they need to hear it from you and from me. Ezekiel 33 says:

If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take *any* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

(Ezekiel 33:3,4,6)

The thrust of that passage is that you and I are the trumpeters, the watchmen, and our silence is deafening in the ears of God. He paid the total price for sin, and all He asks is that we who are the recipients of that gift, share the good news with those who are waiting to decide.

It isn't heaven or something slightly less inviting. It's heaven or hell. Those are the only two choices. It isn't Jesus or some other god. There is no other god. It isn't the Cross or some other way. There is no other way. He is *the* way, *the* truth and *the* life. No one comes to the Father but by Him (John 14:6).

We live in a world where sin is relative, the Cross is unacceptable, and hell is unthinkable. Think again. Sin is real. The Cross is the only solution, and hell is the natural, normal end for all who do not choose to take the gift. But, dear one, there is *good news*. May I remind you that the same God who wrote "whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" also wrote:

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (Revelation 21:1-7)

All things. All things. All things. He will be our God. We shall be His children, forever and forever and forever. No more tears. No more death. No more sorrow. No more pain. Oh, praise God, no more pain. "Write that down", said the Master. "Write it down. For these words are true and faithful". Come to the fountain of the water of life. Freely it flows; freely it goes; freely it saves.

Anyone contemplating this reality right now need only fall down before a holy, righteous God and, confessing that you are a sinner, accept the gift of salvation purchased for you by a loving Savior 2,000 years ago on a Roman Cross, *and you will be saved.*

The Scripture asks this question: "How can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" The answer is: "We can't, and we shouldn't." This world as we know it will one day soon be burned up by the fire of Almighty God. But for those who say "yes" to Christ, a new heaven and a new earth await us.

Oh, what a day that will be. And what makes it even more special is that were it not for His amazing grace, we all would spend eternity where we belong...where the worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

### WHERE THE FIRE IS NEVER QUENCHED

Where the fire is never quenched;  
The Scripture doth tell,  
The clear, plain truth  
Of the nature of hell.

Unceasing torture,  
Unending pain;  
Never to ever hear  
God's voice again.

Total loneliness;  
Absolute loss,  
And all because...you said  
"No" to the Cross!

## Where the Fire Is Never Quenched

### For Focus and Application

1- Do you think the nature of God requires that there be a hell? Explain your answer. Try to define the righteousness of God. Why is His holiness and righteousness and justice so important to His love?

2- If man refuses to allow God to separate him from his sins, what happens when God judges his sins? Why is this so crucial?

3- Why do you think fire and hell are so intertwined in Scripture? Why do you think “fire fell from heaven” on Sodom and Gomorrah? Do you have a Scriptural basis for your belief? What do you think it means that “the fire will never be quenched”?

4- For the believer, fire stands for something different. Read I Corinthians 3:13-15 and John 15:6 and see if you can see how the fire of God has a different purpose for the Christian. What is it?

5- Do you believe this earth will one day be burned up? Why do you think God has to do that? What reason does God give in II Peter 3?

4- What books are being opened in Revelation 20:12? What does it mean to be “judged according to your works”? Will that happen to you?

5- How does Satan’s eventual punishment and enslavement affect your concept of his power? What does it mean to you personally?

6- Do you honestly believe that everyone you know is either bound for heaven or hell? How would you explain to someone how they can know for sure which place is their destination? How has Satan made the subject of hell seem foolish in our generation? Why do people believe in heaven, but not in hell? Are you one of those people? How does that belief affect your holiness? Your evangelism? Your concept of righteousness?

7- What does Ezekiel 33 teach us about our responsibility? Why is evangelism in our day considered “outmoded”? Why do we leave sharing the Cross up to Billy Graham or our preachers?

8- How does the contrast between heaven and hell help us to understand the depth of the grace of God? Dare we be ashamed of the truth about hell? What difference should this study make in your life?

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