

Third, turn not to man for your guidance, but to the inerrant Word of God. It is true (Jn. 17:17). It will guide you to salvation (Rom. 1:16). Men are fallible, some exceedingly so (Rom. 3:4). Let us therefore receive with meekness the implanted word which is able to save our souls (Jas. 1:21).

- Steven F. Deaton

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times
some will depart from the faith,
giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons,
speaking lies in hypocrisy...

- 1 Timothy 4:1, 2

Assemblies

Sunday Morning	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.

Elders

Tom Brown	502-921-2778
Laymon Byers	502-957-3627
John Smith	502-231-5341

Evangelists

Ron Halbrook	502-955-1748	halbrook@insightbb.com
Steven F. Deaton	502-543-9686	sfdeaton@insightbb.com

Phone: 502-957-5115

Sermons, Articles, and More at
hebronlanechurch.com



Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 31 Number 11

November 2007

“What comes after death?”

That was the title of an article in the Louisville-based newspaper The Courier-Journal on Oct. 15 (p. E1). It highlighted a survey done by AARP The Magazine on people’s belief in the afterlife. The results and quotes in the article are interesting—and sad. (One thousand people age 50 and older were surveyed).

94 percent believe in God
86 percent believe in heaven
70 percent believe in hell

Okay. Ninety-four percent believe in God, but only 86 percent believe in heaven? So, what do the other eight percent believe in? And what about only 70 percent believing in hell? What is the deal with the other 24 percent who say they believe in God, but they do not believe in hell? Am I the only one that is confused?

What this tells me is people want to believe in God for some measure of comfort, but they do not want to believe what He says. It may be that His words frighten them too much. Whatever the reason, they are inconsistent.

If we believe in God, we must believe in heaven and hell. God tells us about both. In fact, Jesus, God with us, said, “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matt. 25:46). This was in the context of discussing judgment and its results. Some will enter heaven, others will be cast into hell. The former is described as “the joy of your Lord,” while the latter is “outer darkness” where there “will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 25:21, 30).

hebronlanechurch.com

Non-profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Permit #10 Shepherdsville, KY	Church of Christ 3221 E. Hebron Lane Shepherdsville, KY 40165-8959
--	---

Not On Earth Today

Jesus also warned us to get rid of anything that will keep us out of heaven (Mk. 9:43-48). He said it is better to “cut off” what is dear to us and enter life, heaven, than to keep it and “go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched.” If you believe God, you must believe in heaven and hell.

If we deny hell, we must logically—and will eventually—deny heaven. The Bible speaks of both with the same earnestness. Read the last two chapters of Revelation and recognize that just as surely as there is a heaven, there is a hell.

Heaven and hell are real places, though we cannot now see them.

The newspaper article quotes “psychic” Marylin Gaddie as saying, “Hell, I feel, is the absence of God. I don’t think it’s... permanent.” This “psychic,” modern term for medium or spiritist, feels and thinks her way into belief. The thing about this is that most people in denominations form their beliefs the same way. You can see how this has affected their convictions through the years. It used to be that only a few on the very fringe of denominational bodies denied heaven or hell. However, more and more are denying they exist, that is, they agree with the “psychic.”

Come, you blessed of my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world.

- Matthew 25:34

In the Bible, we are taught “faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). In other words, biblical faith, true faith, comes from a conviction implanted by God’s Word, not our feelings and “think-sos.” We must be able to put our finger on it in the Scripture. If not, it is not biblical.

God, heaven, and hell exist whether men think so or not. A denial of truth does not annihilate the truth. If all men on earth denied God, heaven, and hell, all three would still exist. Let us not be those who deny reality, but embrace it and live accordingly.

- Steven F. Deaton

There is not a man on earth today that is an apostle. This is so even though the Roman Catholic Church tells us the pope holds the office of Peter. Too, the Mormons claim to have apostles, but claiming it and having it are two different things.

In the first chapter of Acts, we read where one was chosen to take Judas’ place (Acts 1:15-26). God had His hand in it, of course, as He had picked the others and Saul (Acts 1:24). Yet, it is by Peter’s mouth that we learn the requirement needed for any man to be selected. Namely, he had to accompany Jesus from John’s baptism to His ascension (Acts 1:21, 22). The apostles put forth two men, Matthias being chosen.

Where is the man today who accompanied Jesus from John’s baptism to His ascension? There are not any, even among the oldest denomination on the planet. It matters not that the Roman Catholics have had multiple popes, centuries of tradition, or all the pomp and circumstance of the Vatican. What matters is what the inspired Word of God tells us. Since the Roman Catholics, Mormons, and everyone else cannot produce a man to meet the divine qualifications, then we can know for a certainty there are no apostles today.

What implications does this have?

First, the Roman Catholic and Mormon assertions are lies. We need not give those religious bodies any respect because they are frauds. All who follow them are doomed to damnation because they do not walk in truth, but are deluded (2 Thes. 2:9-12; Matt. 15:14).

Second, there is no more revelation. The apostles were promised the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth (Jn. 16:13). They were empowered to bestow spiritual gifts on others, and it was only through the apostles what spiritual gifts were given (Acts 8:14-17). There are no apostles or prophets today, so there is no ongoing revelation. The whole truth has been revealed and we have it in the form of the New Testament—Matthew to Revelation (Jude 3; 2 Pet. 1:3).