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Is Hell Really So Tough?

"Many intelligent persons assume that the orthodox conception of Hell is inconsistent with reason and with cultivated thought, and that it has been rejected by the larger number of really thoughtful and liberal theologians. What about it?"

Hell is just as real as the end of your street, sir. Cultivated thought, bah! Inconsistent with reason, baloney! It isn't cultivated thought that's finding fault with Hell but uncultivated sinners who follow a course of life that is bound to land them in Hell.

There's no such thing as picking and choosing from among the doctrines of Christ. Either take them all or take none of them.

Deny the doctrine of Hell and you give up the Christian idea of sin and its consequences, of atonement and redemption, of the nature and divinity of Christ. For if sin is not an evil--heinous, infinite, with awful consequences--why did Christ become man and go through His passion and crucifixion?

Why did He, a God-man, let ignorant slobbs slap Him, insult Him, spit into His face, and, amidst the jeers and taunts of His enemies, nail Him to the cross?

One Christian doctrine depends upon another. One implies, explains the other. And the bond which unites them cannot be severed to suit fancy or concupiscence without rendering the whole scheme illogical and unreasonable.

Anyone intelligent enough to understand, and strong enough to accept, the words of Christ, ought not to have supreme difficulty comprehending the following, chosen from numerous equally-convincing texts in both the Old and New Testaments:

Then he shall say to them also that shall be on his left hand:
Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me not to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me not to drink. I was a stranger, and you took me not in; naked and you covered me not; sick and in prison, and you did not visit me.....

And these shall go into everlasting punishment; but the just, into life everlasting. (Matt. XXV, 41-46.)

and--

It is better for thee with one eye to enter into the kingdom of God, than having two eyes to be cast into the hell of fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not extinguished.
(Mark IX, 46,47.)

If you choose to wind up in Hell, here is what you are in for: eternal separation from God, with the realization that this disaster of disasters is your own fault; everlasting suffering in "fire"--actual, physical fire, though perhaps materially different from the fire we know.

Like the prospect of Hell? Nobody does. But don't be afraid to think about Hell and to fear it, and you won't face it in a fit on your death-bed.

PRAYERS: Deceased, uncle of J. Fredrick Meister (Walsh); grandfather of John Manion (Corby); cousin of Joe Ratigan. Ill, mother and father of Bob Siegfried (Lyons), injured in an auto accident. Four special intentions.