

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

October 20

2024

Who Shall Populate Hell?

There are many today who believe that hell does not exist. However, the Bible teaches that hell does exist (Ref. Mark 9:43-48), and it also gives us a preview of those who will populate it. So, with that sobering thought in mind, let's notice some who will be among the population of hell.

The Devil and His Angels Will Populate Hell.

In Matthew 25:41, Jesus, concerning those who would be found unrighteous on the day of judgment said, "...*Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*" You see, Jesus again confirms the fact the hell is for real, and He also informs that the devil and his angels will be among those who will populate hell.

The Unrighteous Will Populate Hell.

Not only did Jesus confirm that the devil and his angels will populate hell, but also those who are found to be unrighteous on the judgment day will likewise populate hell (Matthew 25:41-46). In Revelation 21:7-8, we read, "*He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*" You see, those who do not overcome unrighteousness, and are found to be unrighteous on the day of judgment, will be among those who will populate hell (Ref. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 20:13-15, 21:8, 27, 22:14-15).

Some Religious Folks Will Populate Hell.

Believe it or not, there will also be some religious folks who will populate hell. How do I know this? Well, in Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus said, "*Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!*" My friends, it is clearly evident from these words of Jesus that there will be some who profess to be religious, but fail to do the will of God, who will be among those who will populate hell.

Backsliders Will Populate Hell.

Another group of people who will someday be among those who populate hell are backsliders. Sadly, there are some who choose to turn their back on the Lord, and become entangled again in the affairs of this world. However, the Hebrews writer warns, "*For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries*" (Hebrews 10:26-27). Think about that, and strive to never be one who gives up on faithfully serving the Lord, for if you do, and do not return, you will be among those who will populate hell (Ref. 2 Peter 2:20).

Those Who Reject The Gospel of Christ Will Populate Hell.

Last, but certainly not least, the Bible also informs that those who reject the gospel of Christ will be among those who will populate hell. In 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, the apostle Paul declared that Jesus would take vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. He then said, "*These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...*" (2 Thessalonians 1:9). Friend, take heed to those words of warning from the apostle Paul, and be one who obeys the gospel of Christ. For, if you fail to do so, you will someday be among those who will populate hell.

My friend, this is a short preview of those who will populate hell. Now the question is, where do you plan on spending your eternity?

The Church Died!

Impressive churches dot the pages of Bible history - Antioch, Ephesus, Jerusalem, Philippi, Rome. From more recent restoration history, a host of names are recalled. But what finally happened to those churches? A few remain; most are gone. They died! Is this destined to be the final chapter of this church? Why did they die?

Did the churches become outdated? A new T-model Ford is as good as ever but not suited to the demands of our day. Man has not changed. Man's spiritual needs are the same. God's church is perfect in design and needs no improvement. That is not the problem.

Was it persecution that destroyed those grand churches? All churches felt the lash of persecution, but that is when they multiplied their numbers. They died later. Churches die from within - not from outside pressure.

Churches die at the tables of compromise. When the churches fought the world, sin, and false doctrine - asking no quarter nor giving any, they prospered. Brethren bore scars; they lost a battle now and then, but they did not lose the war. In their hand was a two edged sword, and on their side a divine defense none could penetrate. Compromise opened the gates and sheathed the sword. "Let's not dispute with people ... " That appeal is the cankerworm and caterpillar that devours a church - and it is at last dead, stripped of its courage and faith.

Churches die of indifference. All churches lose members - they die, quit, or move away. Laziness just revises the directory and waits for move-ins and births. No effort is made to restore the fallen as scripture demands. No seed is sown. No one has home Bible studies. There is no zealous pursuit of souls. That church naturally - gradually - eventually but ever so surely dies.

Churches die from misdirection. They adopt worldly religious ideals. They see the church as a social reform agency, a general benevolent society, and a recreational institution. Its spiritual mission is forgotten. The harder they work, the worse the church becomes. Finally it is but a grotesque caricature of the Lord's church. Somewhere along the way, the church died - the victim of apostasy. Other churches have no direction at all. They are content to open the doors three times a week, have a meeting once a year, and paint the building when it begins to peal. They go in circles constantly wearing the ruts deeper and deeper. They press without a real goal, running on the treadmill until the church dies.

Is such inevitable? Must our work be wasted? No! The Lord has a prescription: "Preach the word; ... in season, out of season" "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, ... " "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." May we have the zeal, faith and backbone to take the medicine.

✍ Joe Fitch

Belleville church of Christ
5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

Website: www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips	(765) 720-2816
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