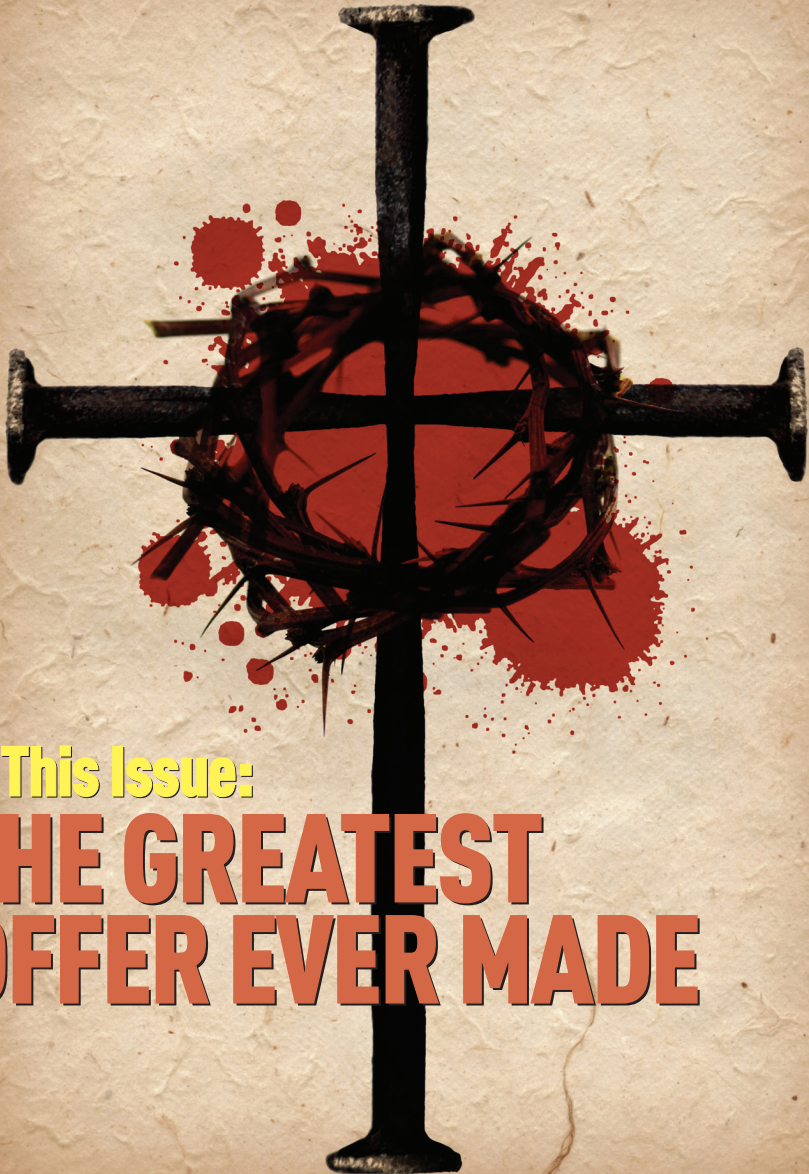


Faith Is Action

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In This Issue:

**THE GREATEST
OFFER EVER MADE**

On September 12, 1878, the British government transplanted on English soil an obelisk from Egypt, *Cleopatra's Needle*, erected on the Thames River overlooking London. Built 3500 years ago, it is a granite column covered with Egyptian hieroglyphics. The English buried in its base a time capsule in which they put various articles of Victorian English life, including coins of that time period, a directory of the city, twelve photographs of the most beautiful women of that time, and children's toys. They also included one verse from the Bible printed in 215 different languages. That's the verse we will examine today.

John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but should have everlasting life."*

This is the greatest verse on love in the whole Bible. It expresses the irreducible love of God, because as far as God is concerned, it all comes down to this: *He first loved us*. When

we didn't even know Him, He gave His Son so that we could know Him. We believe—We receive the free gift of eternal life.

It is the greatest story ever told, about the greatest offer ever made, by the greatest person who ever lived.

John 17:3 tells us what this greatest offer ever made is: *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."* Eternal life is to know the true and living God, and the only way you can know the true and living God, is through His Son Jesus Christ whom He sent into the world. John 1:12: *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on his name."* God gave, but we must receive, and this is by believing on and having a personal relationship with His Son. Now we will look at this verse phrase by phrase.

For God so loved the world...
The love of God for you and me is unsearchable and unfathomable. You



The
GREATEST
OFFER
Ever
Made
SHARON HARDY KNOTTS

can never measure the depths of God's love. In fact, Paul in Eph. 3:18-19, prayed this prayer: "*That you may be able to comprehend what is the breadth (width), and length, and depth, and height. And to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge...*" Paul was saying, "*I want you to know what is **unknown-able**.*" Is this a paradox? No, because the more you know God, and His love for you, *the more there is to know!* Just when you think that you have come to the point that you understand how much God loves you, you've only just begun! You will never ever come to the *nth degree* of God's love, because God's love is unsearchable. It's the gift that keeps on giving and giving, and giving...

When We Needed Him Most

Our minds are too finite to comprehend this love which is infinite! Romans 5:6-8 states: "*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure (perhaps) for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended (manifested) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

When we were *without strength*—at our weakest—Too weak to say, "*No*" to sin, without the power to stop sinning. The things we didn't want to do, that we hated; we found distasteful, despicable, but we

did them. We were too weak to do anything about it. You can't tell a sinner to stop sinning, unless you give him the power to stop. The power is through Jesus Christ. The same power that raised Him from the dead is the power that raises us from out of our sins. When we were at our lowest point, when there was no way out, "*in due time Christ died for us!*"

"*Due time*" means at the right time—*when we needed Him the most!* Many sinners out in the world are in what the Bible calls "*the pleasures of sin for a season*" (Heb. 11:25). The Bible does say that *there is pleasure in sin*, but don't forget the "*for a season*" part, because when the season is over and the pleasure is gone, there is nothing but bondage, addiction, misery, unhappiness, fear of death and of hell. *That's when Jesus shows up in due time!*

He loved us when we were ungodly and yet in our sins. Not only that, this is what really gets to me: *He was willing to pay full price for us when we were damaged goods.* I am always looking for a bargain. If a garment has a button missing, knock \$20 off. Neither do I want to pay full price for something if it's got a dent in it. That's why stores have "scratch and dent" sections with markdowns, because they know people will not pay full price for something that's damaged. **But God paid full price for us when we were damaged goods!** When we were full of iniquity, with all kinds of sins in our lives, He paid the price of the blood of His

Son. *We were not cheap.* We were used. We were abused. We were damaged, but we weren't cheap—It cost Him the blood of His Son!

He Loved You to Death

Have you ever snuggled a sweet little baby and said, “*I love you to death*”? Have you ever said to your child or your loved one who is precious to you, “*I love you to death*”? Well Jesus reached out His arms on that cross and said, “*I love you to death.*” That’s how much He loves you, and His love will not let you go.

Sinner; His love will hound you to the lowest pit. *Backslider*; His love will follow you to the deepest mire of the pig sty. His love is not going to let you go. You can’t be mean enough, bad enough, hateful enough, ugly enough, vile enough, dirty enough, filthy enough, that His love will not reach down and lift you up. Do you think that after Jesus hung on that cruel tree and suffered what He suffered as depicted in *The Passion*, He is just going to let you go? He’s going to hound you down.

2 Peter 3:9 says, “*God is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” Do not overlook those two little words *any* and *all*. They are full of meaning. I understand grammar, and *any* means *not even one*. Not even one is He willing should perish, but that *all*—*everybody*, excluding no one—God desires to save. “*God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of*

the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4).

God spoke through Ezekiel: “*Have I pleasure at all that the wicked should die, saith the Lord God, and not that he should turn from his ways and live. For I have no pleasure of the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God. Wherefore turn yourselves...*”

God won’t turn you. He will chase you down. He will hound you; He will pursue you, *but you have to do the turning.* He said, “*As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn ye from your evil ways; for why will you die?*” (Ezek. 33:11).

That He gave His only Begotten Son... Jesus Christ stands alone on the pages of history. There is no one else like Him. “*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*” (1 Tim. 2:5). Thank God, we don’t have to go through a priest, or a cardinal, or a pope, or Mary, or anybody, but we can come to Jesus Christ, our *mediator*. Because He is the *Son of God*, He can relate to us God’s part, and *God is holy*. Because He is the *Son of Man*, He can relate to God our part, *but we’re sinful*. Something must change, because a holy God cannot relate to sin. There is only one way He can bring us together: He has to take our sins and give us His holiness. He has to take our iniquity and give us His righteousness.

Jesus Reveals God

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God...And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth...No man has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him” (John 1:1, 14, 18).

Before He became Jesus Christ as a human, He existed as God. The angel told His mother, *“The Holy Ghost will come upon you and overshadow you, and that holy thing that will be born of you will be the Son of God. And you will call his name Jesus* (Jehovah is our salvation), *because He will save His people from their sins”* (Matt 1:21, Luke 1:35). John said, “No man has seen God at any time,” and the only way that we can see and know God is that the Son reveal Him to us. He said: *“All things are delivered of me of my Father, and no man knows the Son but the Father. Neither knoweth any man the Father save the Son”* (Matt. 11:27).

1 John 5:11–12: *“And this is the record that God has given us. He has given to us eternal life and that life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life. He hath not the Son hath not life. For as the Father hath life in himself so hath He given to the Son to have life in him.”*

“He that abides in the doctrine of Christ hath both the Father and the

Son” (2John 9). These verses clearly show that if you want to know God Almighty, who created you, your Father (whether you are on speaking terms with Him or not, He is your Father), you must believe on His Son. Then you have life and fellowship with the Father. There is no one else who can do this but Jesus.

Jesus Has No Equal

Before Jesus was crucified, He went up into a mountain with James, John and Peter (Matt. 17:1-8). Jesus went apart from them, and suddenly the glory of God was manifested on Him, *and He was transfigured*. John and Peter both describe it in their letters: The glory was so powerful that He radiated like the sun, and His clothes were literally glowing. It was as though laser beams were coming out of Him, and while they watched this sight, *they were sore afraid*. And then appeared unto him Moses and Elijah” who talked to Him about His death and crucifixion.

After they departed, Peter, who was always getting inspired to say something, said, *“Jesus, I’m so glad you let us come up here with You to see this, and I have a good idea. How about if we build three tabernacles on this mountain: One for Moses, and one for Elijah, and one for You.”* And **while he was speaking**, a cloud came down and covered them, and a voice spoke out of that cloud and said, *“This is my beloved Son: hear Him.”* In other words, *“How dare you put Moses and Elijah on the same par as*

Jesus Christ? He is My beloved Son!” Jesus will not share His glory with anybody: Not Moses, not Elijah, *no one!* This brings us to the next part:

Whosoever believeth in Him...

In whom? Jesus, the only begotten Son of God! You must believe that Jesus is the Saviour. Not Allah, or Mohammad, or Buddha, or Confucius, or Hari Krishna, not Peter, and not the Pope, but Jesus Christ! Jesus will not share the same page on the history books of time with any of these. He stands apart from all, because *He is the Son of God.*

John 14:6: “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me.*” You probably know *this is not politically correct!* If Jesus wanted to be politically correct today, He would have to say, “*I know the way,*” or “*I’ll show you the way.*” But He said, “**I Am the Way.**”

Some say, “*Don’t all roads lead to Heaven?*” The Bible says, “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12). **This is an absolute.** Christianity is **inclusive** in that it is *whosoever, let him come* —*anyone*. But it is **exclusive** in that *Jesus alone is the way.*

Only One Road to Heaven

No, all roads don’t lead to Heaven. *Islam* says that Jesus is **not** the Son of God, because God does not have a son. They believe Jesus was

just a prophet and He was not crucified. If Jesus wasn’t crucified, there is no salvation. There is no one who can atone for himself, because sin cannot atone for sin. It takes someone sinless to pay the price for sin.

Judaism says that Jesus is not the Messiah. *Buddhism* says you have to achieve *nirvana*, which comes after about 547 reincarnations, maybe once as a monkey, another time as a rat, or maybe a king, but after 547 times you will reach *nirvana*, which they have never really defined. The Bible says in Heb. 9:27: “*It is appointed unto man **once** to die and after that...*” Is there something after that? Yes, “*...the judgment.*”

Humanism does not acknowledge the Creator. It teaches that we all climbed from slime, and they don’t really tell you what the origin is. *Darwinism* never really nailed down how life *began*, but that we evolved from something, somewhere, sometime. *Mormonism* says that Jesus actually started out as a human and then achieved godhood through good deeds, and all the rest of us can achieve godhood, if we do enough good deeds.

Hinduism believes in many gods. They have over 33 million gods, and *not one of them is a personal god that you can have a personal relationship with.* All of these in some way have the same mantra: *You can save yourself by doing good works.*

If you stopped most people on the street and asked them, “Do you believe you’re going to Heaven?”

they'd say, "Yes, I believe *I'm a good person.*" But if you nailed them down, what is their standard for good? If you say you are good, you have to have a standard. The Good Housekeeping seal and the UL seal on consumer products first must be checked to see if they're good, and they have a standard to determine what is good. If someone says he is good, by what standard?

The Bible says that the standard is the Ten Commandments, some of which are: *Thou shalt not lie. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not murder.* Many people will happily tell you, "I have never murdered," but when you say, "Have you ever told a lie?" "Maybe a little one." The Bible says, "*All liars shall have their part in the Lake of Fire*" (Rev. 21:8). "Have you ever committed adultery or had sexual relations with someone who is not your legal mate?" Even if the answer is "No," Jesus went so far as to say, "*Have you ever wanted to do it in your heart?*" Because if you wanted to do it in your heart, Jesus said that it is the same as doing it (Matt. 5:28).

The Bible says, "*There is none righteous, no not one... For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" (Rom. 3:10, 23). The only standard that can lead you to Heaven is the one Jesus set, because He is the way! If you want to go to *Disney World* in Orlando, FL, you can't board a plane going to Niagara Falls, NY. If you want to go to Orlando, you have to get on a plane going to

Orlando. If you want to go to Heaven, you have to follow the one who came down from Heaven. Jesus said, "*I came down from Heaven*" (John 6:38, 51; 8:23). And when He was getting ready to leave, He told His disciples, "*I return to Heaven from whence I came.*"

So if you want to get to Heaven, you've got to hitch a ride with the one who came from Heaven, who knows how to get you there. He said to those who follow Him: "*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*" (You can't believe in God and not believe in Jesus.) "*In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also***" (Jn. 14:1-3). Jesus is **the** Way. You can't add anything to Him, and you can't take anything away.

Forsake All Other Gods

I heard this account on radio by Ravi Zacharias, who was born in India a Hindu, but became born again. A brilliant scholar, he speaks at college campuses in America defending Christianity against other religions, especially eastern. In the 1970s not long after the Viet Nam war, he preached in Cambodia, a Buddhist stronghold. He used an interpreter, and as he preached, the people eagerly responded. He was really encouraged by how the people

received the message that Jesus is the Saviour. When he finished, he sat down and the interpreter said to him, “Before I dismiss the people, I want to say a few things to them.”

The interpreter proceeded to talk to the people in their language, and Ravi didn’t understand what he was saying, but in short time, the interpreter had become very animated. The more he spoke, the more passionate he became, and the people became visibly upset. Some even got up and walked out. Ravi was becoming very upset himself, because it was obvious to him that whatever this man was saying, it was undoing everything he had just preached. The way home in the car was quiet, until finally Ravi broke the silence and said, “*Please tell me what exactly did you tell the people that got them so upset? People got up and walked out.*” He answered, “Ravi, you must understand: I had to make it perfectly clear to these people, *by accepting Jesus Christ, they had to renounce and denounce their idol gods.* If they wanted Jesus, they had to follow Him and *only Him.*” He explained, “In Buddhism, what’s another god? They have over 33 million, so they will just add Jesus to their repertoire. I had to make them understand—*if you follow Jesus Christ, if you want eternal life and go to Heaven when you die, you must renounce all other gods, and you must trust in Jesus Christ alone, because Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.’*”

Today in the USA, on TV, talk

radio, internet chat rooms and blogs, and in rallies, if you say, “Jesus Christ is *one of the ways* that you can get to Heaven, *one of the ways* that you can know God,” everybody would be fine with that. But the moment you stand up and say, “*Jesus Christ is the only way*”, they will scorn you, mock you, call you an intolerant, right wing, radical bigot, and a subverter of America.

Whoever—Even A Wretch

Before we move on, let’s look at the word *whosoever*. It’s such a beautiful word, because *whosoever* means *everyone*. It is one of the most wonderful words in the whole NT, and Jesus used it more than anybody. Matt. 10:32: “*Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in Heaven.*” Mark 3:35: “*Whosoever does the will of God is my brother and my sister.*” John 4:14: “*Whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.*” John 11:26: “*Whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die.*” Rev. 22:17: “*Come, and whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.*”

God will never violate your right to choose, even if you choose the wrong thing. He will never take away your right to choose, even if it would be better for you if He did.

“Amazing Grace” was written by John Newton, an English captain

of a slave trader ship. He went to the shores of Africa where he stole people from their freedom and brought them to the Caribbean islands to be sold as slaves. That's why he penned the words in this song, "*Saved a wretch like me.*" A slave trader is truly a wretch! One time he was in a savage storm that threatened to sink the ship and take his never-dying soul to the bottom of the sea as a wretch. But he cried out to God, and God saved him, and eventually he went into the ministry. *He never, ever got over the grace of God,* and *Amazing Grace* is really his autobiography. He said that **John 3:16** was his flagship Scripture, and he especially loved the part "*whosoever.*" Because he said, "If Jesus would have said, '*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that **John Newton** should not perish, but should have everlasting life, I would have thought He meant some other John Newton.*' I would have thought that it was somebody else with the same name as me, *but it could not mean me.* But when Jesus said, '*Whosoever,*' I knew it also meant me! *Whosoever! The Wretch, the slave trader!*"

Whosoever means the one on skid row, the one that is in deepest sin, the one that has sinned against God again and again. *Whosoever* even meant the thief on the cross. He said, "Lord, when You come into Your kingdom, remember me." And Jesus said, "*Today, you shall be with Me in paradise.*"

Should not perish... We cannot overlook that in this greatest verse on the superlative love of God, there is a reference to judgment. We would be remiss if we just skipped over it. He said, "*Should not perish.*" This means it is a possibility that somebody is going to perish. Some are going to come under God's judgment, because God's love and God's justice are inseparable. The one thief on the cross got saved, but there was another thief who was crucified with Jesus who was hard-hearted, and he railed on Jesus: "If you be the Son of God, why don't you save yourself and save us too." That's what sin does to people. One thief died on the *cross of repentance*, but the other on the *cross of rebellion*. In between the two was the *cross of redemption* of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. They had to choose, and so do you. God will never violate your right to choose, even if you choose the wrong thing. He will never take away your right to choose, even if it would be better for you if He did. That's why He sends so many warnings, because He knows if you don't make the right choice, you shall perish, and *He's not willing that any should perish.*

The Life Saver

The *Titanic* was called the "unsinkable ship." It was the wonder of man's handiwork for sea worthy vessels, and there was no ship like it at that time. It was beautiful and full of life on its maiden voyage from England to the United States in 1912,

when it hit an iceberg and sank. Over 1,500 people perished, because there were not enough life jackets and life boats for everybody on board. When they realized the unsinkable ship was going to sink, they began to load the life boats, allowing the women and children first to have life jackets and get on the life boats. In the case where a father was traveling alone with a young child, he was allowed to get on the life boat with his child.

There was a preacher of the Gospel on the Titanic. His name was John Harper, and he was traveling alone with his six year old daughter. He and his little girl were given life jackets and led to the life boat, but at the last minute he kissed his little daughter, put her on the life boat, and went back. He knew that hundreds of souls were going to perish in those icy waters, and as a minister of the Gospel, he had to try to get to as many of them as he possibly could. Once that great ship was inverted, people could no longer hold on, and they began to plunge soul after soul after soul in those frigid waters where no one could survive for long. John Harper frantically swam from one person to another, asking, “*Are you saved? Do you know Jesus as your Saviour?*” Thank God, we’re talking about 1912, and many of them said, “Yes.” They were singing when the boat went down as the band played until the last moment “*Nearer My God to Thee.*” When he came to one man and said, “*Are you saved?*,” he said, “No.” John Harper said,

“*Do you want to be saved?*” And with a hard heart he said, “No.” John Harper took off his life jacket and put it on that man, and said, “*Sir, you need this more than I do.*”

Of over 1,500 souls that fell into those frigid waters, only six survived, and one was the man John Harper had given his life jacket to. At a reunion for survivors he stood up and said, “I became a born again Christian and will preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to my dying day.”

I say to you, *If John Harper was not willing for that one man to perish, and would give him his life jacket to save his physical life, in hopes that one day he would see his need of the Saviour, how much more is your Heavenly Father not willing that you should perish when He gave Jesus Christ His Son for you?*

The word *perish* is a word of eternal destruction. It doesn’t just mean that you drown, and it’s all over. That would be terrible. I would not want to die by drowning, but if it would be over, it would be over. No, it doesn’t work that way—*There is something after—the judgment.* People don’t like it when you talk about Hell, and many say, “*I don’t believe in Hell.*” In fact, people who say, “I believe in Heaven,” also say, “**But I don’t believe in Hell.**” The same Jesus, the same Bible, the same Gospel that teach about Heaven, teach about Hell.

The Truth About Hell

It may surprise you to know that

Jesus preached more on Hell than He did Heaven, because He knows how terrible, how horrible, *how permanent Hell is!* That's why He sends warning after warning. Could I, as a mother, stand on the shore and see one of my children floundering and drowning, when I had a life saver right next to me, and not throw it to them? No, and neither can I fail to tell them and to tell you what the Word of God says about the damnation of Hell, because if you die and go to Hell, you will not get out.

There are no exits in Hell. There are no back doors. You can't take a weekend in Hell and try it out to see if you like it. There are no time-sharing arrangements in Hell. There's no purgatory. Jesus never said anything about a purgatory. When He described the rich man in Luke 16 who died, *he was immediately in Hell.* There's no temporary place that you can go and get your sins purged, and then when they are purged, you get out. No, you have to be purged, *you have to be cleansed with the blood of Jesus now!*

This is not a metaphor. Jesus is talking about a person with a being and a body that can feel pain, but not be burned up, not be consumed.

If you die and go to Hell, no one on earth can pray you out. No one can burn candles for you to get you out. Or like the Mormons claim, no one can be baptized in your place

once you are dead and get you out of Hell. Not even Mary, the mother of Jesus, can get you out of Hell. And there is no *graduation day* from Hell, because *Hell is not a reform school.* It is not a correctional center, but Jesus said, "*The worm (refers to a man) dieth not, and the fire is not quenched*" (Mk. 9:45-96). This means two things: *The fire never goes out, and the man never dies.* He has an eternal body that cannot die, and Jesus said in Rev. 14:11: "*The smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever.*" He said in Matt. 8:12: "*There will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.*"

This is not a metaphor. Jesus is talking about a person with a being and a body that can feel pain, but not be burned up, not be consumed. But do you know what is the worst thing about Hell? It is not the pain, the stench, the tormenting demons, the darkness, the fire, the screams of the wicked, the worst thing is, *there is no presence of God—therefore, no presence of good.*

Bill Wiese wrote the book "*23 Minutes in Hell*" about his experience when God took him to Hell for 23 minutes, and the things he saw, smelled, and felt will make your hair stand up. In his many TV interviews I've seen, when he is asked, "What was the worst thing?", He always says, "*The sense of utter hopelessness that there is no presence of God there, knowing you will never get out.*" The Bible confirms this in 2 Thess. 1:9: "*Who shall be punished*

with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power.”

Some of you are uncomfortable right now, but let me tell you, there will be no services like this in Hell, and no sermons. There will be no teachers to teach, no preachers to preach. Young people, Teenagers, there will be no saved parents to get on your case—No praying moms and dads to tell you the truth. No voice of God to convict your heart, and no Holy Spirit to say, “Repent.” In fact, people in Hell will still have their same desires to lust, to sin, to hate, to rebel, because there will be no presence of God to convict them.

In Rev. 22:11, Jesus spoke about the righteous being with Him eternally in New Jerusalem and the wicked going into Hell, and Hell being cast into the Lake of Fire forever and ever. Then He said, *“Let the unjust be unjust still, and let the filthy be filthy still,”* because in Hell the filthy will still have filthy desires and imaginations. When the rich man died and went to Hell, he begged, *“Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, and let him dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame.”* But notice what he did **not** say: He **didn’t** say, “Forgive me of my sins,” because there is no convicting power of the Holy Spirit in Hell. That’s why God is speaking to us now.

The Eternal Payoff

But have everlasting life. John 11 is the story of another Lazarus who died, Jesus’ friend. When he was dead 4 days, Jesus came to raise him up. His two sisters, Mary and Martha, were brokenhearted and didn’t understand why Jesus hadn’t come sooner to heal their brother while he was sick. They had seen Him heal many. They said, “Lord, why didn’t You come and heal him? Now he is dead.” Jesus said, *“Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”* Martha said, *“Lord, I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”* Jesus said, ***“I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?”*** (vv. 24-26).

What about you—Do you believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life? When the Bible writers want to illustrate *the love of God*, they point to *the cross*; when they want to illustrate *the power of God*, they point to *the empty tomb*, because Jesus is not on the cross, and neither is He in the ground.

A final story: A missionary to Asia was showing the *Jesus* film. (Shown to over a billion people in many languages since the 70’s. It portrays the gospel of Luke.) He was in a place in the jungle that was so remote that the people had never seen a movie before. This was before satellite and internet. It was also a

Buddhist stronghold where they had never heard of Jesus Christ. They were fascinated with the movie, but when it got to the place where the soldiers were beating Jesus, the people stood up and began to yell at the screen, shaking their fists. They carried on so much he had to turn the movie off, calm them down, and say, “Wait a minute, it’s going to get better. This is not the end. Just sit down and watch the rest of the movie.” They sat down, and continued to watch the movie. Then it came to the part of the crucifixion, where they were nailing Jesus to the tree. Again, the people stood up, but this time they turned around, took off their shoes and started *throwing them at the missionary!*

Again, he turned off the projector and said, “Wait! Wait! I promise you, it has a good ending! Sit down and watch the rest of the movie.” He finally calmed them down and turned it on again. When it got to the part where Jesus was raised from the tomb and appeared unto Mary, *they jumped up and began to dance, clap their hands, and to sing and rejoice.* People who had never seen a movie, who had never heard of Jesus, but the power of the Gospel witnessed to them, because it’s a Gospel of power and joy. They joyfully received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Paul said in Heb. 12:2 “*Jesus despised the shame of the cross.*” It was shameful. It was a reproach. He hung there naked and humiliated, in addition to His suffering. He

despised the cross, *but He endured the shame “for the joy that was set before Him.”* The joy that was set before Him was *to save you and me.* That was the joy that made Jesus endure the cross, and why **this is the greatest offer ever given, and Jesus offers you today eternal life.**

Please Note:

“The Greatest Offer Ever Made” is available on CD and MP3 formats. Order online at www.rghardy.org or to order by mail, send \$10 and request order# SK-141.