

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 674 September 27, 2018

Current Whereabouts Unknown

Bill Brinkworth

I remember how we would laugh about going to Hell. “Yea, we’ll be together in Hell. We’ll have a good time partying,” I laughed.

“Sure,” my friend scoffed, as he guzzled down a beer. “Yea, just one big party — forever and forever!”

Years went by. After heartaches, learning the hard way, and a lot of God’s grace and mercy, I got saved. I accepted Christ as my Saviour and tried to live for Him.

My friends could tell there was something different about me. I did not want to party with them anymore. They got more uncomfortable around me, as I had a burden to share with them what I had learned from the Bible. Soon we grew completely apart and seldom spent time together.

As I grew in the Lord and studied the Bible, I learned more about the reality of Hell. All the things that I had heard about the place of torment were true. It was a place where the fire would never stop burning one’s flesh and a place of eternal loneliness. What a horrible, terrible place. It was a place

that should not be taken lightly! Then I remembered the friend with whom I had scoffed at about Hell. I was burdened to see and warn him of the place, so he would not have to go there.

I visited his home. He was still living with his parents, even though he was 35 years old. We went up to his bedroom to talk. Sin had taken a toll on his life. The drugs and booze were a constant companion in his life — over 15 years of non-stop abuse. He was not the same friend with whom I had grown up.

He was searching. I could tell. He had tried Buddhism for a while. He had even memorized a very long chant from one of their books, but that religion still did not fill the empty spot he had in his life.

He had gotten involved with the Jehovah Witnesses, hoping they had the answers he sought. I remember him telling me that they were nice to him. He was impressed that they had spent time with him and he started attending their meetings.

I told him what the Bible says one must do and believe to have God's promise of eternity in Heaven. He admitted to me, "I thought the Witnesses had something, but as I got closer I found that nobody had any real peace. Bill, I still haven't found any yet, and I don't have the promise of eternity you have." His voice was sorrowful. He had looked and looked but found nothing to fill the emptiness his soul had.

“You know how I was, and you know how the Lord has changed me. He’s given me peace, help, and a lot of promises. He’ll give them to you too, if you’ll accept Him as Saviour,” I pleaded. However, the other cult’s teachings he had been involved in brought doubt and confusion to his thoughts.

I explained and explained. I did everything but beg, but my friend was even more confused. Man-made religion had done much damage to his thinking. When I left, he was still unsaved. I urged him to at least visit the church that I had gone to. I’m not sure he ever did.

From time to time I heard tidbits about my friend. He had gotten involved in some indecent sin, probably the fruit of all the pornography he polluted his mind with. Once, the law had required him to go to a psychiatrist, and the doctor had put my friend on drugs to keep him from feeling so miserable. His mental problems were probably from years of taking drugs. (I remember his bragging how “pot will never hurt me”.) It certainly sounded like he was getting lonelier. His behavior became more bizarre. He hardly had any friends and never married. What a lonely, empty life he lived.

I thought about him much. Sometimes I prayed for him to get saved.

It had been years since we had seen each other when I got a telephone call from my mother. Her voice was sad as she read me a story from her newspaper: “Last Wednesday, the

body of a 40-year-old man was found at the foot of a 100-foot cliff at ... Park. He was rushed to the ... Hospital. The man's name ...”

I interrupted my mother's voice, “It's my buddy, isn't it?” I knew it was he before she had even finished. His sad, hard life had come to an end after an accident.

The hardest thing to grasp at that time was, where did my life-long friend go: Heaven or Hell? Unless he had gotten saved since the last time I had talked with him, and I hope he did, he is in Hell.

Hell is a real place. There is no party there! There's no way out. It may be too late for my friend, but maybe his life can teach you something. Are you sure that if you were to die right now that you would go to Heaven? You can know for sure!

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9

If you do not know for sure that you would spend eternity in Heaven, ask a preacher, or a saved friend. If you do not know of one that can tell you what the Bible says, please e-mail me at brinkworth@frontier.com. I would be honored to share the biblical way to Heaven with you. Know where your future whereabouts will be!

“Don't let scoffers laugh you into Hell. They cannot laugh you out of it.” — D. L. Moody

Victory Some Glorious Day

Barbara Brinkworth

As Christians, we often hope that victory is ahead. We try to hold on, pray through, and endure to the end.

The truth, however, is that victory was won in the mind of God before the foundation of the world. It was promised in Genesis 3, and it was manifested in Jesus on Calvary (John 3:16). It becomes a reality in our lives at the moment of salvation. It will one day become a reality to the entire world when Satan, at last, is cast into the Lake of Fire.

So, if the victory is already won, why do we spend most of our Christian life in a battle to obtain it? It is because we are fighting a phantom enemy. We are continually doing battle with our flesh. The key to living the victorious life every day is to die to self-consciousness. Do not think highly of yourself. Do not think badly of yourself. Do not think of yourself at all. Rather, keep your eyes on the Captain of the host, the Lord Jesus. Watch his every move in your life. Obey Jesus' slightest command. He has already won the war. His strategies for life's battles are "forever settled in the heavens." Follow Him wholeheartedly, and enjoy a glorious day of victory every day!

Is Your Bible Interesting?

Author Unknown

Mother was trying to get eight-year-old Mary to learn her Sunday school lesson. At length, she took her Bible from the bureau and said, "Come, Mary. I will help you learn your lesson, and then you may go back to your play."

“All right, Mom, but let’s study it out of grandfather’s Bible. It is much more interesting than yours.”

“Oh, no, Mary They are exactly alike.”

“Well, I think grandfather’s must be more interesting than yours; he reads it so much more.”

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

Good Preaching?

Author Unknown

A sailor, just home from a whaling expedition, went to a church recommended by a friend for good preaching. On his return from the church, his friend asked him, “How did you like the sermon?”

“Not much. It was like a ship leaving for whaling. Everything shipshape, anchors, sails, and provisions all right, but there were no harpoons on board.”