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Damnation.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Damnation.

Topics.

- They shall receive the greater damnation.
- The damnation of hell.
- Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit is subject to eternal damnation.
- Those that pretend will receive greater damnation.
- The resurrection of damnation.
- Drinketh damnation to themselves.
- Their damnation slumbereth not.

NOTE: The purpose of this document is not to do an in-depth study on each topic, but simply to discover if any verse using the word damnation links it with eternal torment.

THEY SHALL RECEIVE THE GREATER DAMNATION

- **Matthew 23:14:** Jesus said, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore you shall receive the greater damnation.”

Devour: in this context means to take in eagerly and destroy rapidly and completely, it also carries the idea of having an overwhelming and destructive passion or obsession for somebody.

1

The scribes and Pharisees were the religious leaders of Jesus era, they made long prayers not because they were sincere about what they were praying but to make themselves appear holy to their followers. They taught one thing to their congregations, but lived a lifestyle totally contrary to what they taught others. Added to this they had no compassion for the poor, but instead were full of selfish greed and took for themselves the money of struggling widows, no-doubt telling them that under the law they had to give their tithe otherwise they would not be in God's favour or under His blessing. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians wrote:

- If anyone builds on the foundation (the Lord Jesus Christ) with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, they will receive a reward, but if anyone's work is burned up, they will suffer loss, though they themselves will be saved, but only as through fire (1 Cor. 3:12-15).

The greater damnation in the context of Jesus words means that any minister or religious teacher who serves God and uses their privileged position and those who are seeking God for their own selfish gain and show no compassion toward the poor will be judged and condemned without mercy. The greater damnation means, that in contrast to those who were saved even though all their works were burned up these types of self-serving ministers will be cast out of God's Kingdom altogether.

THE DAMNATION OF HELL

- **Matthew 23:33:** You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? (gehenna) (The damnation of hell in the KJV).

Hell: in this verses comes from the Hebrew word Gehenna which was originally the valley of Hinnom south of Jerusalem it had been the site of child sacrifice to an Ammonite god called Molech, but became the place where the filth and dead animals of the city were cast out and burned thus the reason it is used as a symbol of the wicked and their future destruction. The damnation of hell in this context means they will be damned to the Lake of Fire which is a symbol of total extinction because fire destroys everything until it is utterly gone. Those that Jesus is condemning to eternal extinction, is the hypocritical, self-serving religious leaders of his day, the Pharisees, chief priests and scribes.

For further information see the title:

- Molech.
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

WHOEVER BLASPHEMES AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SUBJECT TO ETERNAL DAMNATION

- **Mark 3:29:** but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin (eternal damnation in KJV).

Jesus is speaking to the religious leaders of his generation who not only believed Jesus was demon possessed and had an unclean spirit but was also healing the sick by the power of Beelzebub the prince of demons. The Holy Spirit in this context refers to the holy, righteous and sinless spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. The phrase, "Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness," means, no matter what humans call each other or even what sins they may have committed they can be forgiven, but as long as they remain in a state of speaking against Christ and denying him in any way they can never be forgiven, simply because they are speaking against the only one who can save them to eternal life.

2

A brother or sister in Christ in difficult circumstance many speak against other humans or sadly in troubled moments even against their brothers and sisters in Christ, but they are still forgiven and still saved, but they cannot deny and turn against Christ and aggressively speak against him, as long as they are in this state they can never be forgiven.

NOTE: this does not refer to a simple moment of anger or frustration expressed toward the Lord because of a crisis and hardship in life. The blasphemy against the Holy Spirit that never has forgiveness is deliberate, calculated, ongoing and purposed in the heart. Those who receive eternal damnation in this context are those who speak against Christ and deny him. Eternal damnation means they are judged and condemned to eternal death in the Lake of Fire (a symbol of utter extinction).

THOSE THAT PRETEND WILL RECEIVE GREATER DAMNATION

- **Mark 12:38-40:** And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces ³⁹and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁰who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation (greater damnation in KJV).

The ones who will receive the greater damnation in these verses are religious leaders who are full of pride and self-exaltation and are in the ministry not to serve the Lord, but because they love the adoration and praises of the people and the importance and exaltation they receive. Their ministry is one of pretence and hypocrisy, they have no integrity toward the Lord and no compassion for those they minister to, but instead use them for their own selfish ambition and to achieve their own goals.

THE SAME SHALL RECEIVE GREATER DAMNATION

- **Luke 20:46-47:** Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, ⁴⁷who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation (greater damnation in KJV).

The ones who will receive the greater damnation in these verses are religious leaders who love the importance that they receive by dressing in holy garments and think all the while these religious robes, sashes and hats make them holy when in reality they are pretenders who are only in the ministry for their own glory. They are driven not by the Spirit of the Lord, but by self, ego and pride and make long prayers to appear holy and show off their intellectual knowledge. They have no compassion for the less fortunate and the poor, but use them for their own selfish gain and take advantage of vulnerable women.

THE RESURRECTION OF DAMNATION

- **John 5:28-29:** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment (resurrection of damnation in KJV).

When Jesus was asked, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" He answered, "The most important is, "God is one and you shall love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength" The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" there is no other commandment greater than these two" (Mark 12:28-31) James refers to Jesus commandment, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" as the Royal law (James 2:8). It means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, mentally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour.

JESUS FAMOUS SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity,

decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing all we can do to protect people from harm and being dominated by the thought:

- What action can I take or do that will help and encourage this person.

It is all about doing right to others, thus the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5).

- These are the things that delight the heart of God.

A wicked person is primarily one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and does harm to other humans. For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Those who will be raised to the resurrection of damnation refer to anyone who has deliberately used, oppressed or done harm to others for their own gain and to religious ministers and teachers who deliberately distort and twist the Scriptures for their own advantage and use their congregations as merchandise for their own gain.

RECEIVE TO THEMSELVES DAMNATION

- **Romans 13:2:** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment (will receive damnation in KJV).

- This is a verse from Paul letter to the Christian brothers in Rome.

4

The Christian religion was designed to extend throughout the world establishing a Kingdom amongst other kingdoms. Christians profess supreme allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ he is their Lawgiver, their Sovereign and their Judge therefore Paul addresses the question:

- What kind of allegiance are they to render to earthly authorities?

Especially considering that the kingdoms of the world were then pagan kingdoms which had been generally founded in conquest, blood and oppression and that many of the kings were not only unprincipled men, but were morally polluted in their private lives and oppressive in their public administration thus Paul is addressing the question: -

- Should Christians acknowledge the laws of such kingdoms and of such authorities?

Many of the early Christians were composed of Jewish converts who had long been under Roman authority and oppression which was founded in a system of idolatry, thus the difficult question:

- How far should they submit, if at all, to heathen authorities?

The circumstances for the Gentile converts was not much different since they would naturally look with abhorrence on the system of idolatry which they had forsaken and regard it as opposed to God, but since pagan religion was interwoven with the civil institutions and authorities there also existed danger that they might denounce the rulers of government altogether and be regarded as opposed to the laws of the land. Naturally when the laws interfered with the rights of conscience; when they commanded the worship of idols or any moral wrong then it is right for Christians to resist the laws and take a stand, but where is the line to be drawn, the word be subject denotes that kind of submission which soldiers

render to their officers it implies a willingness to occupy our proper place, to yield to the authority of those over us, but it does not designate the specific extent of the submission, but rather presents it as a general principal which would be to obey in all things which are not contrary to the Law of God. It is most certain that the authorities Paul had in mind are the Roman rulers since he is writing to brothers and sister in Rome, but by extension the principal he is teaching extends to all generations.

The reason Paul says Christians should be subject to the authorities over them is that governing rulers have received their appointment from God and therefore since Christians are to be subject to God they should honour God by honouring the system of government which he has instituted for mankind even if rulers had secured it, not according to justice, but by oppression because once a ruling government is established, how it was established is not the concern of a Christian since it is not their duty to seek to overturn it for without government there could be no society, no security, no private property; all would be confusion and anarchy and all nations would soon be in extreme Chaos. In all nations of the earth there is a constitution (a plan by which a particular country or state is governed) and this constitution is less or more calculated to promote the interests of the community. The civil authority agrees to govern according to that constitution and in this way, there is an agreement and consent between the ruling government and those they are governing, but what if the ruler is an immoral man should Christians submit to his rule?

If he is ruling according to the constitution nothing can justify rebellion against his authority no-matter how irregular he maybe in his own private life; he may disgrace himself by an improper conduct, but if he is ruling according to the law and make no attempt to change the constitution nor break the agreement between him and the people there is no legal ground of opposition to his civil authority and every act against him would be considered rebellion and unlawful. No personal misconduct in the ruler, no immorality in his own life, while he governs according to law, can justify either rebellion against him or contempt of his authority since he is accountable only to the people for his political conduct, for his private life and moral conduct he is accountable to his own conscience and to God.

Nevertheless, opposition to a ruler can be justified when there are overt attempts on his part to change the constitution or to rule contrary to law. When the ruler acts in this way he dissolves the agreement between him and his people and therefore his authority is no longer binding because it then becomes illegal since he is acting contrary to the laws of that constitution according to which on being raised to the supreme power he promised to govern. This conduct and actions that are contrary to the law justifies opposition to his government, but a wise person will wait for the right time and find a legal way to bring about change according to law.

IN CONCLUSION

Paul is stating the general principle is to submit to authorities who are appointed to keep the law and administer justice otherwise you will come under their wrath. The entire focus is on authorities who are appointed to bring the wrongdoer to justice and thereby protect the innocent (meaning they have been appointed for the good of the people not their harm) (Romans 13:4). Those who will receive damnation are those who resist legitimate authorities firstly by the authorities themselves because they not only have the power to cast rebels in prison, but also to torture them or even have them put to death and secondly by God since he has established that their needs to be ruling powers and governments in this fallen and corrupted world to keep some form of order amongst nations and civilizations otherwise chaos would be King.

DRINKETH DAMNATION TO THEMSELVES

- **1 Cor. 11:29-30:** For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself (drinketh damnation to himself in KJV) ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

NOTE: to understand this verse it needs to be understood that when it was written it is in the context of brothers and sisters having a meal together in the Lord's name.

Paul in this verse is not saying take a deep look inside yourself to see what sinful aberration or dysfunction maybe dwelling in the heart or the mind neither is it about meditating on what sin we may have done during the week (these are things we do as soon as we become aware of them or are convicted in our hearts), rather the focus is about examining ourselves to see if we are being selfish in our eating and drinking a meal in the Lord's name. It is about examining ourselves to see if we are being selfish or giving (i.e., are we eating to ourselves or gladly sharing what we have with others especially the poor and the less fortunate) thus the words:

- Whoever eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks damnation to himself (v29)

Means whoever eats and drinks to themselves without sharing the food and drink they have, do not understand what the body (Christ' body and the church) is all about and in their selfishness are bring judgment to damnation upon themselves.

NOTE: the body in this context refers to the body of Christ (i.e., every brother and sister in Christ) (the church).

The words:

- That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died (v30).

Have been grossly misunderstood in many religious circles since it has been taught that if we eat or drink of the Lord's Supper with sin in us we are drinking it unworthily and are in danger of becoming sick or even worse dying, but if that was the correct interpretation not one of us could ever eat or drink of the Lord's Supper since we are never fully free of sinful aberrations and dysfunctions. This is a perfect example of isolating a verse by lifting it out of its context and twisting it to mean something it doesn't. The context is in the framework of eating the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20). Paul is telling the brothers and sisters of the Corinthian church many amongst them are sick and even dying because those who have abundance of food are not sharing it with those who are hungry and have none. This is the reason they are sick and dying.

NOTE: The Lord's Supper here is not about a once a week partaking of a piece of wafer bread and a thimble of grape juice rather it is referring to brothers and sisters in Christ gathering together to eat a meal in the Lord's name. Though it was most likely eaten when they gathered together in their home churches it is not limited to this many times it was no-doubt simply sharing their evening meal with other brothers and sisters in wherever they might be, even by a riverside or on the shores of Lake Galilee. The practical concept of eating, the Lord's Supper was that brothers and sisters in Christ who had abundance would share their food and drink in the name of the Lord with those who lacked so that no-one would go hungry. Remember there was no secular social security in the days of the early Christians. Those who were drinking damnation to themselves were the selfish prideful nobles and authorities, the rich and wealthy who were eating of the Lord's Supper but not sharing their food with the poor, the needy and those who lacked, they did not consider those of such low estate as part of the body of Christ this is why Paul says they are eating and drinking damnation to themselves. For further information on the Lords Supper see:

1 Corinthians 11:20-33 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

INCURRING DAMNATION

- **1 Timothy 5:12:** and so incur condemnation (having damnation in KJV) for having abandoned their former faith.

Those who are condemned to damnation are those who after knowing the love of Christ and the grace of God turn away from the faith.

THEIR DAMNATION SLUMBERETH NOT

- **2 Peter 2:3:** And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep (their damnation slumbereth not in KJV).

The focus in this chapter is on false prophets and teachers who distort and twist the gospel and teach doctrines that led to ungodly behaviour and deny the Lord Jesus Christ. This group of people have forsaken the right way they are insatiable for sin meaning they are always wanting and needing more since they are impossible to satisfy and never content with what they have. They entice unsteady brothers and sisters, commit adultery in their hearts and are full of pride and boasting, greed and corruption and love the gain they get from wrongdoing.

Their damnation slumbereth not: means that God's judgment is not instant, but it is certain to come even though it is delayed. Those who will be judged to damnation in this context are corrupt false religious leaders and teachers who manipulate and use their followers for their own selfish gain.

SUMMARY

Amongst all Scriptures in the New Testament that use the word damnation there is not one verse that links the word damnation to eternal torment or teach eternal torment. Judgment to eternal damnation refers to being cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total extinction).

For further information see the titles:

- Death (what happens when we die).
- Lake of Fire.

Both titles are in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
