

## Man's Greatest Concern, continued from page 1.

Second, God defines sin to be **"...the transgression of the law"** (I Jn. 3: 4). Sin separates men from: God (Isa. 59: 2 Col. 2:13). Hence, to die in sin is to be lost eternally in a devil's hell (Gal. 5:19-24; Rev. 21: 8; Matt. 25: 41-46).

Third, one should notice how God moves people to come out of a life of sin. Jesus had more to say about hell than anyone else we read of in the Bible; and the reason why is that He does not want anyone to go to that terrible place (Matt. 25; II Thess. 1: 7-9; II Pet. 3: 9-13; Rev. 22: 17).

Is it not obvious that one of the ways to understand just how God views sin is to understand the place that God has prepared for those who die in sin? Do we try to get people to see the eternal consequences of their sinful lives (Rom. 2: 3)?

God's great love for sinful man is the other factor that helps us see sin as God sees it (Rom. 2:4). **"But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"** (Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16). To study in the Bible the loving, sinless life of Christ and to meditate on His agonizing and shameful death is a great motivating factor for man. In so doing one realizes that Christ freely left Heaven and the form of God to take upon Himself the form of man whereby He allowed Himself to be tempted as all men are tempted, yet without sin (Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 4:15). Surely, few people meditate on what God has done for them that they never could do for themselves!

If the consequences of a devil's hell for the sinner and the love of God to redeem sinful man will not move one to turn to God in penitence and obedience to the gospel, **NOTHING ELSE IS AVAILABLE TO TURN THE SINNER FROM HIS ETERNAL APPOINTMENT WITH THE FIRES OF HELL!**

People who take the Lord's name in vain, commit adultery and other immoral acts, who lie, cheat, gossip, steal, teach false doctrine, etc., are going to burn in hell eternally. The unfaithful members of, the Lord's church who have ceased to worship according to the Bible; who do not study the Bible; who are covetous; who murmur and complain; who are immoral; who repudiate- Bible authority; who are hypocrites and who hate their brethren who love and obey the truth will also suffer the torment of the raging' fires of **"...the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"** (Rev. 21:8; II Pet. 2: 2022). **ASSUREDLY, THE ELDERS AND PREACHERS WHO SEE A LOST WORLD AND SINFUL MEMBERS AND DO NOT TRY TO CONFRONT BOLDLY SUCH SINFUL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S TRUTH, WILL OCCUPY ONE OF THE HOTTER AND LOWER PITS OF HELL!**

If precious souls are to escape the horrors; of hell we must do our part as Christians to get men to see what sin is. Let us not mince words as we expose sin. Neither let us forget to set forth the Christ who is **"...the way, the truth, and life:"** (Jn. 14-6).

*David P. Brown  
Spring, TX*

# BELVEDERE BEACON

*"Ye are the light of the world"* (Matthew 5:14)

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## Man's Greatest Concern

**T**he story is told of a preacher who preached a very graphic and descriptive sermon on sin. After the sermon one "well meaning" and prominent church member approached the preacher with the following advice. The person said, "We don't want you to talk so plainly about sin, because if our children hear you talking so much about sin they will more easily become sinners. Call it a mistake if you will, but don't speak so plainly about sin."

Shortly thereafter the "well meaning" member was visiting in the preacher's home. The preacher presented a bottle of strychnine marked "Poison" to his visitor. Reminding the "well meaning" member of the earlier advice given to the preacher, the preacher then said to his visitor, "I see now what you meant in your recent advice. You want me to change the-label. But suppose I take off this label marked "Poison" and put on some mild label, such as "Oil of Anise," can't you see what happens?"

**"THE MILDER YOU MAKE THE LABEL, THE MORE DANGEROUS YOU MAKE THE POISON."**

Our Lord did not place a "Mild label" on-sin: He made it clear that sin is man's greatest concern. It is the responsibility of the church (gospel preachers in particular) to make sin as real and abhorrent to people as possible if there is to be any hope of convicting anyone of sin and thereby truly converting them to Christ.

First, we must realize that God is the only one who can evaluate sin properly. Let us, therefore, strive to see sin as God sees it.

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### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.  
Morning Worship 11.00 am.  
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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# SETTING PRIORITIES

Recently my attention was drawn to the following story concerning an athlete.

In 1924 a man by the name of Bill Havens was scheduled to represent the United States in the Olympic games that were to be held in Paris, France. Bill was scheduled to row with his teammates in the “coxed eights rowing” event. He and his teammates were favorites to win the gold medal. However, as the time drew near for the Olympic athletes to leave the United States, Bill learned that his wife was scheduled to give birth at the time he would have been competing in Paris. Back then there were no jet planes to whisk one from one continent to another in a matter of hours. The only way to get to Paris was by ship taking a number of days. Bill had a decision to make. Should he go ahead to Paris and compete in the rowing event that he had trained so long for or should he stay home and remain with his wife to be at her side when their child was born. His wife pleaded with him and said that he should go on to fulfill his life-long dream. Bill decided to stay home and be with his wife thus missing out on his appearance at the Olympics.

The US team went on and won the gold medal in the event for the 1924 Paris Olympics. However, Haven’s wife was late in delivering the baby. So late, in fact, that Bill could have gone to Paris competed and won the medal and still have returned home in time to be with his wife for the birth of their child.

Now, let us “fast forward” in time to the year 1952 and the summer Olympics held in Helsinki, Finland. Bill Havens receives a telegram at his home stating: *“Dear Dad, Thanks for waiting around for me to be born in 1924. I’m coming home with the gold medal you should have won. Your loving son, Frank.”* Twenty eight years after Bill had stayed home to be with his wife at the birth the child, their son, Frank, won the gold medal in the 10,000 meter canoeing event.

Thinking of the 1924 Paris Olympics reminds me of the story that was told in the movie “Chariots of Fire” regarding a runner by the name of Eric Liddell who would not run on a Sunday as it violated his faith as he believed that Sunday was the Sabbath (He was a Presbyterian). According to the movie, even the intervention of the Prince of Wales and the British Olympic Committee would not convince him to violate his conscience. He is later able to run in a different event that would not take place on a Sunday.

Why mention these stories? Well, they illustrate living by one’s principles, sticking to one’s priorities even when his peers believe he is simply being stubborn and making a big mistake and, in the end, being rewarded. Jesus taught: *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”* (Matthew 6:33). What are your principles? What are your priorities? Are you seeking first God’s kingdom and His righteousness? If you are, you have the assurance of God’s Word that you will be blessed.

*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Kathy Treadway’s mother, Lavonne McClish – who has continued health – related issues and who is undergoing pain management therapy, Linda Chumbley is also undergoing pain management therapy; and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer.

Rachel Fitzpatrick’s step Father’s brother is in serious condition in hospital in Greenwood, SC.

Maomi Aaron’ sister has been having health problems.

Ron Wilson’s mother continues to do well at home.

Ron’s cataract surgery is scheduled for December 11.

Adrienne Mitchell and Steven Wilson were not well Wednesday evening.

Michael Farmer and Glenn Aaron where at the Hampton Avenue church in Aiken Sunday morning where Mike preached in the absence of the regular preacher, Sherman Offord who had, it is believed, suffered a mild stroke. Keep Sherman in your prayers.

Our next pot luck fellowship meal will follow our morning services today. Plan to stay and eat.

Harrell Davidson, preacher from Tennessee that was mentioned as having had surgery is recovering well.

Sherman Offord, preacher for the Hampton Avenue church in Aiken is still having health difficulties and would appreciate prayers.

The men of the congregation want to express their appreciation to Will Aaron, Matthew Aaron and Steven Wilson for helping with the song leading – they are doing a great job.

## *The Bible*

Is God's own letter to man.

Is the source of our information concerning eternal life.

Is our guide for daily living.

Is the final word in matters of religion.

Tells of the truth which will set you free from sin.

Gives me strength and comfort.

Tells me how to live happily.

Is the center of our education.

With such a book as this available to us, we certainly need to be diligent to know its contents.

Are you studying the Bible regularly?