



CATHOLICS PLEASE NOTE: HEAVEN & HELL ARE NOT REAL.

January-February 2004

The following statements were by Pope John Paul II and quoted from *L'Osservatore Romano*: July - Aug. 1999. The Pope said: "Heaven is neither an abstraction nor a physical place. (It is) the state of supreme definitive happiness. Metaphorically (allegory, fable) speaking, heaven is understood as the dwelling place of God. However, the biblical metaphor makes it clear that God does not identify himself with heaven... In some places in the First book of Maccabees 'Heaven' is simply one of God's names." Maccabees is not Scripture! Concerning Hell, the Pope has informed us that it is not real either. "Hell is the ultimate consequence of sin itself...Rather than a place, hell indicates the state of those who freely and definitively separate themselves from God...It is not a punishment imposed externally by God." The Pope explains the case of the rich man in Luke 16 as a parable. He explains the language there to mean "eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord..." Concerning Purgatory, which nowhere appears in the Bible and actually goes back to heathenism and Babylonian times, he said: "The term purgatory does not indicate a place, but a condition or existence where Christ removes...the remnant of imperfection." Of course, one can read the writings of earlier popes and other Catholic officials and find an entirely different picture. That is one aspect of error, those who propagate it feel free to change with the times, but God says, **"For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."**

Now, it is abundantly clear that the Pope (and Billy Graham and a host of others) fly directly into the face of the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, **"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."** Sounds like a real place to me! Why would He have to prepare a state of mind that already exists in the unbeliever? The Bible never even hints that Heaven is anything other than a real place prepared for those who are born again through faith in Jesus Christ and His work on Calvary. As for Hell, again we have the words of Jesus Christ which flatly contradict those of the Pope. In Luke 16, Jesus spoke of a man in hell. It is no parable! Note His words. First, He speaks of it as A PLACE of torment with flames: **"being in torments...I am tormented in this flame...thou art tormented."** Then, we are told it definitely is A PLACE. The man asked that someone go and tell his living brothers **"...lest they also come into THIS PLACE of torment."** As for Purgatory, there is no hint of such a thing in the Word of God! If a man receives Jesus Christ as his Savior, he has no sins to be purged; see Heb. 10:10-14, the child of God is made perfect in Christ and His one offering for sin. In order to give some authority to their false teaching, the Roman Catholic Church has adopted Apocryphal books that neither the Jewish rabbis nor the early church fathers accepted. All down through the ages, men have had to decide what they will believe - either they will believe the unadulterated Word of God or someone else. My friend, Heaven and Hell are both real and they are both eternal; to escape Hell and have Heaven as your eternal home, call upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save you. Romans 10:13.

CORNERSTONE NEWS

BIBLE SCHOOL SOCIAL

This is always a great time of blessing and fellowship. It's an evening when the whole family can enjoy a good time together. We hope that you will join us.

February 6, 2004 - 7:00

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COURTS OUT OF SYNC WITH PUBLIC! Pat Trueman of Family Research Council says that the courts of this land are way out of sync with the general public. A poll taken by that group showed that 70% of Americans approve of placing a Ten Commandments monument in a school or government building. The people do not find it offensive to have God on display in public places. The poll also showed that 90% of the populace support the words "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency. *-Religion Today*. The ungodly bias is based upon the false interpretation of the Constitution, etc. by liberal state and federal judges. They are obviously prejudiced because any person with normal intelligence can see that the founders of this land never intended to establish freedom *from* religion. Their many references to God in official and other documents so indicate quite plainly. Clearly, the intent was that government was not free to establish any state religion (as in England, etc). May God deliver us from judicial liberalism!

YOUTH CORNER

A GREAT ENEMY OF THE SOUL. One of the greatest enemies of the soul is procrastination. It just seems to be a part of human nature to put things off. And how prevalent it is when it comes to eternal salvation. Many say, "Well, I intend to do it someday." I have heard a number of young people who said they wanted to "live a little" and then they would trust Christ. I could tell you many a story about people like that - people who intended to get saved someday, but sad to say, they never did. A little poem: "*Mr. Meant-To*" has a lot of truth in it.

Mr. Meant-To has a comrade,
And his name is Didn't-Do.
Have you ever chanced to meet them?
Have they ever called on you?
These two fellows live together
In the house of Never-Win,
And I'm told that it is haunted
By the ghost of Might-Have-Been.

You had better listen to someone a little older and a little wiser than yourself! Better yet, please listen to God: "**Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.**" ~Proverbs 27:1. Repent of your sin and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. Do it NOW!

FORMULA FOR FAILURE IN CHRISTIAN LIFE

Follow the path of least resistance. "Go with the flow;" follow the crowd. Don't take a stand for Christ and the Word of God.

Alienate yourself from Church membership. Don't join and don't get involved. Attend only when you feel like it.

Insist on having your own way. Don't let anyone tell you what to believe, what to do, what to wear, etc.

Listen to everyone who is unhappy and complaining. Find something wrong with everything and let others know how unhappy you are.

Unite with those who are worldly and who would like to hinder the Church rather than help it.

Resist all efforts to get you to repent and become a useful member of the Lord's Church. Don't let any "Holy Joes" influence you for good.

Escape responsibility for your attitude or actions. Lay the blame on others for your miserable condition.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

~ Romans12:1.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

FEELING OR CALLING? Many Christians think that because they feel like doing something, they should do it. I have especially met many Christians who thought they should preach, but it was obvious they were not called. I am reminded of the man who was asked: "Can your son play the violin?" His friend replied, "No, but that doesn't stop him." Of course, these people think preaching is the easiest thing in the world and that everyone is just waiting to hear them.

MORE JUDICIAL "LAW-MAKING." The Supreme Judicial Court of Mass. has ruled that the state's ban on same-sex marriages is unconstitutional and gave the legislature 180 to come up with a plan whereby homosexual couples may actually be married. The pandering to homosexuals is absolutely amazing - and appalling! There is one hope; though the legislature is very liberal here, it is believed that it might just pass a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman. Under similar circumstances, that is what happened in Vermont, Hawaii and Alaska.

ALL WAYS LEAD TO GOD THEME. The ever-growing philosophy of universalism got another boost a few months ago when the Dalai Lama came to dedicate a temple in Bloomington, MN. He said, "Religion must be a part of our life. If people don't have religion, they will see negatives." Among the guests was Muhammad Ali who was recognized and due to Parkinson's disease could not speak, but had a written statement read. He said, "Rivers, ponds, lakes and streams all have different names, but they all contain water. So, too, different religions all have truth." There were fifteen faiths represented. A Muslim presented a small book entitled *The Meaning of the Quran*, a Jewish rabbi offered a ram's horn and a Navajo religious leader gave a seashell with sage, representing land and water. The day before, the Dalai Lama received an honorary degree from the Jesuit-run University of San Francisco.

ANOTHER SIGN OF GLOBALISM. As a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child, Canada has been told by a U.N. committee that it is obligated to "adopt legislation" that would "explicitly prohibit all violence against children however light, within the family and the schools and other institutions." While the ruling cannot supersede national law, it was reported that Ottawa wanted to comply "to bolster the U.N.'s attempt to encourage international norms." The U.S. and Somalia are the only countries that have not signed the convention. -*WorldNetDaily* (10/9/03). The global mindset is a strong and growing force in the world today - that includes America.

BUSH CONTINUES TO SEND MIXED SIGNALS!

Shock and dismay - that's how pro-family groups are reacting to news that President Bush wrote a letter of praise to a homosexual church last month, just days after he had issued an official proclamation for Marriage Protection Week. In a letter from the White House, Bush praised the Metropolitan Community Church (homosexual denomination) for putting "hope" and "purpose" in people's hearts and for serving God for 35 years. Bob Knight of Culture and Family Institute said, "The President has a reputation for being a devout Christian, which I don't doubt - but you don't send letters that mock the Christian church, such as this gay church set up by a practitioner of sadomasochistic sex...This is not what a Christian President ought to be doing." Bush has... appointed more homosexuals to federal posts than any other president. *Religion Today*. (11/14/03)

CRIMES AGAINST YOUTH ON INTERNET! USA

Today published statistics from a survey by the Crimes Against Children Research Center and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The survey of 5000 teens and adolescents revealed the following:

- One in five adolescents and teens had received unwanted sexual solicitation in the past year.
- 70% occurred when the youth was on a home computer.
- 66% receiving a sexual advance were female.
- 65% happened in a chat room; 24% came by instant messenger.
- 25% reported at least one unwanted exposure to sexual pictures.
- 29% told a friend or sibling; 24% told a parent.

Ed. We continually marvel at parents, including some Christian parents, who allow their children to surf the internet by themselves. If one suggests this is not a good idea, the Christian parent usually acts insulted because you don't trust their children (like they do). I don't trust anybody who still has an old nature!

UNBELIEVABLE! If a married woman has sex with another woman, is that adultery? A man was suing his wife for divorce on such grounds and a Family Court judge ruled that such conduct was sex, but the New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled it wasn't. Marcus Hurn of the Franklin Pierce Law Center said, "A sexual relationship, whether heterosexual or homosexual, is exactly and equivalent of betrayal, and that, I think, is the ordinary meaning most people would give it." - *Boston Herald* 11/8/03. One thinks of Bill Clinton's claim that what he was doing with young women was not sex. "**Woe unto them that call evil good...**"

LISTENING AND HEARING

Dr. M.R.DeHaan said: "It is possible to hear the Word of God and yet not hear it as the voice of the Son of God. Millions have heard the Gospel, but they have never heard it in faith as the voice of God. Dr. William Pettingill used to say, 'For years I listened to the Word, and then one day *I heard it.*' That is the force of hearing the Word. It is to recognize it as the voice of God and to obey it." I suppose I have known literally hundreds who have heard the Word of God many times but still they are not saved. They have listened to it but have never heard it in a saving way! Also, I have dealt with many who felt they were saved because they knew the Gospel, but it was mere head knowledge, for their hearing never produced any fruit for God. Jesus said, "**Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation: but is passed from death unto life.**" John 5:24. This is hearing with the heart as well as the head! Look at John 6 - there you have people who *heard* Jesus' words, but they did not hear unto eternal life. The Word of God says, "**Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only.**" It is clear that there is a way of *hearing* - listening - where one does not really hear as he ought! Have you believed from the heart on Jesus Christ as your Savior? Romans 10:9 says: "**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**"

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IT WILL BE WORTH IT ALL!

Jesus said, "**I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**" When a sixteenth-century British sailor, who had sailed all of his life with Sir Francis Drake, returned home for the last time, someone ridiculed him saying: "You haven't much to show for all those years, have you?" The old sailor replied: "No, I haven't much, I have been cold, hungry, desperately frightened often enough in life - even shipwrecked. But there is one thing that I am sure of - I have sailed with the greatest captain who ever sailed the seas!" It is easy to become a Christian, a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ: "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.**" But neither He, nor anyone else in his right mind, ever said that living the Christian life would be easy. If you are looking for an easy life, don't become a Christian. No, He said: "**In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**" But if you are looking for the good life, the worthwhile life, trust Christ and give Him your all! Then, when it is all over down here, we will get to spend all eternity with our great Captain! Hallelujah! Praise be to God and to His Blessed Son, our Savior and Captain who is "**bringing many sons to glory.**" The hymn writer put it like this: "*God leads His dear children along. Some through the waters, some thro' the flood, Some thro' the fire, but all thro' the blood; some thro' great sorrow, but God gives a song, In the night season and all the day long.*"