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The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* mature in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 43
Issue 1064

You Deserve Hell: The Lie that Christianity Won't Stop Telling

by — Steve Martin

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Key Points:

The doctrine of hell is a lie used for control.....8933
The "sinful nature" teaching is a fabrication.....8935

Free will is a myth in Christian theology.....8935
God is love, not a tyrant.....8940

"You deserve hell," Christianity proclaims.
Really? What the hell?



It's a lie, invented by Christianity, and it's been used for centuries to manipulate, control and scare people into submission.

THE CASUAL LIE

It's said so matter-of-factly, as if someone were commenting on the weather: "Looks like rain today. By the way, you deserve to burn forever."

You see it everywhere: in sermons, articles, social media posts, Sunday School lessons. It's drilled into your head from the moment you hit the so-called "age of accountability."

Do they even think about what they're saying? Do they hear the absurdity of the claim? Let's break it down: Just by existing, I deserve to be tortured forever in a chamber of horrors beyond anything the human mind can imagine? Simply because I was born?

Boom. You're twelve years old, and suddenly you're accountable to God. One day, you're an innocent child, and the next, you're a walking target for hell. You'd better "get saved" quick because in the interim – between learning you're accountable and praying the sinner's prayer – you're walking a dangerous line. Slip up, die before you repent, and it's eternal torture for you.

I call "bullshit."¹ A big pile of stinky, steamy bullshit.

Really? What kind of God operates like that?

What kind of God would do that? We wrestle with why God allows suffering here on Earth, and yet so many Christians are perfectly okay with Him exposing billions of people – His own creation – to eternal torture just because they didn't say the right words or believe the right thing at the right time.

(continued on page 8935)

Let's not dance around it: this teaching is garbage.

You Deserve Hell: The Lie that Christianity Won't Stop Telling.....8933
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1. Some of you are angrier at me for writing the word "bullshit" than about the teaching that God is torturing unsuspecting teenagers in some obscure torture chamber.

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 43, No. 1064 – March 31, 2025

Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3-4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice,

misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);

- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Ephesians 2:6);
 - adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of saints intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneider

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What has a twelve-year-old done to deserve hell? Hit his sister? Snuck a piece of candy from the store? Lied about cleaning his room? And this warrants infinite punishment?

“Oh, but he has a sinful nature,” they’ll say. Newsflash: he didn’t ask for that. He was born into it, according to their own doctrine. And even that doctrine doesn’t hold water.

THE “SINFUL NATURE” LIE

The so-called “sinful nature” is a lie. The Bible says Adam’s sin brought **death** (Romans 5:12), not eternal torture. Death is the absence of life, not life in perpetual torment. Christianity has twisted this simple truth into a fear-based marketing campaign: “Join our club or burn forever.”

The idea of a “sinful nature” is one of Christianity’s biggest scams. They use it to keep you feeling guilty, broken, and dependent on the church to fix you.

Here’s the truth: You’re not broken, you’re not evil – you’re human.

The Bible doesn’t say you’re born wicked; it says you’re born mortal. “Flesh” (Greek, *sarx*) doesn’t mean “sinful nature.” It means you’re human, subject to death and frailty.

Christianity took that and twisted it into a narrative of total depravity. Why? Because if they can convince you that you’re fundamentally flawed, they can convince you that you need *them* to save you.

THE MYTH OF FREE WILL

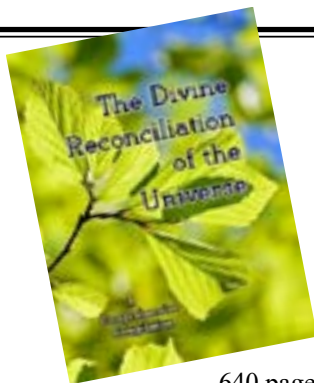
Another tool in their arsenal is the myth of “free will.” They’ll say, “You chose to sin, so you deserve the consequences.” But did you really choose?

If you’re born with a so-called “sinful nature,” predisposed to sin, and placed in a world where sin is inevitable, how is that a choice? It’s like being shoved into a pit and then told it’s your fault you fell.

Romans 11:32 says, “For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.” Let that sink in. God Himself wrote disobedience into our story. He made failure an integral part of our lives – not to condemn us, but to display His mercy and glory.

So, let me ask: If God set us up to fail, how could He torture us forever for something that was part of His plan all along? It’s His story, His design, not ours. The idea that God would condemn us to eternal torment for being exactly what He created us to be – human, imperfect, prone to sin – is absurd.

(see [THE LIE](#), last page)



640 pages

The Divine Reconciliation of the Universe: A Comprehensive Compilation

This work does not contend for a mere doctrine; its authors are championing the revealed character of God. The gloomy cloud of theology has obscured Him from us for far too long. Tradition’s chilling mists have cooled our enjoyment of His power, wisdom and grace. Religions have libeled His name, repelling the instinctive responses of our heart. Christianity has left us unable to defend His honor in the presence of His enemies. Now all of this is gone and we are able to vindicate Him in

all His ways before all His creatures! – *Adapted from the Preface*

This ultimate collection of 110 works by 46 authors spans nearly 200 years. It is an extensive compilation that is essential for every library. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams, Thomas Allin, Alan Burns, E.H. Clayton, Bob Evelyn, Phillip Garrison, Vladimir Gelesnoff, J.W. Hanson, Joseph E. Kirk, A.E. Knoch, Arthur C. Lamb, Aaron Locker, Adlai Loudy, Andrew Maclarty, R.B. Macnab, Erasmus Manford, H.W. Martin, Robert McLaurine, Robert McMahon, William Mealand, André Piet, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak, George W. Quinby, William C. Rebmann, F.H. Robison, A.E. Saxby, Hannah Whitall Smith, André Sneider, James Strahan, E.F. Stroeter, Thomas Talbott, Ray Van Dyke, and Peter Woodhouse.

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God Is a Happy God

Bible Student's Courses

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Course 1: GOD / Unit 6 - The Passion of God / Lesson 4 - God Is a Happy God

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

... The glorious good news of the happy God ... (I Timothy 1:11, BSV).

Key Point:

Scripture reveals that God is truly joyful, not the angry deity portrayed by religion. 8936

[God's happiness comes from His sovereignty. 8937](#)
[Believers can share in God's happiness. 8937](#)

Did you know that God is “*the happy God*”? Now there’s a startling revelation, isn’t it? Startling but true!

The “god” of religion is cold, calloused, cantankerous, mean-hearted – in a word, he is just plain unhappy, and he is out to make your life miserable.

Yet the true God of Scripture is revealed as being “*the happy God*”! He has the passion and emotion of happiness. Unlike religious views, our God is truly a God of “joy.”

... be not grieved, for **the joy of Yahweh** is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10, CV).

God is not an old, angry man with a scowl on His face. He actually is a passionate God about happiness, and we have Scripture that teaches us this wonderful truth!

*According to the glorious good news of **the happy God**, which was committed to my trust* (I Timothy 1:11, BSV).

Here, Paul calls God “*the happy God*.” Most versions translate this phrase, “*the blessed God*.” However, the same Greek word, *makarios*, is translated elsewhere in most other versions as “happy” (cf. the following verses in the *King James Version*: John 13:17; Acts 26:2; Romans 14:22; I Peter 3:14; 4:14).

Why is *makarios* translated as “happy” in one place, and “blessed” in another? Perhaps the theology of translators has a real difficulty viewing God as being “happy,” and just can’t bring themselves to translate it consistently this way.



Here are a couple of versions that are consistent by their translation of “*the happy God*”:

*In accord with the evangel of the glory of **the happy God**, with which I was entrusted* (CV).

*According to the glad-message of the glory of **the happy God**, with which entrusted am, I.* (REB).

Paul is the source of this revelation concerning God. God uses him to reveal to us that He is happy. That God is happy is a message uniquely committed to the trust of God’s grace apostle.

*According to the glorious good news of the happy God, which was **committed to my trust*** (I Timothy 1:11).

Of course, Christendom is unaware that God is happy, because they have missed the distinct revelation that was committed to Paul’s trust. To know God as “*the happy God*,” one must view Him through the letters of Paul. Without such a knowledge of this unique unveiling of the true nature of God by the international apostle of Christ, one is left to an incomplete, veiled view of our Father. After all, it was given to Paul to “*complete the Word of God*” (Colossians 1:25).

Why is God happy? Well, maybe the questions should be: Why wouldn’t He be? – for, after all, He

*works **all** things after the counsel of His own will* (Ephesians 1:11).

The “god” of religion is desperately trying to regain

control of his lost universe. Yet he has already conceded that he will lose the battle and forever forfeit the vast majority of his creation to the hand of his more successful opponent. Little wonder that the god of religion is so annoyed and mad.

Not so with the true God of Scripture! God is happy because He has designed a grand plan of redemption that includes the reconciliation of *all* back to Himself. This is the good news committed to Paul's trust! It is this good news that reveals to us "*the happy God*."

... the glorious **good news** of the happy God ...

This glorious *good news* encompasses the completed, successful work of our Lord Jesus Christ for *all* of creation!

That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on Earth; even in Him (Ephesians 1:10).

Having made peace through the blood of His stake, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself; by Him, I say, whether they are things in Earth, or things in Heaven (Colossians 1:20).

God has never lost control of His Universe. He is in charge – always has been, always will be. Every

plan of His is right on schedule, and one day He will reach His glorious consummation and be "*All in all*" (I Corinthians 15:28). Therefore, regardless of what religion thinks or says to the contrary, Father is happy. He is "*the happy God*," and He is the only true Source of our own joy and happiness. **Then, since Father is happy, His children can be happy. After all, those of us who already know God for Who He truly is, and have already been made His righteousness, can be happy.**

*Even as David also describes the **happiness** of the man unto whom God credits righteousness apart from works, saying, "**Happy** are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Happy is the man to whom the Lord will not charge sin"* (Romans 4:6-8, BSV).

So, enjoy life – despite the circumstances. Wake up every morning and bask in the goodness and grace of "*the happy God*" Who loves you and lives in you. Embrace His happiness throughout the day, regardless of the situation or circumstances in which we may find ourselves.

Whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he (Proverbs 16:20). **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: God; God, Passions of; Happy

Minor: Love; Sovereignty



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God Cannot Sin

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Course 1: GOD / Unit 6: The Passion of God / Lesson 5: God Cannot Sin

by — Mark D. Vogt (with Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.)

... I am the Lord, I change not ... (Psalm 18:30).

The One, El, His way is flawless ... (CV).

Key Points:

God Never Misses the Mark.....8938
[God Controls Everything, Including Sin.....8939](#)

[Sin Exists to Teach Trust and Gratitude.....8939](#)
[Sin Will Ultimately Fulfill Its Purpose and Disappear.....8939](#)

It is easy to see God's "positive" passions – such as love, joy and happiness – as righteous and good. Yet, with God's "negative" passions – such as jealousy, anger and wrath – this seems to be a different story entirely.

Concerning mankind, Paul asks the pointed question:

Are you indignant, and not sinning? (Ephesians 4:26, CV).

So, while humanity's "negative" passions and emotions easily result in "*sin*," such is NOT the case with God!

That God *cannot* sin is clearly self-evident. Nevertheless, a short study on this subject matter will emphasize the profound gap between God and His creation of humanity.

In order to proceed further we have to define "*sin*." Since this has been done before in a previous lesson, in short, the definition of "*sin*" is to *miss the mark*.

The best example of this definition of sin is in Judges 20:16 where we find 700 men who were experts in the use of a slingshot and with deadly accuracy. The verse goes on to state that the men do "*not err*" (YLT), or "*not miss*" (KJV, CV).

In looking at *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* one

can look at the Hebrew word¹ for "miss" in this verse and learn that the definition is "properly to *miss*; hence (figuratively and generally) to *sin*." This is the Hebrew word used to translate "*sin*" elsewhere in the Old Testament.

Although humanity is subject to "*sin*," or *missing the mark*, the bottom line is that God does not! So, the same "negative" passions that may lead mankind to "*sin*," does not do so with God!

Not only so, but God has *everything* under control, even humanity's sin! This is because He is the One Who started *everything*, and He is the one Who *controls everything*, including the entrance and purpose of sin into the world. Romans 11:36; I Corinthians 8:6 and I Corinthians 15:28 all attest to this powerful truth.

So, how does one come to the realization of this God Who is *completely* in control of *everything*? How does one gain this type of insight into the mind of the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe? How does one understand the *absolute* love of God?

Certainly, He tells us that He loves us, but how would that mean anything to humanity if *all* He did was *tell* us that He loved us, without a *passionate* demonstration that He loves us?

The understanding and comprehension of that love has its foundation back to the Garden of Eden when

1. H2398.

God showered Adam and Eve with all of the good things that they needed. However, something was lacking in that Eden. Something more was needed for them to have any kind of understanding of Who and what God was. Therefore, God provided the *need* and then provided the *answer* to fulfill that need.

God brought “*sin*” (*missing*) into the world through the temptation of Eve, and then by the conscious decision by Adam to disobey, by injecting into the garden the “*serpent*” and the “*Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*.” They were told they could eat of *any* tree of the garden *except* that specific tree.

This was not a test for God, to see if they would fail (remember all things are out of Him!), but for them to specifically fail in this test so that God could then save them and teach them the lesson of trust. They could not learn trust (and just as importantly, to be thankful for the things that God had given them) without this test.

Thus, prior to this test, there was no trust, and there was no thanksgiving; for, what did they have to be thankful for, since they couldn’t compare the good that they experienced to anything else?

Therefore, God brought “*sin*” into the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience, and hence the contrast between good and evil. Unless there is contrast,

2. “When Satan is spoken of as a “*serpent*,” it is the figure *Hypocastasis* or Implication.” – E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), *The Serpent of Genesis 3*, ([Bible Student’s Notebook 476](#)).

we can’t comprehend God’s lofty thinking, and why He does the things that He has done, is doing and will do.

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the Heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

We must ever remember that God is the creator of evil and darkness as well as good and light (Isaiah 45:6-7). This means that God does not “*sin*,” for He *hits the mark* EVERY time.

What God did was to bring “*sin*” into the world to establish the contrast, and in so doing enable humanity to see His goodness, some of us now, but for most, later in resurrection.

When the Consummation is accomplished, then “*sin*” will depart the Universe and God will justify the entrance of “*sin*” into it, for it will have accomplished its divine purpose.

God’s passions (“positive” as well as “negative”!) all center in the revelation of Himself to His creation, in the circumstances of “*sin*.” This is all God’s divine purpose, and in so doing He hits His mark square on, and He hits it *every* time. **ESN**

Topics:

Major: God; God, Passion of; Sin

Minor: Contrast; Love; Salvation of All



48 pages

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The Fallacy of Post Mortem Punishment in Light of a Successful Savior

by — Mike Owens

This is a summary of the biblical, logical and philosophical reasons by which the author has abandoned the notion of hell or punishment after death. God is an all-powerful God of love Who knows how to win hearts and minds. To assume that He needs to use physical or psychological pain in order to gain the admiration, love or loyalty of His creatures is an insult to His sovereignty and wisdom. Like Thomas and Paul – who came to believe by something they saw and experienced, not by faith – everyone, even the Hitlers and Stalins of this world, will experience PRA – Post Resurrection Amazement.

THE LIE (continued from page 8935)

Also let's not forget that they also preach that God is sovereign and in control of everything. So, which is it? Do we have "free will," or is God pulling all the strings? You can't have it both ways.

GOD IS BETTER THAN THIS

Here's the bottom line: the doctrine of hell and the idea that you deserve it is not about God. It's about control. It's about keeping people in fear so that they never question the system.

The truth is, God is love – *real* love – and love doesn't threaten eternal torment. Love doesn't manipulate. Love doesn't say, "Do what I say, or I'll burn you forever."

The idea that you deserve hell is a lie – always has been, always will be. God isn't a monster. God isn't a torturer. *God is love.*

It's time to reject the lie and embrace the truth. You don't deserve hell. You never did, and you never will.

Live free. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Free Will; Hell; Salvation; Sin; Sovereignty

Minor: Christianity; Love

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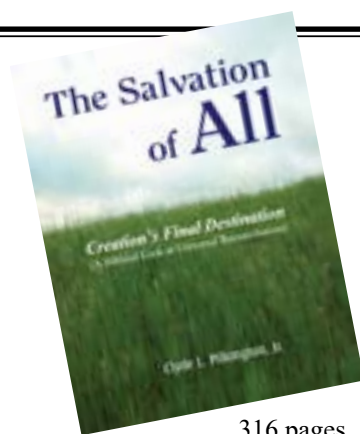


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**CHRISTIANS
MUST NOT ALTO-
GETHER SHUN PLAYS
BECAUSE THERE ARE
SOMETIMES COARSENESS
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FOR SUCH REASONS THEY
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MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)



The Salvation of ALL: Creation's Final Destination

(A Biblical Look at Universal Reconciliation)

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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"*The Salvation of All*" – An excellent book. – **MI**

The Salvation of All is the most clearly written testimony to God's ultimate grace and mercy towards man that I've seen in print. – **VA**

I'm sure I'll be referring back to *The Salvation of All* for years to come. The issues you addressed in the book need

to be discussed among believers. – **IL**

The Salvation of All is worthy reading for people on both sides of the doctrinal fence. Regardless of whether or not those who read it will agree with you, I believe they will respect you for not serving up the regurgitated fodder that fills the shelves of religious bookstores. Very thought provoking! I'll be recom-

mending it to many people! – **FL**

The Salvation of All, what an amazing book. I feel the veil has been lifted and finally I see clearly the glory of our Lord and Savior. What a joy to know the truth and understand just how amazing our God truly is to all. You are a sincere man of God whom I trust and respect. – **VA**