

## Trends

A nationwide survey found that an overwhelming majority (75%) of Americans say that many religions can lead to eternal life, compared with only 18% who regard their own religion as the "one true faith." Those with a high level of religious commitment are more likely to see their own faith as the only path to eternal life.

- via the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

**John 14:6:** "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

## Sentence Sermons

"A man's character may be learned from the adjectives which he habitually uses in conversation."

—Mark Twain

**Ephesians 4:29:** "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

## News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Susan Ferrell, a friend of the Thomas family from Michigan, had great news! Commenting on the latest MRI, the oncologist said, "it could not look better"! They've also been able to increase the chemotherapy dosage. Please continue to pray for Susan, her husband Shawn and their three boys: Samuel, Micah, and Eli.

Jennifer Shorter (Garner) a member at Knightsville is reported to be recovering well from her brain tumors; keep her in your prayers. She still has more tumors that may be problematic in the future. Also, please pray for Elias Dispennett (age 8). He is the son of Rob Dispennett, Knightsville's preacher, and has been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

Christian Shadburne, the young Christian brother in Bowling Green (KY), is still dealing with cancer and needs our prayers.

Pray for the college students as they are now on summer break. Jonathan will be attending IUPUI law school this fall and Rachel plans to return to IU.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

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**Times of Service:** Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

# Words of Life

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



## Does Hell Scare You?

Craig Thomas

An unpopular subject in many pulpits is the subject of hell. When's the last time you heard a sermon on it or even contemplated the concept of hell? Many "Christians" deny its existence or deny a loving God would send anyone there. But, what does the Bible teach? What saith the Scriptures?

1) **Hell Is Real.** Hell isn't a fairy tale, myth, condition, or state of mind. It's a real place. It's as real as heaven for they are put on an equality as far as their contrasting qualities are concerned. In Matthew 25:46 Jesus said, "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." So, if heaven is real, so is hell. If hell is a myth, so is heaven. If hell is just a "state of mind," then so is heaven. If hell is only temporary, then so is heaven. Jesus said we ought to fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Matt. 10:28). In this we learn three things: A) Hell should be feared, B) Hell is beyond the grave, and C) The reality of hell should motivate us to live so we won't go there. Have you seriously contemplated the shocking reality of hell? If not, you need to give yourself a "reality check," for hell will be a reality for the vast majority! (Matt. 7:13-14)

2) **Hell Is Terrible.** Some believe the Bible's descriptions of hell are overstated. That's blasphemous since the person who used the word most often was the Lord Jesus Himself! The horrific nature of hell can be seen from three of its aspects. First, its name, *gehenna*, is derived from the Valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem where idolatrous Israelites once burned their children alive as sacrifices (2 Chron. 28:3). Later this valley was used to burn Jerusalem's garbage. Dead bodies were thrown into this dump and its fires were kept burning to consume the rotting filth. Second, the Bible describes hell as a "lake of fire" (Rev. 20:10, 14, 15; 21:8). Imagine if every drop of the Great Lakes was gasoline and then set

ablaze. What would it be like to be thrown into the middle? Further, hell contains “brimstone” a sticky, flammable, sulfurous compound. Imagine having a sticky, gooey, stinking, burning liquid clinging to your body! Can you image how such would intensify the pain, increase the agony, and magnify the suffering? Other passages portray hell as a furnace of fire (Matt. 13:42, 50), a flaming fire (2 Thess. 1:7-9), a baptism of fire (Matt. 3:11-12), and an unquenchable fire (Mk. 9:43). Is it any wonder then hell is characterized by “weeping,” “wailing,” and “gnashing of teeth”? (cf. Matt. 8:12; 13:50; 25:30). Do we need a more vivid picture? Do we want to go there? Do we want any of your loved ones or brethren to go there?

3) **Hell Is Eternal.** The above descriptions would be bad enough even if hell only lasted for a few seconds. But, the pain and suffering of hell is **eternal**. Jesus equated “hell fire” (Matt. 18:9) with “everlasting fire” (v. 8). Jesus contrasted “everlasting punishment” with “eternal life” (Matt. 25:46). Everlasting is a difficult concept to get our minds around, but be assured it is a long time! Hell is as long as heaven for the smoke of torment ascends “forever and ever” (Rev. 14:10-11). We’ll all spend eternity somewhere. Do you want to spend it in hell or in heaven?

Jesus tells us the overwhelming majority of people will go to hell (Matt. 7:13-14) contrary to God’s desire (2 Tim. 2:4). But, hell is our choice if we don’t obey the gospel and live God’s way (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Where do you plan to spend eternity?

### “He Arose And Went”

Larry Hafley

When Philip was called to leave Samaria and proceed to a lonely area, “he arose and went” (Acts 8:26, 27). When Peter was asked to go to a Gentile household, he said, “I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for” (Acts 10:29). Paul was “not disobedient” when the Lord appeared and appealed to him (Acts 26:19). At first, Moses and Jeremiah hesitated (Exod. 3:11; 4:1; Jer. 1:6). But Samuel said, “Speak, Lord, for thy servant is listening” (1 Sam. 3:9). Isaiah said, “Here am I. Send me” (Isa. 6:8).

We need the spirit of those who know that “go ye” means “go me!” This is not the time (if there ever is such a time) for us to hold back. “Ye that make mention of the Lord keep not silence” (Isa. 62:6). We must speak up and speak out. Speak up for the Lord and the truth (Acts 4:20; 5:20). Speak out against sin and error (Eph. 5:11).

Do we have this attitude, this zeal of God among us? Or, are we content to fill our place in a pew, drop in a few dollars, and go through another week without a spiritual thought, word, or deed until the next Lord’s day?

God has not called you, you say? Oh, he has called, but your line was busy. Your life is tied up and tied down with the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life, so you did not hear his knock on the door (Rev. 3:20). You must unburden yourself of yourself and take his yoke upon you, for he is meek and lowly in heart and will give rest unto your soul (Matt. 11:28-30).

Like the apostle Peter, raise no objection to him when he calls. Like Paul, be not disobedient when he rings your bell. He will send you. When he does, let it be said of you, “and he arose and went.”

### Needs

There remain many brethren in need of your help. There are faithful gospel preachers in the U.S. and foreign lands in dire need of financial support. Brethren in Zimbabwe are still suffering through another year of drought. There is also a severe drought in the Philippines. Brethren are suffering! They and their families faithfully labor in the gospel and suffer from material deprivations due to their stand for the truth, concern for the soul’s of men and love for the Lord and His Christ. Other brethren are in acute need of the basics of life (food, clothing, shelter, medical attention). If you would like to help please send me an e-mail (craigthomas82000@gmail.com) and I’ll put you in direct contact with a needy brother. Remember 1 John 3:17: “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”



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1 Jn. 3:17