

## DECEPTION: UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

Joe Slater

Skeptics mock Biblical teaching about Hell. They assert it is just a ploy by religious leaders to control the people. Sad to say, some religious leaders have conned their followers by threatening them with Hell. To say that such abuse nullifies the truth of Scripture, however, is cruel deception.

Paul wrote, *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God”* (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Not inheriting the kingdom of God is another way of saying not going to Heaven; that leaves but one alternative. Not surprisingly, some of these same classes are among those who *“have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death”* (Revelation 21:8).

Even among people who believe Hell exists, many think only an infamous few will go there (monsters like Hitler, Nero, and a few others). Several of the groups listed by Paul are held up today as worthy of praise and acceptance. If you kindly and lovingly warn them with God’s word, you will be vilified as an intolerant hater. Nevertheless, we owe the Lord and our world the good news that the unrighteous can repent and be saved. Even the idolatrous, immoral Corinthians could change. *“Such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God”* (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Be not deceived! Hell is real. But no one has to go there. God would have all to repent and be saved!

## Limited In What You Can Do?

Psalm 42 was written by a Korahite, a temple singer who, in exile, was kept from his duties among God’s people. He longs for the day when he can again participate in temple worship, perhaps even leading the procession to the holy place. He agonizes and questions his present suffering, but the great refrain of the psalm (vv. 5, 11) is to wait for God, to hope in him and give him thanks, for he is Savior.

It is noteworthy that the author does what he did best: he wrote a song and sang it. It wasn’t in the temple, but he used his talents to do what he could under the restrictions he was subjected to.

The psalm can have a good application to us who are used to serving the Lord in specific ways and with well-defined gifts. We may not be able to do that today, because of the social distancing. But we can still use the talents God gives us within our limitations. We may agonize and question, as the psalmist did, but he encourages us to wait for God and, in the meantime, do what is within our possibility.

J. Randal Matheny (via fellowshiproom.com)

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### *A Blessing*

**I’M A BLESSING TO YOU;  
YOU’RE A BLESSING TO ME;  
TOGETHER WE WILL WORK  
TO BE ALL WE SHOULD BE!**

--H.L. Gradowith (via *Bulletin Gold*)

## ***What Did Jesus Do?***

The other day I saw a WWJD bumper sticker on the back of a car. It was the first one I’ve seen in quite some time. A few years ago we would see the letters WWJD everywhere – on bracelets, t-shirts, and even bumper stickers. The letters stood for one simple phrase: “What Would Jesus Do?” Although it was just a fad, we hope it helped people think about the things they did and what Christ might do if faced with the same choice.

Before we can even ask that question, it is important to know what Jesus did. I think this is why, in Philipians chapter two, right after telling us to have in us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, Paul went on to remind us what that mindset was. In verses 6-8 he wrote, *“Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

So, what did Jesus do? He took on the cross so we don’t have to. He considered God and others over Himself. Although the WWJD clothing and accessories were just a fad, we should continue to ask ourselves in our everyday life, “What would Jesus do??”

But that can only be answered by looking at what He did.

--Luke Bower (Abilene, TX) via *Old Paths*