

From Death To Life

The Official Magazine of the Conditional Immortality Arm of New Zealand

Issue 12 December 1998

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Everybody knows that Christmas is meant to be "the season of joy" and "peace on earth, goodwill toward all people everywhere." But this peace is not found by everyone. Why?

When the angel appeared to the Shepherds on that first Christmas Day he said to them: "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" (Luke 2:10-14).

The Gospel is "good news" according to the angel because:

1. It is news that banishes fear (v 10).
2. It is news that brings great joy (v 10).
3. It is news for all people (v 10).
4. It is news of the Saviour (v 11).
5. It is news that glorifies God (v 14).
6. It is news that brings peace and goodwill (v 14).

But the gospel is only good news to those who accept it. Even from the first the prophet Simeon said to Mary his mother, "Behold this child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ... that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Luke 2:34, 35).

My prayer for you all this Christmas is that you have accepted the gospel as good news and that you know Jesus as your Saviour. I pray that you will know the peace that the gospel brings, in your hearts today. I pray that you will seek to serve him daily even as you wait for him to come into the world a second time and bring lasting peace to the whole world!

Finally, I pray that you will take the opportunity presented by the Christmas season to be a messenger bringing good news yourself. Take the opportunity to share with someone why the gospel is good news to you this Christmas!

David Burge.
President.

FOR GOD IS WITH US

Just a Reminder

Why Is Conditional Immortality Important?

1. It is Scriptural. We believe that conditional immortality, not eternal torment nor universalism, is what Scripture teaches. Because we believe the Scriptures to be the Word of God we assert that truth must be based in the Bible and that conditional immortality is the most satisfactory understanding of the following:

- (i) the nature of humankind;
- (ii) the nature of God;
- (iii) the intermediate state (between this life and the next);
- (iv) the final state of both the righteous and the wicked
- (v) the final victory of God.

2. It is a clear distinctive of biblical Christianity. Virtually all other religions teach that humans have an immortal soul. This causes much confusion and compromise. This confusion is clearly seen in areas such as "out-of-body" and "near-death" experiences. Conditional immortality stands in direct contrast to all Eastern and New Age religions that bear far closer resemblance to the lie of the serpent, "You surely shall not die", than to Christianity. In fact this is one challenge those Christians who hold to eternal torment need to face - Does their understanding bear closer ties with the serpent's words than with God's words, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return"?

3. A common understanding of Christ's sacrificial death is that he took the punishment we deserve (Rom. 4:25; 5:7-9; Eph 5:2; Heb 2:9; 9:15; 10:1-12, 18-20; 1 Peter 3:18). **If the punishment we deserve is eternal torment, as some say, then who has suffered that in our place?** Conditional immortality understands our punishment to be literal death - and Christ died for us.

4. Conditional immortality gives full and proper meaning to God's gracious gift - eternal life. The orthodox view actually says everyone already has eternal life - that is, everyone lives forever. We say, in conjunction with the Bible, that without this gift our "destiny is destruction" (Phil 3:19).

5. In conjunction with the above - **conditional immortality recognizes the full and final victory of God.** There will come a stage when sin and evil no longer exist. They will be destroyed. Annihilated so that never again will God have to look upon them. They won't be tucked away in some corner of the universe. If they were God could never be rid of them. 1 Corinthians 15:28 says that God will be "all in all". For this to happen, for God's victory to be complete, sin and evil must be obliterated.

6. 1 Corinthians 15 tells us that without the resurrection Christianity is without hope. Only **conditional immortality gives the Second Coming, the Resurrection and Judgment Day full significance.** Without these events the dead lie lost in the grave. 1 Cor 15 makes no mention of the dead being in heaven. If the orthodox view were correct then the Great Day would be an anticlimax - if the dead are already alive what does resurrection really entail? And if the dead are already in heaven or hell what does Judgment Day judge? Theories about our resurrected bodies being united with our souls are only theories and are not based on Scripture.

7. Conditional immortality gives a better start to understanding 'self'. As creatures we are totally dependent on God as Creator and Sustainer of life. Truth takes the focus away from ourselves and on to God. Our true identity lies with God in Christ. A belief in an immortal soul tends the other way, with the soul being regarded as the true self and the search for identity beginning by looking within. Some go so far as regarding the soul as divine (which would be quite logical if we had an immortal soul and "God alone has immortality" - 1 Tim 6:16) Under this belief humanity might be regarded as

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naturally at one with God, potentially ignoring the whole concept of sin, and therefore of the need for the sacrificial death of Jesus.

8. Conditional immortality restores credibility to the gospel by upholding the honour, justice and love of God. Contrary to some opinion, the orthodox view is not better for evangelism - in effect sometimes scaring people to a loving God!? In our more educated age many more people are turned from the Gospel because of the doctrine of eternal torment than are won by it. Most people realize the hypocrisy of a God who calls himself loving yet punishes with eternal torment. Most people recognize the complete injustice of eternal punishment for finite sin.

Conditional immortality focuses on the God who suffers for His people at the cross as the evidence for His unfailing love. Conditional immortality shows God to be just.

If we are created with an immortal soul then the two options for eternity are universal salvation or eternal torment for the unrighteous. Neither of these two are just. If universal salvation is correct then sin goes unpunished and/ or those who choose in this life not to honour God are forced to in the next. On the other hand if eternal torment is correct then not only does the punishment far outweigh the crime, but also God, with His foreknowledge, has created humankind knowing that millions more will live in eternal torment than in eternal bliss. If we take a strong view

on predestination then God not only knows but has actually planned that many more humans should live in eternal pain than in eternal happiness! If we cry out in horror at the genocide ordered by Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, etc, how can we not equally cry out at eternal torment, which is, literally, infinitely worse, supposedly ordered by God? Some quote Isaiah 55:9 which says that God's ways are higher than our ways, in support of eternal torment. We say, Yes! God's ways are indeed higher. But No! Eternal torment does not show God's ways are higher. Conditional immortality shows God to be a just God, a good God and a loving God. A God who punishes sin, but who does so justly. Most importantly, a God who offers forgiveness through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Straight from the Word.

Sometimes we are accused of arguing for conditional immortality from a philosophical rather than biblical base. The following is an extract from a book written last century by Elder George French from the Advent Christian Conference of America listing verses that deal with some of the topics that fall under the heading of Conditional Immortality. They were originally in the King James Version but we have updated this by using the New Revised Standard Version, with some alternative words in brackets to show the meaning of the original Greek or Hebrew. We hope this list will be a helpful aid to those sharing our understanding.

SUBJECT CONCORDANCE (Extracts from) ·
A Help for Truth Seekers
By **GEORGE FRENCH**

Man Is Not a Spirit, But of the Earth, Dust.

Genesis 2:7 ... then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground,
Genesis 3:19 ... you are dust
Genesis 18:27 ... I ... am but dust and ashes.
Psalm 103:14 For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.
John 3:31 ... the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth

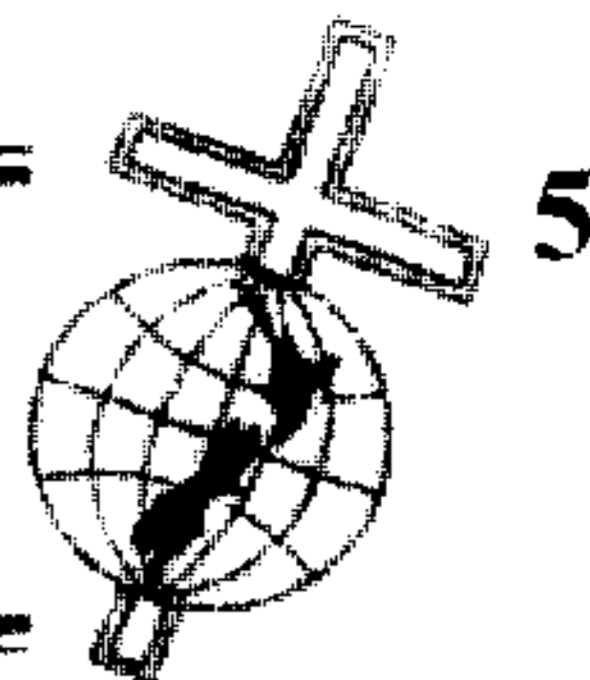
1 Corinthians 15:47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust;

Man Returns to Dust at Death.

Genesis 3:19 ... you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Job 34:15 ... all mortals return to dust.
Job 40:13 Hide them all in the dust together
Psalm 146:4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
Psalm 22:29 ... before him shall bow all who go down to the dust

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ADVENT CHRISTIAN MISSIONS NEW ZEALAND



1998 has been a "busy" year. We have seen great needs in some of the countries we are interested in. In God's grace, we have been able to meet some of those needs both with our prayer support, and in practical ways. We have again seen God's answers to our prayers, and we have been able to rejoice that there have been those who have committed themselves to the Lord. New churches have been planted and existing churches have experienced the problems that growth brings about!

The prayer support and practical support of KIWIS is very much appreciated by Advent Christian believers in India, the Philippines, China, and Malaysia. What a privilege it is to be part of the Lord's work in those countries, and in the other countries that Advent Christian Missions has a presence in. Thank you to all who have contributed in any way to our assistance during the year - please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Lord around the world.

Following are a number of news items from various countries - look out in 1999 for a new MISSIONS NEWSLETTER - please let us know if you would like to be on our mailing list for this publication, which will keep you up to date with activities and prayer items for Advent Christian Mission work around the world.

NEW ZEALAND/ INDIA

Our second **WORK TEAM** to India leaves for the College of Evangelism at Kodaikanal in

Tamil Nadu State on December 27, 1998 (Malaysian Airlines Flight No MH 136 departing at 2-40pm), and returns on January 19, 1999 (Malaysian Airlines Flight No MH 137 arriving at 12-40pm).

During the year the Lord has brought together a Team of nine members, who have met several times and who are looking forward with great anticipation to serving the Lord by carrying out repairs and maintenance work at the College of Evangelism at Kodaikanal.

Team members are

Grant Aldridge Patricia Carr
Russell Carle Ernie Schache
Beryl Ching Ross Duxfield
Grant David & Bronwyn Taylor
Paul Schlotges.

Please pray for these folk, and for their families who have released them to serve the Lord.

Pray for safety and health as they travel, and as they work.

Pray for a spirit of unity within the Team and also with the Indian nationals with whom they work and to whom they minister.

Pray that the fellowship they are able to have with Rev and Mrs Earl Wright, and Rev George Teshera who will also be in India at the same time, will be sweet and blessed.

Pray that the Lord will go ahead in all the preparations that have been and are to be made; that the Team may achieve the maximum possible results for the Col-

lege.

Pray that there will be sufficient financial resources to meet the cost of materials and services.

PHILIPPINES

Since the beginning of this year, we have remitted \$4,150 to the Philippine Advent Christian Conference to assist Advent Christian church members who suffered because of the drought caused by El Nino. This gave them about 87,000 pesos for the purchase of food - a very significant sum!

The President of the Conference in the Philippines - Rev Fernando Supangan - wrote as follows in a recent letter.

"The assistance that you sent for our people affected with 'El Nino' has really made a difference. Thank you very much. Our people are not hungry any more. Since early September crops have been harvested. As a matter of fact, harvest is much bigger now compared to the past 5 years. Although our people are beginning to recover, we, the Conference as a whole, are still greatly affected by the drought and the economic crisis in Asia. Many companies were closed and workers were laid off thus 10% contribution from our local churches has reduced greatly. Now another woe is confronting us, the 'La Nina' - heavy rains. ... Nevertheless we continue to rejoice in the knowledge that in all these hardships and difficulties, God is with us and He will see us through. It is during these

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times that we experience the grace and power of God and His unfailing love.

The work of the Lord is growing continually. Maranatha Bible Church have started a work in Malaybalay, Bukidnon,... in Candijay, Bohol ... and in Valencia, Bukidnon. The Church is growing in number...Praise the Lord!

...Thank you for continually upholding us in your prayers. Greet all our brethren and friends. May the Good Lord cause His face to shine upon you always!"



Mission team to India 98/99

the demands made upon it. This is a very practical way that we can assist - please contribute through your church or direct to our Treasurer - Rob Carr 2B Eastglen Road, Glen Eden, Auckland.

WORK TEAM 1999/2000

A good number of folk have al-

indicates that the recent devastating rains and subsequent floods and mudslides caused no deaths to Advent Christian believers. However great hardship has been caused, as most of their livestock and all of their crops have been lost.

If anyone would care to contribute to the relief of our brothers and sisters in Honduras, we will forward funds through Charlotte - please send contributions to our Treasurer (see address above).

JAPAN

Earlier this year the Japanese Advent Christian Conference celebrated its Centenary. A delega-

tion from the United States joined in the celebrations, and report that the work is in good heart. New, young pastors are planting new churches and the Conference is seeking to strategize for a greater outreach for Advent Christian work in Japan.

CHINA

Rev Hal Patterson and Rev George Teshera, together with the new President of the Japanese Conference and his wife, visited China recently. It appears that a new area of ministry has been opened. There are still significant difficulties for the operation of the churches - **please pray** that all the national workers on this field will be encouraged, protected and successful in their outreach.

ORO BIBLE COLLEGE

The students' cafeteria, which provided all meals for all the full time students, has had to close because of the lack of funds. This means that each student is again responsible for their own food, and this will inevitably mean a reduction in the standard of food and therefore the health of the students, and therefore the level of academic achievement.

The **BLESSING FUND** which provides a weekly grant for food for each student, in return for a number of hours practical work around the College, is therefore once again very important, and we invite continuing contributions to this fund. The fact that there are more students than ever at the College means that this fund continues to be stretched to meet

ready indicated their interest in being part of this, our 5th Team to the Philippines. The size of the project we are going to assist with (constructing a two storey apartment block for staff accommodation) is such that we cannot have too many members - men or women - this time - there is so much to be done!

Travel arrangements need to be made early in 1999 - if you are interested in more details, or in being part of this Team, please contact Ernie Schache, 5 Humber Place, Avondale, Auckland, phone 627 2124, email eschache@acmnz.pl.net

HONDURAS

Recent information from Rev Hal Patterson at Mission Headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina,

A Christmas Message from Carey Park ⁷

Have you read this?

Dear Dad,

School is great. I am making lot\$ of friend\$ and \$tudying very hard. With all my \$tuff, I \$imply can't think of anything I need. \$o if you would like, you can ju\$t \$end me a Chri\$tma\$ card, a\$ I would love to hear from you.

Love, Your daughter,

\$u\$an.

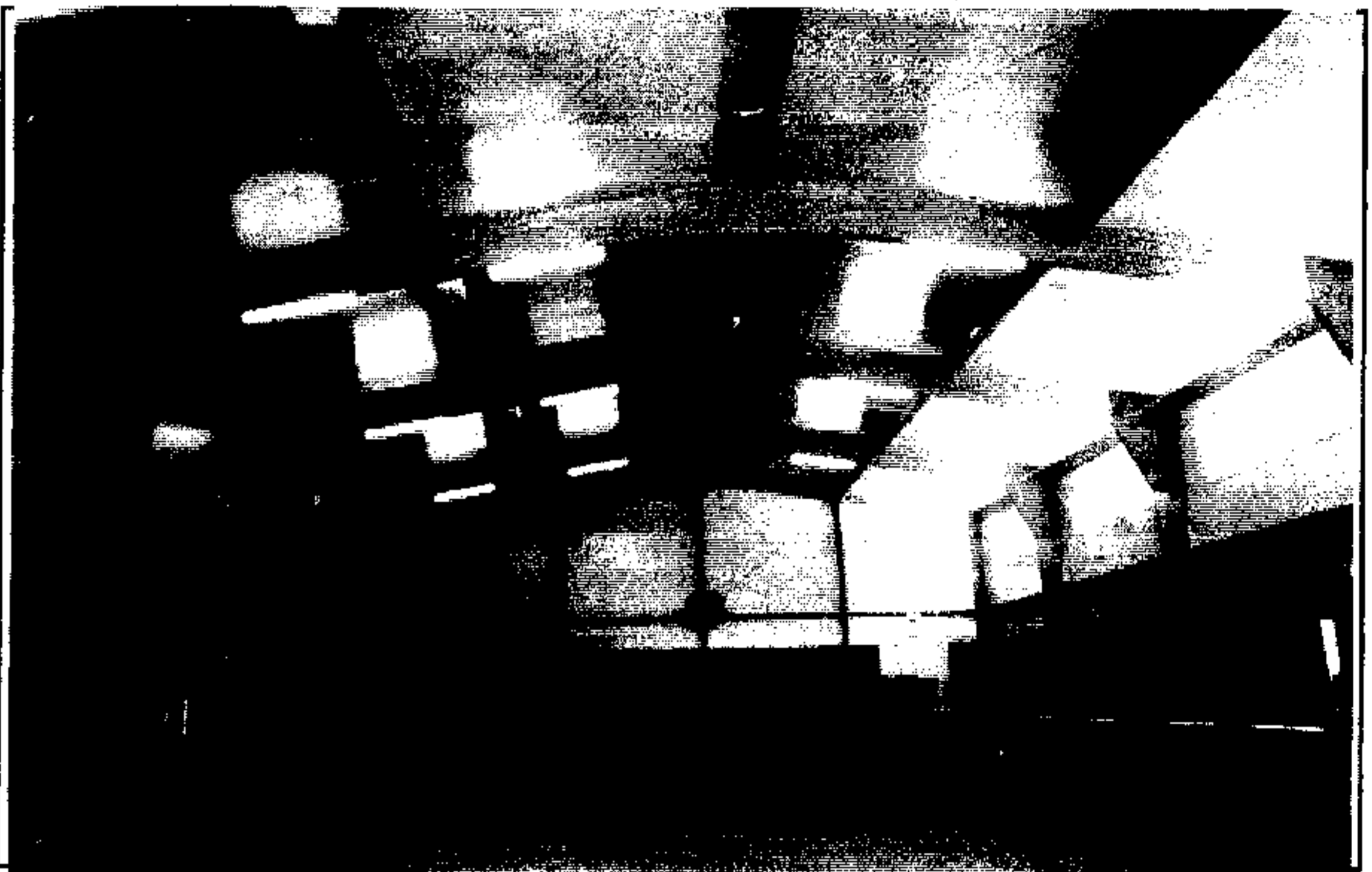
By the way happy Chri\$tma\$!!!!

Dear Susan,

I know that astroNOmy, ecoNOmics, and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOur student busy. Do NOT forget that the pursuit of kNOwledge is a NOble task, and you can never study eNOugh.

Love, Your father.

By the way happy Christmas you too – NO!!



Inside the Re-Creation Centre, getting ready for the opening service

Christmas is a very interesting time when giving (or getting) seems sometimes to become blurred particularly through the eyes of the young. Thank God that His eyes are never blurred, and He sees clearly that in giving you get. Give love – get it back, forgive others and it comes back inevitably to you. Someone once said, "Do unto others as though you were the others."

Congratulations as you give this year at Christmas, and in whatever way you give, you are doing what God does best, give. As the song writer said, "His grace has no limits, His power has no measure, He giveth & giveth & giveth again.

As we come to the end of the year, it's good to regurgitate the past and think on the many ways God has blessed during the past 12 months. This has not been the best year we've had at Carey Park with many potential distractions, but "God is faithful" 1 Cor 10:13, and where would we be without Him and the knowledge of His faithfulness.

Our own Holiday camps have been very good with kids and young people making observable steps in their walk with God. This has again highlighted the importance of such camps, where we are able to share with them an alternative life to the one that is being fed to them by a very confused world. Some of those who



Chairman of the Board, Wayne Schache, speaking at the opening.

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come to camps now are simply a segment of society that is without hope, and our responsibility and privilege is to share the love of God and a relationship with the Lord Jesus. In this regard one of the greatest needs we have is the ongoing one of getting leaders to assist us with these camps.

We train them, they get involved in a camp and then we send them back into their churches trained and keen to work for God and others. So if you can

help??!! – Let Tim know.

The highlight for our year, of course, has been the construction of our "Re-creation centre." What a blessing! It already has been used extensively by groups and has proved so good. When it's wet (outside that is) they can continue with an indoor programme. We are just putting together a Winter programme for schools to help fill in our quiet time in the winter. The dedication took place on December 6th (see photos) – we are very grateful to God who supplies all our needs.

A young guy called Jade will be officially opening it and he is a product of one of our camps. Jade, a crippled boy, in a wheel chair, gave his life to the Lord this past year. He's one of the many who benefit from coming to our ministry camps.

Another "special" this year has

time.

This year has been very difficult financially. There has been a drop in our income, the reasons we believe are many-fold but we are researching to see what happened. The bookings for next year are looking good so hopefully this year was 'just one of those things.' Our Board & Staff work very hard at setting

a correct budget and living by it, but in a consumer-driven market that's not always easy, in fact it never is!!

We have great dreams for next year in terms of further development, ones which we believe will assist us in our ever-developing programme for folk who come



Opening Ceremony for the Re-creation Centre

been the visit of the "Teen Mission International" team, a group of 30. Who came out to Carey Park to work for 4 weeks. They were a real blessing to us, great kids, good ministry spots, good workers, dedicated, self-sacrificing and great ambassadors not just for Christ but also their countries, USA, South America, Canada & Alaska. They built a tyre wall, painted, helped with building alterations, watched rugby, "did" Rotorua. We're sure it is not just we who were blessed, they were too. Great to have them for a second

here. Our prayer is that God will guide us again as He so obviously has in the past.

The invitation is always there for you come and visit us, to have a look around and a cuppa.

Well thanks again for the support you give us in a number of areas during this year. We wouldn't want to go it alone without God or you. And from all of us at Carey Park have a great Christmas and may your eyes be clear as you look to the Christ of Christmas.

Straight from the Word

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Psalms 104:29 when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.
Ecclesiastes 3:20 ... all are from the dust, and all
turn to dust again
Ecclesiastes 12:7 ... and the dust returns to the
earth as it was
Isaiah 26:19 O dwellers in the dust, awake and
sing for joy!
Daniel 12:2 Many of those who sleep in the dust
of the earth

Death Is Termed a "Sleep" (or similar)

Deuteronomy 31:16 Soon you will lie down with your
ancestors.
1 Kings 2:10 Then David slept with his ancestors
1 Kings 11:43 Solomon slept with his ancestors.
1 Kings 14:20 Jeroboam ... slept with his
ancestors,
1 Kings 14:31 Rehoboam slept with his ancestors
1 Kings 15:24 And Asa slept with his ancestors
1 Kings 16:6 So Baasha slept with his ancestors
1 Kings 16:28 So Omri slept with his ancestors
1 Kings 22:40 So Ahab slept with his ancestors
1 Kings 22:50 And Jehoshaphat slept with his
ancestors
Job 7:21 For now I shall lie in the earth
Job 14:12 so mortals lie down and do not rise again
...they will not awake or be roused out of their
sleep.
Psalm 13:3 Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the
sleep of death,
Psalm 127:2 ... for he gives sleep to his beloved.
Jeremiah 51:57 they shall sleep a perpetual sleep
and never wake
Daniel 12:2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of
the earth
Matthew 9:24 ... the girl is not dead but sleeping
John 11:11 Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep
Acts 7:60 When he had said this, he died (Greek -
fell asleep)
Acts 13:36 David .. died (Greek - fell asleep) ...
and experienced corruption
1 Corinthians 15:6 ... most of whom are still alive,
though some have died (Greek - fell asleep)
1 Corinthians 15:18 Then those also who have died
(Greek - fell asleep) in Christ have perished.
1 Corinthians 15:20 Christ has been raised... the
first fruits of those who have died (Greek -
fell asleep).

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But we do not want you to⁹
be uninformed ... about those who have died
(Greek - fell asleep)
1 Thessalonians 4:14 God will bring with him those
who have died (Greek - fell asleep)

The Wicked Dead Shall Be Raised and Punished

Job 21:30 - The wicked is reserved to the day of
destruction? They shall be brought forth to
the day of wrath.
Ezek. 18:26 - ... commit iniquity, they shall die for
it; for the iniquity that they have committed
they shall die (must rise to fulfill this).
Mark 14:62 - you will see the Son of Man... coming
with the clouds of heaven
John 5:28, 29 - All who are in their graves ... will
come out.
Acts 24:15 - There will be a resurrection of both
the righteous and the unrighteous.
Rev. 1:7 - Every eye will see him, even those also
who pierced him.

Eternal Life Is Conditional. The Wicked Will Not Live Forever

Deut. 30:15 I have set before you today life and
prosperity, death and adversity.
Deut. 30:19 I have set before you life and death,
blessings and curses
Prov. 15:10 ... one who hates a rebuke will die.
Prov. 19:16 ... those who are heedless of their
ways will die.
Jer. 31:30 But all shall die for their own sins.
Ezek. 18:23 Have I any pleasure in the death of
the wicked?
Ezek. 18:26... for the iniquity that they have
committed they shall die.
Ezek. 18:32 I have no pleasure in the death of
anyone... Turn, then, and live.
Matt. 19:16 Teacher, what ... must I do to have
eternal life?
Matt. 19:17... if you wish to enter into life, keep the
commandments.
John 3:16 Everyone who believes in him may not
perish but may have eternal life.
John 6:50 This is the bread ... that one may eat of
it and not die.
John 6:51 Whoever eats of this bread will live
forever.
John 6:53 Unless you eat the flesh of the Son. .
and drink his blood, you have no life in you.
John 6:54 Those who eat my flesh and drink my
blood have eternal life.

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John 20:31.. that through believing you may have life in his name.

1 John 3 :15 .. murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them.

1 John 5 :11 God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1 John 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have ... does not have life.

Rom. 6:21 The end of those things is death.

Rom. 8 :13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die.

Rev. 2 :11 Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.

Rev. 20:6 Over these the second death has no power.

Rev. 21:8... the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

They Shall Be Consumed

Psa 37 :20 ... they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

Psa. 59:13 consume them in wrath; consume them until they are no more.

Psa 104 :35 Let the sinners be consumed from the earth.

Isa. 1:28 Those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed.

Zeph. 1 :2 I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth,

They Shall Be Cut Off

Psa. 12:3 May the Lord cut off all flattering lips.

Psa. 37:9 The wicked shall be cut off.

Psa. 37:22 Those cursed by him shall be cut off.

Psa. 37:28 The children of the wicked shall be cut off.

Psa. 37:34 You will look on the destruction* of the wicked.

Psa. 37:38 The posterity of the wicked shall be cut off.

Psa. 104 :35 Let the wicked be no more.

Prov. 2 :22 But the wicked will be cut off from the land.

Zeph. 1 :3 I will cut off humanity from the face of the earth.

They Shall Perish

Job 20:7 They will perish forever, like their own dung.

Psa. 1:6 But the way of the wicked will perish.

Psa. 9:3 They stumbled and perished before you.

Psa. 37:20 But the wicked perish.

Psa. 73:27 Indeed, those who are far from you shall perish.

Psa. 92:9 O Lord, for your enemies shall perish.

Prov. 19 :9 A false witness .. and the liar will perish.

Luke 13:3 Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

John 3:15, 16 Everyone who believes in him may not perish

John 10:27,28 My sheep hear my voice and.. I give them eternal life; and they will never perish.

Acts 13:41 Look, you scoffers! Be amazed and perish.

Rom. 2:12 .. have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law.

1 Cor. 1:18 the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing

2 Cor. 2:15 the aroma of Christ to God among ... those who are perishing.

2 Thess. 2:10 every kind of wicked deception for those who are perishing

2 Peter 2:12 They also will be destroyed*

They Shall Be DESTROYED

Job 21:20 Let their own eyes see their destruction ... the wrath of the Almighty

Job 31:3 Does not calamity* befall the unrighteous?

Psa. 5 :6 You destroy those who speak lies.

Psa. 21:10 You will destroy their offspring from the earth.

Psa. 37 :38 But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed.

Psa. 73:18 Truly, .. you make them fall to ruin*.

Psa. 90 :3 You turn us back to dust.*

Psa. 92 :7 Though the wicked . . they are doomed to destruction forever.

Psa. 145:20 But all the wicked he will destroy.

Prov. 1:27 When . . your calamity* comes as a whirlwind.

Prov. 10:29 But destruction for evildoers.

Prov. 13:13 Those who despise the word bring destruction on themselves.

Prov. 13:20 But the companion of fools suffers harm*;

Prov. 21:15 But dismay* to evildoers.

Prov. 29:1 Will suddenly be broken* beyond healing.

Prov. 31 :8 for the rights of all the destitute (KJV- those appointed to destruction.

Isa. 1:28 Rebels and sinners shall be destroyed

*French categorized these according to the King James translation, We have kept them in their original place even though they might now fit elsewhere.

together.

Ezek. 7:25 When anguish comes, they will seek peace, but there shall be none.

Matt. 7:13 the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction

Acts 3:23 Everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out.*

Rom. 9:22 The objects of wrath made for destruction.

1 Cor. 6:13 God will destroy both one and the other.

1 Cor. 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Phil. 3:18-19 Enemies of the cross of Christ ...their end is destruction.

1 Thess. 5:3 Sudden destruction will come upon them ... and there will be no escape.

2 Thess. 1:9 These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction.

2 Thess. 2:8 Whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of his mouth, annihilating him by the manifestation of his coming.

Heb. 2:14 Might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.

2 Peter 2:1 Denying the Master ... bring swift destruction on themselves.

2 Peter 3:16 Which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures.

They Shall Be Burned Up

Deut. 32:22 For a fire is kindled by my anger, and burns to the depths of Sheol.

Psa. 11:6 On the wicked he will rain coals of fire and sulphur.

Psa. 21:9 In his wrath, and fire will consume them.

Psa. 50:3 Our God comes ... before him is a devouring fire.

Psa. 97:3 Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries

Isa. 1:31 Their work shall burn together, with no one to quench them.

Mal. 4:1 Shall burn them up ... it will leave them neither root nor branch.

Matt. 3:12 But the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

Matt. 13:42 And they will throw them into the furnace of fire.

Luke 17:29,30 Rained fire ... on the day that the Son of man is revealed.

John 15:6 Thrown into the fire and burned.

Heb. 10:27 A fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire.

2 Peter 3:7 Reserved for fire... kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless.

Jude 1:7 Sodom ... an example by undergoing

a punishment of eternal fire.

Rev. 20:15 Not ... in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

The Dead Are Unconscious

Job 14:21 Their children come to honor, and they do not know it.

Psa. 6:5 For in death there is no remembrance of you.

Psa. 88:10 Shall the shades rise up to praise thee?

Psa. 88:11 Is your steadfast love declared in the grave?

Psa. 88:12 Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

Psa. 146:4 They return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Eccl. 3:19, 20 as one dies, so dies the other ... all go to one place.

Eccl. 9:3 Madness ... while they live and after that they go to the dead.

Eccl. 9:5 The living know ... but the dead know nothing.

Eccl. 9:6 Their love, and their hate, and their envy, have already perished.

Eccl. 9:10 There is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol.

Isa. - 28:18 For Sheol cannot thank you, death cannot praise you.

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Editor's Note:

It would be interesting to do a completely revised edition of this work based on a more modern translation, but we trust this will be useful as it is.

One thing that does stand out is that there are many more verses indicating a final end to the unsaved than there are suggesting eternal torment or punishment - Matthew 25:41,46; 2 Thess. 1:9; Heb. 6:2; Jude 7; Rev 14:9-11; 20:10,15.

In addition there are a number of verses that speak of "weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 8:12; 13:42,50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28) - or "anguish and distress" (Rom. 2:9) - but there is no hint of that lasting forever. Matthew 18:34-35 is a parable speaking of 'torture', but only until the debt is paid. Another parable, Luke 16:23-28, if it is to be taken literally (which we suggest it shouldn't be) is only talking about an interim period, not eternal torment. Jude 13 speaks of "deepest darkness...forever."

