

Biblical Womanhood

by

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THE LAST DAYS OF HISTORY (29)

Further notes on those destined for hell fire. Contd

The lake of fire is the ultimate destination of everything wicked—Satan, the beast, the false prophet, the demons, Death, Hades, and all those whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life because they did not place their faith in Jesus Christ. John's vision does not permit any gray areas in God's judgment. If by faith we have not identified with Christ, confessing him as Lord, there will be no hope, no second chance, no other appeal.

"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Rev21:8)

"the fearful, and unbelieving." God mentions several classes of people whose place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. (1) The 'fearful' are those who fear the disapproval and threat of people more than they value loyalty to Christ and the truth of His Word. Their personal safety and status on earth mean more to them than faithfulness to God. "The fearful" include the compromisers among God's people who gave up the fight and do not conquer (Mk8:35; Rom8:37; 1Thes2:4; 2Tim2:12-13).

(2) The "unbelieving" include former believers in Christ who, because of unbelief and disobedience (Heb3:12-19), were overcome by various sins, such as those listed here. To profess Christ and then practice such evil is an abomination to God.

"But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie." (Rev22:15)

Who are "dogs"? (Rev22:15)

The word "dog" is used 8 times figuratively as a disdainful term of men (1Sam17:43;24:14; 2Sam 3:8; 9:8; 16:9; 2Kgs8:13; Ps59:6,14). The word dog is also used of homosexuals (Dt23:18); enemies of Christ (Ps22:16,20); in connection with meddlers in strife (Prov26:17); of false prophets (Isaiah56:10-11); Gentiles (Mat15:26-27); false teachers (Phil3:2); Backsliders (2Pet2:20-21); "fools" (Prov26:11); lost souls (Rev22:15); Reprobates (Mat7:6).

Note the way the word "fool" is used in the Bible. Read Psalm14:1-3

"The fool has said in his heart, there is no God, they are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good." (Ps14:1)

14:1-3 The true atheist is either foolish or wicked – foolish because he ignores the evidence that God exists or wicked because he refuses to live by God's truths. We become atheist in practice when we rely more on ourselves than on God. The fool mentioned here is someone who is aggressively perverse in his actions. To speak in direct defiance of God is utterly foolish according to the Bible.

"How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge." (Prv1:22)

In the book of Proverbs, "simple ones" or "fools" do not have *mental* deficiencies, but have *character* deficiencies (such as rebellion, laziness, or anger). The fool is not stupid, but he or she is unable to tell right from wrong or good from bad.

"whosoever loves and practices a lie" (Rev22:15). Notice how the last two chapters of the Bible focus on the issue of lying. Those who practice falsehood are mentioned three times (1) All liars "shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone" (21:8); (2) those who "practice a lie" will not enter God's eternal city (21:27); (3) those who love and practice falsehood will be outside God's eternal kingdom. Lying is the last sin condemned in the Bible, possibly because it was a lie that brought the fall of the human race (Gen3:1-5; cf. John8:44). Let these solemn words be a warning to all who believe that God tolerates lying and deceit.