

CONSEQUENCES

Sunday Morning: January 25, 2004

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 "Every man's **work** shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by **fire**; and the **fire** shall try every man's **work** of what sort it is. 14. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15. If any man's work shall be **burned**, he shall **suffer loss** (cast away, receive damage): but he himself shall be **saved**; yet so as by [διὰ, through] **fire**."

This lesson this morning is not going to be an easy one for me and one of the problems is tradition. It's amazing what tradition is taught in churches that are not substantiated with the Word of God; and because of traditional teaching it makes it very difficult for us to see the truth, much less accept the truth for what it is. And because most people think that when you get saved, you have all the blessings of heaven. But a close study of the Bible shows that we will one day stand accountable for the way we live and the scriptures teach us to 'hold thou fast which thou hast that no man take your crown.' Did you know I can let another man take my crown? I can let another man defeat me, I can let another man offend me so that I won't – because he hurt me I'm going to get back at God by not doing what God wants me to do, so forth and so on by not coming to church, that type of thing. Second John eight tells us very plainly that we need to look to ourselves- who? Myself! That I lose not those things that I have wrought, that I have earned, that I might receive a what? Full reward! Did you know that you can gain rewards with faithful living and at the end of your life have them taken away from you for misbehaving? For rebellion, having your heart become hard instead of soft toward the Lord, not allowing grace to work in your heart and life so that you're content with less. Today we want more. Churches are teaching that if you don't have a million dollars, you're not in God's will. And well, if I have a million dollars, maybe it is God's will for me to give it away! Anyway I don't plan on having a million and I'm not working on my second one because I've given up on the first. I'm just trying to accept God's plan and His purposes for me and to live within my means, and that's the thing that we need to do. So there are consequences that we need to expect if we are not willing to live the way God wants us to live.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 "Every man's **work** shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by **fire**; and the **fire** shall try every man's **work** of what sort it is.

This has to do with building on the foundation. Are we building on the foundation of the apostles – gold and silver and precious stones? Or are we building wood, hay and stubble? Because we know that fire is going to test every man's work. Of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15. If any man's work shall be **burned**, he shall **suffer loss** (cast away, receive damage): but he himself shall be **saved**; yet so as by [διὰ, through] **fire**."

The word, suffer loss, has to do with being cast away, to receive damage. If your life is a life of wood, hay and stubble, you're going to be fined. It's going to cost you for the way you live and I want to warn us for this, I want to be warned. I was talking to a guard, in fact where Elton lives they have a guard downstairs, and he passed an ambulance on the wrong side and you're not to pass an ambulance on the left side of the ambulance. And he found it wasn't a ticket, it was a summons to court. And he found out that he could, it could cost him a thousand dollars and a year in jail for doing that and he didn't know that, and I didn't know it either. And he was really concerned! Well, the Judge, you know he just told the judge, he didn't know that. So the judge fined him a hundred dollars and let him go and put him on probation. He said, don't pass any

ambulances on the left for two years. You can be assured that guy isn't going to be passing an ambulance either on the left or right side probably! But anyway we need to know what the consequences are! Because none of us want to spend time in jail! And did you know that you can spend time in jail during the millennium if you are not living the way God wants you to live. Now some people call this Christian purgatory. Well, purgatory from the Catholic perspective is totally in error. Because the Catholic Church allows you to buy and do things to help people get out of it. Let me tell you, if you're put in prison because of the way you behave today, nobody's, in fact you're not going to get out of it. In fact the Word of God says you're going to stay in prison till you have paid the uttermost farthing. You're going to pay with time. And hopefully, we'll get into that. Now another thing too is that people talk about hell and there's really only one word for hell. And that is the Lake of Fire. You can see the word 'hell' translated several times in the New Testament and Old Testament as well and they are not all the same word. In the Old Testament where it says

HELL

Psalms 16:9-10 "Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. 10. For thou wilt not leave my soul in **hell** [Sheol]; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Now here the word 'hell' is not the lake of fire. This is the Hebrew word '**sheol**.' And what is sheol? It's the grave. It's a place where the dead go. Several years ago, I say several, maybe twenty-five years ago I was teaching a * class in a Baptist church and you know I wanted to stimulate a little bit of interest so I was telling everyone in there that everyone of us is going to go to hell. And I didn't say anymore! Well, I was controversial in the first place, because in that church I was teaching something and everybody else was just reading out of a quarterly or reading out of a book, you know. So, what I wanted to tell them was, I was teaching on the cults and the Jehovah's Witnesses teach that there is no hell; its just annihilation and you don't have to worry about the lake of Fire. So what I was telling them was that everyone is going to go through the grave. If the Lord doesn't come, you're going to go to hell. You're going to go to **Sheol**. Well, that word is translated differently in the New Testament.

HADES

Acts 2:31 "He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in **hell** [Hades], neither his flesh did see corruption."

So here are two different words, a Hebrew word and a Greek word and they both have a reference to the grave. But real hell as we think of hell as concerned is the Lake of Fire. The Devil and his angels will spend from the ages unto the ages in the Lake of Fire and there will be others that are not found written in the Book of Life who will be in there as well. There's a Lamb's Book of life and then there's a Book of Life. They're not the same books. If you are in the Lamb's Book of Life you are also in the Book of Life. But the Lamb's Book of Life deals with another group of people, but anyway. So the Lake of Fire is for the Devil and his angels and I believe it's used, will be used for believers as well. Now, let's find out

SAVED BAPTIZED IN FIRE

Matthew 3:11 "I indeed **baptize** you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall **baptize** [dip] you **with** [ἐν, preposition "in"] the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit is literal), and **with fire** (fire must be literal) (compound prepositional phrase):"

Now we need to look a little bit at the text in this regard. The word, 'with' is actually the Greek

word 'en' which we should translate 'in' the Holy Spirit. He will baptize us in the Holy Spirit and the word, 'with fire,' the word 'with' is not there. You'll notice it's in italics. Now what this is, it's a compound prepositional phrase. It's governed by the preposition 'in.' And I'm telling you all this for this reason, the Holy Spirit is literal, it's not figurative. He is not a figurative person. And because He is not figurative, neither is the word, 'fire' to be taken figuratively. The word, 'fire' is to be taken literally. When Jesus Christ comes or you know when the Lord, He will dip you in the Holy Ghost and He will dip you or baptize you in literal fire. And the only place I know of or can think of a lake that you can baptize in fire is the lake of Fire. So I do believe that the Lord's going to use the Lake of Fire to baptize us to test our works, not our salvation but our works, okay? In Revelation twenty verse ten we have a reference to the Lake of Fire where it says

LAKE OF FIRE

Revelation 20:10 "And the **devil** that deceived them was cast into the **lake of fire** and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Now you see the little phrase 'for ever and ever?' That's how the Greek say eternity, from the ages unto the ages. And they will be tormented from the ages unto the ages. Now, there are other references to consequences that I do think are figurative.

LAWLESS CAST INTO A FURNACE

Matthew 13:41-42 "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall **gather out of his kingdom** all things that **offend**, and them which do iniquity [lawless]; 42. And shall cast them into a **furnace** (figurative) of fire: there shall be **wailing** and **gnashing of teeth**. (literal)"

Now these people are out of their graves, they're milling around in the Kingdom and they don't belong there. This is not a reference to lost people; this is a reference to saved people being where they shouldn't be. And the Lord's going to take those people out of His Kingdom and He's going to put them into a furnace. Now, the word furnace implies not something that is eternal. Furnaces are temporary. I got an ad in the mail this week. Buy a twenty-five hundred dollar furnace for eight ninety-five. He knows that my furnace is not eternal! It's temporary. So the point I'm saying is here is to be cast into a furnace is a temporary place. And so therefore what's going to be happening? There's going to be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Why? Because they were people who liked to offend other people. They were people who liked to live like they wanted to live. That's lawlessness. The word 'iniquity' is * no law. And these people are going to wail and gnash their teeth. I don't necessarily think of it in terms of the furnace but the consequences of living a lawless and offending life. Now I'm not talking about offending like Jesus offended the Scribes and the Pharisees, because He offended them. He called a spade a spade and He offended them. But that's not what we're talking about here. We're talking about offending a brother, which we'll get into in just a moment. So there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth! I think the Lord has put it that way so that we can appreciate the fact that if we don't want to wail and gnash our teeth, we better live a life that's obedient and we better be careful how we treat others, particularly in the family, okay? Because I don't know whether, I guess the only time I can remember when I got the most bitterest feeling and the tears was when I found out a young lady that I was dating and very serious with, she was late dating me. In other words, I'd bring her home after a date and then another guy would come and pick her up! And I found out about that and I tell you, that was tough! A youngster like I was! I mean I wept and I cried, well, anyway, that was not an enjoyable time. I want to enjoy being with the Lord. I don't want to be weeping and gnashing of teeth because I lived like I wanted to live. Now another situation has to do with the virgins. Virgins are pure, virgins are holy; virgins are

clean. But some virgins are ready and some virgins aren't.

VIRGINS DENIED ENTRANCE

Matthew 25:11-12 "Afterward came also the other (five) **virgins**, saying, **Lord, Lord**, open to us. 12. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, **I know you not.**"

Open unto us, we want in, we want to be included but He answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Now, to think that Jesus or that the king wouldn't know, or our Lord wouldn't know who we are, is to say that He is not omniscient; He doesn't know everything, does He? He doesn't know me? Well, that's not the case. He knew them and they weren't qualified to enter into the wedding feast. In fact of a matter if you parallel this with Mathew chapter seven verse twenty-one and also verse twenty-three

ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM

Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, **Lord, Lord**, shall **enter** into the **kingdom** of heaven."

Not everyone that says 'Lord, Lord' is going to have the door open for them. In fact of a matter in verse twenty-three

Matthew 7:23 "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart** from me (to outer darkness), ye that **work** [present middle] **iniquity** [lawless]."

And the departing is really into outer darkness, I believe, which we will see in the rest of the parables of Mathew twenty-five He knew something about them. He knew what about them? He knew that they were lawless and there would be weeping and gnashing of teeth because they were excluded. Have you ever been excluded? And it hurt? Sure! We have. Maybe not as much as the late dating of a sweetheart but anyway! I thank God for the fact that I found that out, so I could be done with that and I could find the young lady I married! Anyway let's continue.

THE UNPROFITABLE DENIED

Matthew 25:30 "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into **outer darkness**: there shall be **weeping** and **gnashing** of teeth."

Outer darkness needs to be associated with the furnace. Outer darkness needs to be associated with being excluded. That's what I want you to see. There are consequences of being a *, worthless, unprofitable servant of God. How long do you keep a man on the payroll that's worthless? That's not even using his talent, his money. He wouldn't even walk down to the bank and put it in the bank so that it could draw a little interest. Now that shows you how unprofitable and how lazy a servant of God can be. The Lord said at least you could have put it in the bank for me and I could've drawn a little interest and if he was living today it sure would be a little bit of interest! Anyway, so here's one weeping and gnashing of teeth in outer darkness and by the way, it is in the same context of the virgins. Then

THE SHEEP ENTERED THE KINGDOM

Matthew 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them [sheep] on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you. . ."

Who were on His right hand? The sheep. So the opposite of entering the Kingdom is outer darkness, exclusion, the furnace, and the blessing has to do with inheriting, receiving your inheritance. And what is the inheritance? It's the reward of the inheritance. The inheritance is reward based upon profitable servants. And then

THE GOATS DENIED

Matthew 25:40-41 "And the King shall answer and say unto **them** (sheep, figurative language), Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my **brethren**, ye have done *it* unto me. **41.** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, **ye** (goats, figurative) **cursed** (as Gibeonites), into **everlasting** [agelasting] **fire, prepared** for the **devil** and his **angels**:"

This is simply, well, first of all, let me just say this. When I read the word cursed, many years ago, I struggled with that. Because when you find the word 'cursed', its in second Peter as well. But when I was studying about the nation of Israel going in to the land of Canaan I read about Gibeon. The Gibeonites. Remember the Gibeonites? They are the ones who lied to Joshua and told him that you know we came a long way, we want to make a covenant, you know, an agreement so you won't kill us. And of course Joshua found out that they were neighbors. They weren't what they said they were and because they said that they would not destroy them, what happened to them? They were cursed. And what was their curse? They were haulers of water and hewers of wood. You want to be cursed during the kingdom? You know what you're going to be doing? You're not going to be ruling and reigning. You're not going to have servants, so to speak, as a King would have. You're going to be hauling water and you're going to be cutting wood. There won't be any, you know, indoor plumbing's out in the Kingdom I guess, I don't know! It was in Joshua's day and they had to haul water and had to cut water and you know, that's what they had to do. But anyway, these people are going to be doing things in the Kingdom they don't want to do. That's the main point. And the word 'everlasting' is not ages unto the ages but it's the singular age and this is the fire that's for an age. That produces something that these people don't want. That has to do with the furnace, it has to do with outer darkness, and it's the fire that we will be baptized in that will show our work whether they be gold or silver or precious stones or wood, hay and stubble. It's going to cost the goats. Why? Well, they didn't minister; they did not care for whom? The brethren! They didn't care for the sheep. They just let them go. It doesn't have anything to do with getting saved at all; it has to do with care for anyone. Now, who is a brother? We'll find out in just a moment. But let me just continue here in

TIME IN PRISON

Matthew 5:25-26 ". . . be **cast into prison**. **26.** Verily I say unto thee, **Thou shalt by no means come out** thence, **till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.**"

If you owe, when you are fined, let me just say when you get to the Judgment Seat of Christ and everything you have is burned up and it cost you, in other words, your debits and credits don't work and you owe, you know what? You'll be in prison until you've paid it all, okay? Now, in Mathew chapter five verses twenty-three and twenty-four it talks about offending your brother. We've been talking about offending. The Lord is going to take out those who offend. Let's read about it.

OFFEND YOUR BROTHER

Matthew 5:23-24 "**Therefore** if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy **brother hath ought against thee**; **24.** Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be **reconciled** to thy **brother**, and then come and offer thy gift."

Well, when we have ought against our brother, we've offended him. And in

THE OFFENCE

Matthew 5:21-22 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not **kill**;

and whosoever shall kill shall be in **danger** (may be accidental) of **the judgment** (to perish by stoning): 22. But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his **brother** ~~without a cause~~ shall be in danger of **the judgment**: (verse 21) and whosoever shall say to his **brother**, **Raca** [vain, worthless], shall be in danger of **the council** (Sanhedrin): but whosoever shall say, Thou **fool** [rebel], shall be in danger of [the] **hell** [γέεννα, figurative] [the] **fire**."

"The judgment" has the definite article before it. It's talking about specific judgment. It's the judgment of stoning a murderer to death and it's not talking about in danger of the judgment because if you accidentally kill somebody you are in danger of being killed too, particularly if you left the city of refuge. Remember that? If you left the city of refuge and the family member caught you, they could kill you, they could stone you. So here is the judgment. Now I'm emphasizing that phrase because I want you to see it in verse twenty-two, and the words, "without cause" is not in the Nestles text by the way. It says' "angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment." What is the judgment here? Perishing, losing your life, disqualified from ruling and reigning with Christ! Verse twenty-one – 'raca' or 'worthless' or 'vain' shall be in danger of the council. Some people think this is the Sanhedrin. But whosoever shall say 'thou fool', or rebel shall be in danger of hell. Now this word, 'hell' here is not 'sheol' or 'hades.' This is 'gehenna.' But first of all, I will get to the word 'gehenna' in just a moment, but let me just bring out the fact of a brother.

JUDGE NOT A BROTHER

James 4:11 "Speak not evil one of another, **brethren**. He that **speaketh evil** of *his brother*, and judgeth his **brother**, speaketh evil of the law. . ."

I mean, that's what you're doing. You're speaking evil of something that is good. The Lord said the law is good. It helps a man behave himself but anyway don't be speaking evil of your brother. Now who is a brother? Now, Mathew twelve fifty says plainly who a brother is

A BROTHER

Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall **do the will of my Father** which is in heaven, the same is my brother. . ."

Not every child of God is seeking to do the will of the Father and we've already read Mathew seven forty-one

SEEKING TO ENTER THE KINGDOM

Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall **enter into the kingdom of heaven**; but he that **doeth the will** of my **Father** which is in heaven."

A brother is one who is seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. A brother is one who is seeking to enter the Kingdom, not just see the Kingdom. Remember what the Lord told Nicodemus, except a man be born from above, he cannot **see** the Kingdom of God. Jesus was trying to teach Nicodemus how to **enter** the Kingdom. And you find that in the rest of the third chapter of John. So a brother is one who is seeking to enter the Kingdom. You don't want to offend a brother; because if you offend a brother, and you don't minister to a brother – the least of these my brethren, you'll suffer the consequences of the goats. They didn't enter the kingdom. They didn't enter their inheritance in the coming Kingdom. Now, what is prison? Prison of course is in hell. Let me just pick up again on this idea of prison. He says

PRISON NOT HELL

Matthew 5:25-26 "Agree with thine adversary (your brother) quickly, whiles thou art in the way with **him**; lest at any time the **adversary** (your brother) deliver thee to the **judge**, and

the judge deliver thee to the **officer**, and thou be **cast into prison**. (during the Millennium)
26. Verily I say unto thee, **Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid**
the uttermost farthing (not for ever and for ever)."

And this is in the millennium. We're not talking about now. Oh I've offended my brother, I'm sure but I've not been cast into jail or into prison because of that today. This is millennial in perspective. And of course, this is not forever and ever. Now, wow, it's ten after and I haven't even got into the meat of the message! Well, what we'll just have to do, we'll have to pick up here Lord willing, next Sunday. This is one of the problems of having notes! You want to finish all the notes. But one of the things that I want to, I need to end on a positive note. We've been dealing with negatives and consequences and weeping and gnashing of teeth. We need to end on a positive note. Well, I told you that Jesus Christ is going to baptize us in the Holy Spirit and in fire, but if you read in Revelation chapter twenty-two and verse eleven. (This you will find at the end of your notes)

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10. For we must all appear before the **judgment seat** of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be good or bad* [evil]. 11. Knowing therefore the **terror** [fear, noun] of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences."

FEAR HIM

Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which **kill the body**, but are not able to **kill the soul**: but rather **fear** [verb, present passive] **him** which is able to **destroy** [ἀπόλλυμι, perish] both soul and body in [εἰς, leading to] **hell** [γέεννα, figurative]." Again:

TO HIS FRIENDS

Luke 12:4-5 "And I say unto you my **friends** (his disciples verse 1), Be not afraid of them that **kill the body**, and after that have **no more** that they can do. 5. But I will forewarn **you** (his disciples) whom **ye** (his disciples) **shall fear**: **Fear him**, which after he hath killed (body implied) hath power to cast into **hell** [γέεννα, figurative]; yea, I say unto **you** (his disciples), **Fear him**."

(Many associate γέεννα, Gehenna, with the valley of Hinnom outside Jerusalem. Children were sacrificed to Molech there. γέεννα is a New Testament term and not found in the Septuagint)

FIRST OCCURRENCE

James 3:6 "And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is **the tongue** among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it (tongue) is **set on fire of hell** [γέεννα, figurative]."

CAUSE YOU TO STUMBLE

Matthew 5:29-30 "And if thy **right eye offend** (σκανδαλιζω, stumble) thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is **profitable** for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into **hell** [γέεννα, figurative]. 30. And if thy **right hand offend** thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is **profitable** for thee that one of thy members should **perish**, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell [γέεννα, figurative]."

ENTER THE KINGDOM

Mark 9:47 "And if thine **eye** offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to **enter into the kingdom** of God with one **eye**, than having two eyes to be cast into **hell** [γέεννα, figurative] **fire**:"

NOT HURT

Revelation 2:11 "He that hath an **ear**, let him **hear** what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**; He that **overcometh** [victorious life] shall **not be hurt** of the **second death**."

If you live a victorious life for the lord, what does it say here? Shall not be hurt of the second death! What is the second death? It's the Lake of Fire. We skipped over the verses that show that, but the second death is the Lake of Fire. If you've been living a life that's victorious, how do you live a victorious life? You live it by faith. Who is he that overcometh the world? It's him that lives by faith. Living by faith means that we're pleasing the Lord. And if you are an overcomer, you're not going to hurt in the second death. It's not going to cost you. You're going to come out with honor and glory and gold and silver and precious stones. In other words, you're not going to come out as a beggar. You're not going to come out as a hewer of wood and a hauler of water. You're going to come out as a king because in Revelation twenty verse six it says

BUT REIGN

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first [best] **resurrection**: on such the **second death** (baptism in the lake of fire) **hath no power**, but they shall be **priests** of God and of Christ, and shall **reign with him a thousand years**."

Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the best or the first, and I really rather translate that and it can be translated, the best resurrection. On such the **second death** (baptism in the lake of fire) **hath no power**, but they shall be **priests** of God and of Christ, and shall **reign with him a thousand years**. What's the message for us today? It can cost us a lot if we are not careful how we live. But if we will live a life that pleases the Lord, it's going to cost us now, but it won't cost us then. Let me tell you, I'm not going to live a thousand years but during the millennium how long will it be in the millennium? A thousand years! A thousand years in prison? May not be there a whole thousand years but you could be there longer than you can live today, I'll put it that way, okay? So when you think of three score and ten, that's just a drop in the bucket compared to a thousand years. I think I'll behave and pay the consequences now so that I can enjoy a thousand years of ruling and reigning with the Lord Jesus Christ in His coming Kingdom.

Father, I just pray that You'd bless the message to each of our hearts and help us Lord, to appreciate the fact that You want those that please You with You in Your coming Kingdom and You want those who have offended Your brethren and have not ministered to Your brethren, out. And we know that's going to take place because You're going to bring it to pass. We pray You'd bless the message to each of our lives that it might bring honor and glory to You and that we might be found profitable servants and hear a 'well done thou good and faithful servant and enter into the joy of the Lord.' For we ask these things in Jesus Christ' name, amen