

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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In This Issue:

Wrong Way 1-2
Local News 2
Sermon Outline 3
**The Book of Psalms – Back
Cover**

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Wrong Way

In case the reader missed it, Proverbs 16:25 repeats the wisdom of 14:12: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

Every pedestrian and motorist knows the sunken feeling of realizing that he is going the wrong way. Many accidents result from drivers ignoring "One Way" signs in a rush to get somewhere quicker. If not for dashboard compasses and optional GPS receivers, millions more would find themselves going nowhere fast. It is sporting to watch the freshmen on their first day of college as they stumble around campus, obviously unsure of just where Old Main is located.

Some have even achieved dubious fame for going the wrong way. In the 1929 Rose Bowl, Cal center Roy Riegels picked up a fumble and lumbered 65 yards toward an undefended end zone – his own, as it turned out. His quarterback and the entire Georgia Tech defense eventually tackled him at the three-yard-line, but the damage was done – the legend of "Wrong Way" Riegels was cemented in history.

When we are a little spiritually disoriented, we are prone to get turned around the wrong way. Because our destination – Heaven – is so apparently distant, we run the risk of losing sight of it and slipping off course. At times, we are enticed by the visions of loveliness to the left and right, while at others, we are guilty of looking back

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Please keep **Clint Chancellor** in your prayers. Clint will be going to a neurologist in San Antonio tomorrow for further test.

April Chancellor request that we pray for an infant, Abigail Rogers, who will be facing open heart surgery tomorrow in Missouri.

Gospel Meeting:

Our Gospel Meeting with Bob Dodson of Hemet California begins this coming Wednesday (August 19th) and runs through Sunday August 23rd. Be sure to pick up some flyers and distribute them to your friends and coworkers.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

with longing at the sinful lifestyle we left behind (see Luke 9:57-62). We veer off course, often without realizing it, and end up doubling back away from glory. We still think that we are lumbering toward the end zone, but it's the wrong one.

Jesus said that he was not only the way, but also the truth and the life (John 14:1-6). Any path that he would not tread is bound to be the wrong one for us, for, "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked" (First John 2:6).

It is our Lord who warned, "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matthew 7:13-14).

It is human nature to seek out the path of least resistance – to choose the open lane or the shortest line at the check-out, yet when it matters most, we have to be willing to take the route less traveled. We have to be among the few who will take the risk, make the sacrifice and invest the time, emotion and energy in a journey that might not pay immediate dividends, but which promises eternal reward (see Second Corinthians 4:16-5:7).

Even when you feel you are nearing the goal line, listen to your quarterback – the captain of your salvation – and be willing to turn around if he shows you that you have unwittingly been heading the wrong way.

Jeff Smith
Woodmont Beacon
August 09, 2009
Edition 457

Is Hell all that Hot?

Introduction:

The annual Hotter than Hell bike race will be held August 29, 2009 and is expected to have a record turnout of participants. Last year nearly 12,000 people rode in the race. The name of this bike race catches the eye of people due to the August heat in north Texas. Hell is generally depicted by people as a hot place yet I wonder sometimes if people really know just how hot hell really is. There are books about hell that diminish its horror. Preachers, even church of Christ preachers, diminish the intensity and anguish of hell by painting a picture of man's annihilation rather than eternal punishment. We ought think, talk, and preach about hell often. Hell is where the un-forgiven sinners will be for all eternity.

I. What are some people saying about hell?

- A. According to a recent USA Today poll only 59 % of Americans believe there is a hell.
- B. Denominational preachers on hell:
- C. Erring church of Christ preachers on hell:
- D. Children's book on hell ("The Devil's Storybook" – Natalie Babbitt – author of Tuck Everlasting).

II. What does the Bible say about Hell?

- A. Hell (geenna) = "the valley of Hinnom, which represented the place of future punishment" (Liddell and Scott 161).
- B. Hell is a place that ought to be dreaded by all (Matt. 10:28; 23:33).
- C. Hell is depicted as a "furnace of fire" (Matt. 13:42) that is "unquenchable" (Matt. 3:12).
- D. Hell is a lake of fire and brimstone (Rev. 14:10; 20:10; 21:8).
- E. Hell is a place where the wicked are tormented in pain (Rev. 14:11).
- F. A place where the worm does not die and neither does the tormenting fire (Mk. 9:43-48).

III. Who will be in Hell?

- A. The devil and his demonic angels (Rev. 20:10).
- B. The unbelieving and un-repenting sinners (Matt. 23:15; Rev. 20:15; 21:8).
- C. Those whose hearts are filled with pride (I Jn. 5:16-17).

IV. How long will the ungodly be in Hell?

- A. The fire is eternal (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).
- B. The pain is real (Lk. 16:23-24).

Conclusion:

Hell will not be a comical place where people are "rolling on the ground in laughter." Hell will not be a place where "bored" people look for others to annoy. Hell is a place where maggot worms eat the flesh of its occupants and flames of fire consume them. Though these deadly conditions would kill the fleshly bodies we now possess it will only torment the eternal bodies of those who die in their sin. Hell is real and it awaits all unjust men filled with pride and covetousness for all eternity.