

THE FINAL END OF SIN AND SINNERS

An attempt to understand the evidence

QUESTIONS:

1. How does sin change us? Are these changes physical, mental, social or spiritual? Why doesn't the Bible give us more details about what sin does to us? Does sin actually change something inside us, or only our legal standing before God?
2. What effects has sin had on the human family?
3. Does sin lead to final-death? If so, why aren't we all dead?
4. How is God involved in the death that results from sin, the final-death?
5. What causes the final-death of sinners?
6. How is the final-death different from the sleep-death? Is there a real difference?
7. Is it possible for Satan to repent and return to his former place in heaven? If not, why not?
8. What caused the death of Christ? Did Christ die the sleep-death or the final-death?
9. Does the death of Christ on Calvary have anything to do with the final-death of sinners?
10. Romans 3:25,26 suggests that the death of Christ must somehow make God appear righteous, or just. If the final-death of sinners is a similar situation, shouldn't it also, when it is over make God appear righteous, or just? If our understanding of the final-death leaves us with the idea that God is "arbitrary, vengeful, vindictive, or tyrannical" have we really made Him appear righteous?
11. What is God's "strange act?" Isa. 28:21
12. Do Jeremiah 34:20 and Isaiah 66:24 refer to the dead after the second coming, or after the third?
13. Does God have to do something to sinners in the end to cause them to die the final-death? If so, does that mean that sin does not actually lead to death until God adds something to the sin to make it more "lethal?"
14. There has been a great deal of discussion about the "lake of fire" at the end. What is this "fire?" What is "brimstone?" Why is it called a "lake?" Where does the "fire" come from? How hot is this "fire?" (2 Peter 3:10-12) What is the purpose of the "fire?"
15. How long will sinners burn? Will some burn longer than others? If so, why?
16. How long is forever? Eternal? Everlasting? What about the Greek word/words behind these English translations?
17. What is God's glory? Why is it so often described as "fire?"
18. What is the historical background for the doctrine of eternal torment? Is the

human soul immortal?

19. Has God ever put any of His children to sleep in the sleep-death?
20. Can Satan put people to death in the sleep-death? In the final-death?
21. Do sinners actually "burn" prior to or during the final-death? Is this a form of torture? Do some actually burn longer than others? Why?

UNKNOWNNS

There seem to be several factors involved one way or another in the final end of sin and sinners about which we have very little information. These "unknownns" make the understanding of this subject a much greater challenge. Some of the unknownns are as follows:

22. How does sin change us?
23. The physical nature of God's glory?
24. How does God "shield" us from His glory at the present time?