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## FULL TEXT OF DEBATE IN CONVENTION HALL

Continued from page 4

a character for love and justice far below that of the worst of humanity.

A son is supposed to show, in a large degree, the character, spirit and disposition of his father. A true Christian is a spiritual son of God and he is supposed to develop more and more of the character likeness of God, his Father.

If the teachings of the Church Denominations are true, then the mob who delight with helish grip to hear the groans of their helpless victims while struggling in the flames, would represent the elect of God. And, why do I say this? Because, if it is true that Jehovah, God, delights to torment sinners throughout eternity, then the mob which only had the power to torture its victim for a short time would be showing their father's spirit to the extent of their ability.

It is hard to do anything much worse to a person than to misrepresent his character. All the Denominations misrepresent the character of God in that they claim that God planned that a saintly few should go to Heaven while the billions of humanity spend eternity in a hell of fire and brimstone tormented by fire-proof devils. There is no Scripture foundation for the doctrine of eternal torment. This doctrine is based upon the false idea that when one dies he is not dead. There is but one plain statement in the Bible which seemingly supports the idea that the dead is not dead. It is found in Genesis 3:4 and reads thus, "Ye shall not surely die." This statement was made by the devil for the sole purpose of misrepresenting the character of God. The devil intended to impress and did impress our fore-parents that God could not be depended upon and did not tell the truth when he said to them if they disobeyed His law, they would surely die. In other words, the devil told our fore-parents that God was lying. All the Denominations with few exceptions, teach that there is something about a person that remains alive and can be punished after death. By this teaching, the Denominations are saying the selfsame thing that the devil said, "That man surely does not die," and therefore they are guilty of openly calling God a liar, whether intentionally or not.

What is death? What is the meaning of the term? What did God mean when He told our fore-parents they would die if they disobeyed His law? These are very logical questions at this point. God answers all these questions himself through the Scriptures. He tells us that when a man dies, he is unconscious, has no memory, cannot speak, cannot breathe, cannot think, cannot give thanks, can do no work, neither loves, hates or envies; has no feelings and knows not anything. Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10; Psalms 6:5; 115: 17; 104: 29; 146:4. According to God's own word, as shown in the Scriptures just cited, there is nothing left of a man to be burned or tormented after he is dead.

The would-be wise preachers of the Church Denominations tell the people that it is the soul of a man that is blessed or punished after death. This, then, of necessity brings up the question as to what is the soul? A soul is a moving, breathing sentient being, that has sense and exercises those senses. Man is a soul. Man has not got a soul, but man himself is a soul. There is quite a difference between a man having a cow and being a cow. Every creature that breathes is a soul. God applied the words "Living souls" to the lower order of animals long before the creation of man. Genesis 1:20-30, marginal reading. The word "soul" is applied to both man and beast in Numbers 31:28. God declares that both man and beast die alike and go to the same place. The Scripture reads thus, "For that which befallth the beast; even one dieth as doth the other; yea they have all one breath; so that man hath no pre-eminence above a beast for all is vanity. All go to one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." Ecclesiastes 3:19-20. My opponent, to be consistent, in view of the Scripture just cited, is forced to do one of the two things and that is, he must either denounce his claim that the wicked dead are tormented throughout eternity, or take the position that the bad ox, mule, or horse will roast throughout eternity and the good ones will go to a Heaven of eternal bliss with man because the Scripture plainly says that both man and beast have one breath,—have the same breath and go to the same place. To what place do both man and beast go? That place do both man and beast go. That condition of non-existence, the same place Capernum went.

The principal difference between man and beast is, first, man is created with finer organism and therefore capable of doing higher and more noble thinking. Second, God has made arrangements for the resurrection of man while no such an arrangement has been made for the brute beast.

From where will man come, when resurrected? From the "Dust of the earth," Daniel 12:2.

Again, some of the wise Denominational teachers claim that it is the spirit of life that lives on after man is dead and that it is the thing that is blessed with a life of endless bliss or cursed with endless torment, but I wish to say that such claim is wholly without foundation for truth, for the reason that the phrase, "spirit of life" or "breath of life" simply means invisible power. (I would like to have a little water, if possible.) In other words, it means the power God has given life. When we read in Ecclesiastes 12:7 that the "spirit returns to the God that gave it, we are to understand this to mean that the power to live or to be resurrected to life again after death, returns to the one who first gave it and no one can live again until God in His due time, uses this spirit or power of life in their behalf.

What is it about man that is to be resurrected? It certainly is not the body that is resurrected for the reason that the Scripture plainly states that God will give it a body as it pleases Him, 1st Corinthians 15:38. It is plain to see that if it is the body that is resurrected and God gives it a body the person would have two bodies. What is the "it" that is to be resurrected? For want of better words to express the thought, we term it the "character pattern" that will be resurrected. To illustrate this thought we will use the pattern of a dress or the pattern of a piano. The dress may wear out or the piano may be knocked to pieces and thrown into the scrap pile, but as long as you have the dress pattern or pattern to the piano, you can reproduce that dress or that piano out of such material as pleases you. The character of no two individuals is just alike. We are all shaping characters different in some respect. God carries the "character pattern" of every person in the chamber of His memory and in the resurrection days will reproduce the "character pattern" of each person and give them bodies as it pleases Him. Now, concerning God's plan, the Scripture discloses the fact that God foreknew that man would sin and go into death and that he planned to redeem him through the death of His Son and in due time grant life everlasting to all the willing and obedient. The Scripture further shows that God is working out His plan for human salvation through three great periods of time called "worlds" or "ages." The first world or age runs from the flood to the second coming of Christ and the third world or age runs from the second coming of Christ onward without end. 2nd Peter 3:6, 7, 13. God used the first age from creation to the flood principally in permitting the Holy Angels to convince themselves that it was not within their power to rescue man from death. He used the first part of the second world or age to develop a house of servants which includes all persons loyal and faithful to God, down to the first advent of Christ. He is using the latter part of this second world or age known as the Gospel Age, to develop the Church, the seed promise, the seed of Abraham, the Christ, who is to bless all the families of the earth during the third great period known as the world to come, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Both the first and the second world or age have been and are being used in part to let mankind convince themselves of inability to establish a government that would be the desire of the nations. These great periods of time have also been used in letting man learn something of the exceeding selfishness of sin.

The Gospel Age was opened up for the sole purpose of selecting and qualifying the officers who are to serve in the spirit phase of the incoming Kingdom. It was not God's plan to convert the world during the Gospel Age. God has appointed a day in which to judge the world in righteousness, Acts 17:31, and the length of the day in which man is to be judged is one thousand years. (2nd Peter 3:7-8.)

Just at this point it might be well for me to explain the meaning of the word "Church." The word "Church" means a called out class; it comes from the word "Ecclesia." It is composed of Jesus, the head and the members of his body (Colossians 1:8) (Just here I will have to stop a moment until I get a drink of water.)

REV. H. T. S. JOHNSON: Friends while we are waiting for our friend to get a drink of water let us sing "Guide Me O My Great Jehovah" somebody who can sing start it out. (Thereupon the song entitled, "Guide Me O My Great Jehovah" is now sung by the audience.)

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