

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE**

### **FEAR HIM WHO CAN CAST YOU INTO HELL**

Luke 12:5-6 "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell."

It appears that Jesus' disciples were fearful that the enemies of Jesus might kill them because of their affiliation with Jesus because Jesus said to them ". . .do not fear those who kill the body." Jesus says to them, "do not fear those who kill the body." He said the most they could do was put them to death because they were His disciples.

Martyrdom is not the desire of a Christian. However, Jesus says it is not to be feared. Rather, what they should be afraid of is someone who, after they are killed, can "cast them into hell." The Pharisees could not cast them into hell. The Devil Himself cannot cast anyone into hell. Only God has the authority to judge the hearts of people who die and admit them into heaven or cast them into hell. God is the one they should fear.

Hell is real. It is a real place. The Bible describes it as a "lake of fire," (Revelation 20:15, ". . .a fire that will never be quenched" (Mark 9:43-48), a place where there will be "wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:15), those who are there will be forever separated from God (2 Thessalonians 1:9), those who are in hell will be tormented day and night (Revelation 20:10), etc.

Hell is where you were headed because of your sins. Romans 3:23 says, "We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (of heaven.)" And, Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death. . ." The good news is, God does not desire for you to spend eternity in hell. He sent His Son Jesus to rescue you from hell. He promises, "whoever believes in Him (Jesus) will not perish (go to hell) but receive the crown of life (go to heaven.)" (John 3:16)

Having God's promise of receiving the "crown of life," your death at the hands of Jesus' enemies or dying a natural death only ends your life here on earth. Your earthly death is not to be feared. Your heavenly Father promises you if you

remain faithful to Jesus, trust in Him for your victory over sin, Satan and death, you will not perish into hell but receive the gift of heaven.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill my heart with faith in Jesus with which to face my death, no matter how it comes about, with the certainty of victory over the grave through Him who won for me a life in heaven for all eternity. In His holy name. Amen.

Behold a host, arrayed in white, Like thousand snowclad mountains bright!  
With palms they stand; Who is this band Before the throne of light?  
These are the saints of glorious fame, Who from the great affliction came  
And in the flood Of Jesus' blood Are cleansed from guilt and shame.  
They now serve God both day and night; They sing their songs in endless light.  
Their anthems ring As they all sing With angels shining bright.

Despised and scorned, they sojourned here; But now, how glorious they appear  
Those martyrs stand, A priestly band, God's throne forever near.  
On earth they wept through bitter years; Now God has wiped away their tears.  
Transformed their strife To heav'nly life, And freed them from their fears.  
They now enjoy the Sabbath rest, The heav'nly banquet of the blest;  
The Lamb, their lord, At festive board Himself is host and guest.

O blessed saints in bright array Now safely home in endless day,  
Extol the Lord, Who with His Word Sustained you on the way.  
The steep and narrow path you trod; You toiled and sowed the Word abroad;  
Rejoice and bring Your fruits and sing Before the throne of God.  
The myriad angels raise their song; O saints, sing with that happy throne!  
Lift up one voice; Let heav'n rejoice In our Redeemer's song!  
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