

IS PREACHER AN HONORARY ROLE?

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There are a variety of preachers mentioned in the New Testament. Jesus would certainly be one with the sermon on the mount, but that was before his church was established. The sermon on the mount is probably the best sermon ever.

Peter preached the first one in the Christian Dispensation on the day of Pentecost, and had the greatest response ever. Paul had more recorded sermons than anyone else and his sermon until midnight at Troas when Eutychus fell out of the window was likely the longest.

That being said, the New Testament says very little about preachers. It is reasonable to say that it is not an established office like Shepherds and Deacons.



FREEPIC

Continued on page 3

TO WELCOME A CHILD

“Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me.” (Mark 9:37)

Jesus loves little children. We love little children too. Let’s consider how important it is to give a warm welcome the children who come. Jesus was clear that how we treat the least among us is how we are treating him. Think about how we welcome children into our Bible classes.

Are we present to welcome the children who come to class? There is nothing sadder than seeing children waiting for their teacher in an empty classroom. That feeling of unease stays with them for a lifetime and perpetuates the dislike for arriving on time for classes. In addition, teaching time is lost when we don’t start with pre-class activities.

Do we give a special welcome to our visitors along with our regular students? It might require an assistant in every class to take roll and send cards to the visitors. How would we treat Jesus if he were a visitor to our class? He is.

Continued on page 5

IN THIS ISSUE:

Is preacher and honorary role?	1
To Welcome a Child - Brown	1
Give Way or Make Way? - Grubbs	1
Reader comments	8
Impossible for Evolution	9
CG: Scientific Logic	10
Topical Article: Hell	12

GIVE WAY OR MAKE WAY?

“Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.” Proverbs 25:25

America’s villages, towns, cities and states are being overrun by wickedness. How long will the righteous give way?

Where are the righteous among our elected leaders?

Have our citizens forsaken their unalienable rights and responsibilities to vote for wicked leaders?

Can we no longer discern a truly godly leader?

We have allowed ourselves to be deceived by bands of thieves!

Have we become too complacent in our self-satisfaction to care about the spiritual health of ourselves, our children, our neighbors to make way for the sacred principles upon which our lives now and hereafter depend?

Let us wake up to the warning of Proverbs 29:18

“Where there is no revelation the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.”

Who will bring revelation to our people so we may be free, self-governing and self-controlled - in tune with the Spirit under whose providence we claim “one nation under God”, rather than give way to the great destroyer and champion of death?

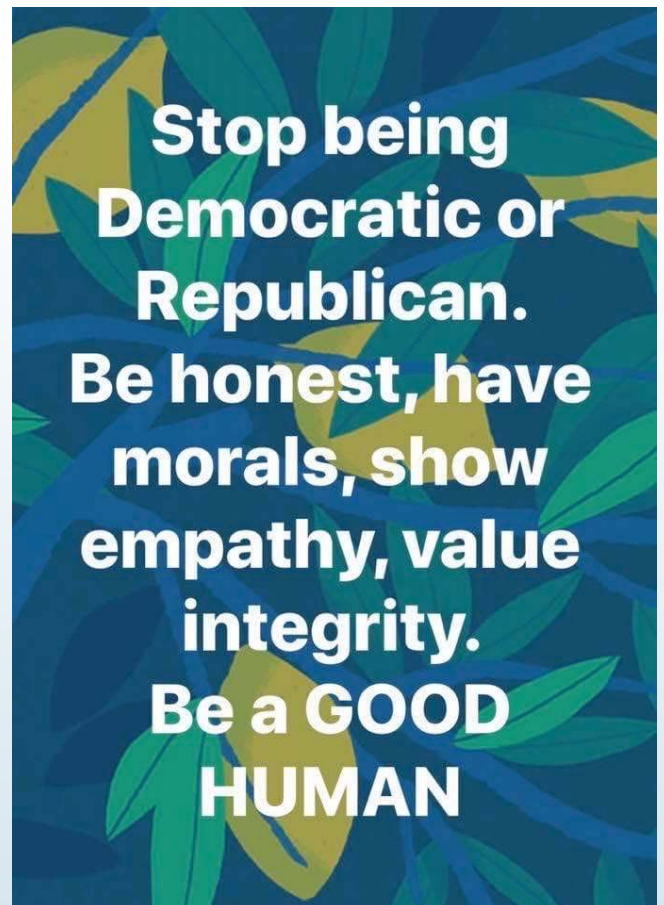
Who will persevere to instruct each new generation to choose the path of righteousness and justice for all, to be fully informed of the “truths held to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of

happiness”?

Will the righteous give way to oppression by the wicked or make way for the blessings of God? Who can answer?

The **Gospel** is The Way of God, The Way to God and The Way for disciples to serve God and one-another. “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:3-4

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison Ohio



IS PREACHER AN HONORARY ROLE?, p. 2

Some verses we can learn something about preachers and preaching are:

Mark 16: 15 “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’”

Luke 6:40 “A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.”

Acts 18:24-26: “Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

Romans 2:21 “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?”

Romans 10:14-15 “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!’”

I Cor 3: 1-2: “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet

able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?”

I Cor. 9:14 “So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.”

Galatians 1:8 “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!”

I Tim. 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

II Tim. 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

II Timothy 4:3 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,”

I Peter 3:15 “but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;”

I Peter 4:6 “For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.”

Continued on page 4

IS PREACHER AN HONORARY ROLE?, p. 3

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Continued on page 5

IS PREACHER AN HONORARY ROLE?, p. 4

Some of the things we can learn from those verses are:

1. You should live a life consistent with what you are preaching.
2. We need to preach everywhere.
3. You should preach the word accurately.
4. It is reasonable to be supported while you are preaching.
5. Elders can be preachers.
6. You should only preach milk temporarily and then need to preach meat although people will tend to prefer to have their ears tickled with milk.
7. You should be willing to take the counsel of others.

That is some information to be learned, but it is not much. We would consider most of those points to be obvious **although the milk/meat question is up for debate in today's climate**. Remember the instructions in the New Testament had to be general enough to fit the situation then and also 2000 years later.

We frequently say the message must be the same, but the methods need to change to match the situation. This lesson is about the methods, not the message.

In the first century most congregations were close to what we would call house churches today. To the best of our knowledge, during the time the New Testament was being written, no congregation owned a building. This meant that the congregations had to depend upon meeting in one of the larger homes of the members. As there was frequent perse-

cution, the groups usually had to be small. What is known about this is that there is very little known about it.

Today with several hundred, and in some cases several thousand, members meeting together in a single dedicated location; the methods have to change. When you had a hundred members at the most, the Shepherds could know every member well and could shepherd them.

With likely a 90-95% illiteracy rate and virtually no hard copy of anything, a simple public reading of a copy of a letter from one of the apostles was probably a great sermon all by itself. There was virtually no social competition for member's time and attention like we see today.

Continued on page 6

TO WELCOME A CHILD, P. 2

Have we prepared the best Bible lesson possible on level with the age of the children? Consider the high level of learning in public schools. Are we using challenging techniques and keeping up with digital tools? We're teaching the timeless values of the Bible and it should be the best teaching they hear all week.

Children will be children, but there is no better time to teach them to love God and obey his commandments. What a wonderful challenge and incredible opportunity to teach children about our Lord Jesus Christ. How will you welcome Jesus to your class this week?

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX

IS PREACHER AN HONORARY ROLE?, p. 5

Even 200 years ago when a number of our contemporary practices were established, the situation and competition for our member's time was radically different.

Today in the current decline of our congregations everyone needs to be concerned. However as the title of this article is "IS PREACHER AND HONORARY ROLE?" we want to investigate the specific role of the preacher in the changing of our situation. Is it acceptable for the preacher to do the same as was done in a small congregation 100 years ago today? Is that honoring the role? Can he be like the guy standing on the corner shouting "Repent, the end of the world is near" and gets no results? He is well meaning, sincere, hardworking, scriptural, and ineffective.

Let's look at some of the characteristics of the preacher:

1. He usually knows more about the Bible than anyone else.
2. He has more face time with the members than anyone else.
3. He is the only one who has regular face time with the members. Some other members, especially Shepherds, have occasional face time with members, but usually not consistently. Functionally when members only attend the worship services, the preacher is the face of the church.
4. He has more time to dedicate to this subject than regular members, as it is his paid job.

Now look at some characteristics of the mem-

bers:

1. Jesus called them sheep.
2. Sheep as a group tend to mill about.
3. If you want them to go someplace or do something, you need a shepherd with a plan.
4. A few of the members might be self-starters, but on average people are not self-starters.
5. Unless continually motivated, the average member will become complacent in repeating a repetitive activity until it becomes ineffective.

That being said the preacher needs to use his Bible knowledge, face time with the congregation, and his time dedicated to this work to make sure the members are aware of the plan of the congregation to do their part in the Great Commission, and their individual responsibility in the plan.

Continued on page 7



IS PREACHER AN HONORARY ROLE?, p. 6

As a preacher you are the teacher, spokesman, promoter, encourager, and challenger of the congregation. You have a unique role which no one else can do.

The preacher can't do it all by himself and it would be a mistake to try. The Great Commission is a team activity. You need to do your part in getting the team ready and motivated to meet the challenges your congregation will face and help with the day for Jesus.

In summary:

You honor the role of preacher by preaching the gospel as it was presented in the New Testament 2000 years ago.

You do not honor the role of preacher by using methods which worked 2000, 100, or 50 years ago but do not work today. You honor the role of preacher by using methods which will work today in today's conditions.

That honor includes recognizing that you are the primary face of the congregation and using that to inspire, encourage, promote, and lead the members in doing their part of the Great Commission today.



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Located at occg.institute, TOPICAL LESSONS , 02 WINGS OF EAGLES

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- (4) Sunday morning worship: A church growth sermon

See <https://occg.institute/services/refocus/> for more specific information.

For more information,
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COMMENTS RECENTLY RECEIVED

I forwarded this document to folks overseas.

It's alarming and my input is:

By trying to blend in with what's going on in our society isn't gonna change anything in the decline. We have to preach and practice what the early church did. That's how we can reverse because the word of God is doing the heavy lifting.

I think a big component of what is missing in our churches (well, each Christian I shall say) is hospitality: A personal relationship building process, getting familiar with neighbors and co-workers and gaining trust. Not taking out to a restaurant but actually having over for a home cooked meal ;)

This requires personal engagement on each one of us and that's what needs to be done.

In Switzerland, this has been so far the best tool to evangelize.

Ben Steinhauer, Houston, TX

What is happening in our congregations is similar to what happens to our teens when we are diligent to teach them at home and they attend every service and youth event in the church and yet drop out when on their own. Outside influences on a daily basis are stronger than the physical and spiritual family.

Also, the church rises and falls periodically in different parts of the world. At first it was Jerusalem, but it finally fell there. Then it was Anatolia/Turkey. Then it was Greece. Then it was France. Then it was Germany. Then it was Great Britain. Then it was the US. I believe the next stronghold of Christianity in the world will be India. Sometimes when an Indian brother asks for money, I tell them the church is going down in the US and some day we may be asking them for money. There are a lot of strong congregations in India.

My personal philosophy is to do all I can to keep my local congregation strong while at the same time working hard to build up the church in the rest of the world. It is kind of like the giant giving his last drink of water to a smaller mortal so he can make it out of the desert to live and thrive.

As the church grows weaker in the US, may we do it with grace.

Katheryn Maddox Haddad



Author of 70 books

Website BOOKS: <https://inspirationsbykatheryn.com/my-books>

Website TV SERIES: <https://ComeFlyWithMe-tv.com>

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #113 - FLOATING FIRE ANTS

Ants are one of God's many interesting creatures. Their small size is more than made up for by their numbers. Like bees, they are always busy and do wonderful design projects. They typically have an organization that most churches and businesses would be envious of.

When a Fire Ant is caught in a flood, it doesn't have a million years to figure out what to do, it has to know right now, life or death. It has to implement a plan right now, life or death. It is heavier than water and has poor legs for swimming so it has to be something other than swimming to shore.

The image shows a small raft of Fire Ants being poked by a stick and using among other things the surface tension of the water to help stay afloat. Surface tension helps, but an individual Fire Ant will struggle at the best to stay afloat. There are literally ant rafts with millions of passengers.

The ant's outer shell or cuticle is hydrophobic or water-repelling. It is also rough allowing it to trap air when the body is partially submerged.

In a Fire Ant raft, Fire Ants can stay afloat for months. When trapped in water Fire Ants grab onto one another using claws, jaws, and adhesive pads on their feet.

When the ants band together in a raft they become much like a piece of scotch-guarded fabric which will repel water. The ant raft becomes a hydrophobic surface. It is still heavier than water, but it floats.

The second figure shows a larger Fire Ant Raft with thousands of ants and is a floating hill rather than a flat sheet as seen in the first image. Just imagine the planning it takes for the ant on the bottom to know his role. An increasing com-

plexity of this is that the ants know how to rotate from the bottom to the top of the stack in their turns.



(Image: © Nathan Mlot and Tim Nowack)

What the ants can't stand is soap. Soap will destroy the surface tension of the water and ruin the water repelling characteristics of the ants. If you introduce a small amount of soap around an ant raft, they will quickly sink and drown.

This definitely shows an intelligent designer helped them.

Benton F. Baugh

General information from an article by [Wynne Parry](#) April 25, 2011 and other internet searches.



(Photo from Scientific American)

CHURCH GROWTH: SCIENTIFIC LOGIC

The goal of the first of the Wings of Eagles videos is simply to establish that the closest to a scientific conclusion would be that there was a supernatural force. (#2 is for Jehovah) The following is the logic of that video:

- (1) MATTER EXISTS IT IS NOT PRESENTLY A COLD DEAD LUMP.
- (2) IT CANNOT HAVE EXISTED FOREVER AS AFTER AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF TIME UNTIL TODAY IT WOULD HAVE BECOME A COLD DEAD LUMP. (2ND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS)
- (3) IT CANNOT HAVE SPRANG FROM NOTHING (1ST LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS)
- (4) THEREFORE, SOMETHING NON-NATURAL, EXTRA NATURAL, OR SUPERNATURAL HAD TO HAVE HAPPENED.

We wanted to see how an atheist would respond to this that we understand to be clear logic, so we presented it to one. First, he objected to being called an atheist and asked that we call him a non-theist, and then his comments were:

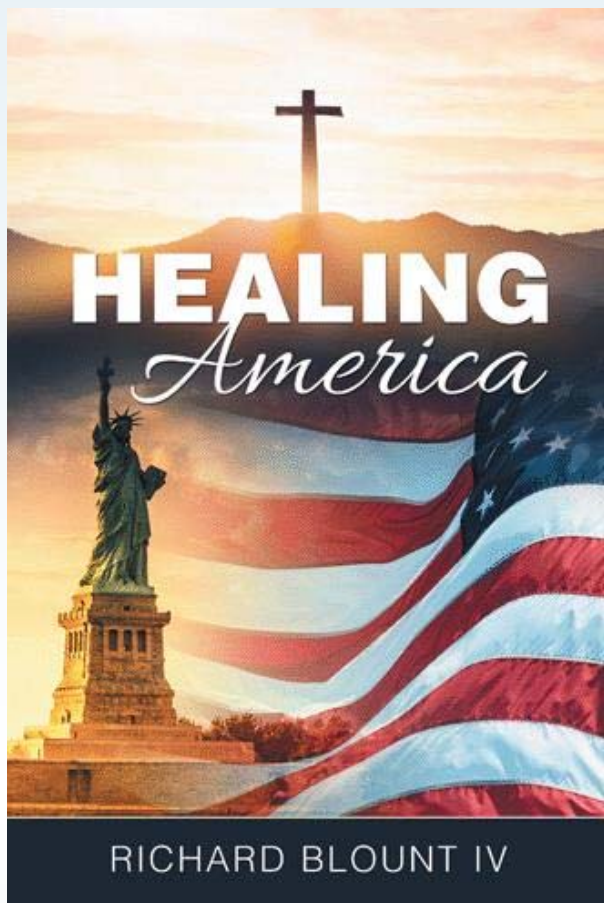
WE CANNOT SPECULATE ON ETERNITY AS WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT TIME ACTUALLY MEANS.

WE CANNOT SPECULATE ON THE CREATION OF MATTER UNTIL WE ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF MATTER.

His response was to not answer the question but tried to take the discussion of into endless speculation, for which there are no clear answers. We pursued the matter with him and were never able to get a more relevant response from him.

Conclusion: He didn't like the logic, but could not "punch holes" in it so he just avoided answering. It effectively demonstrated the strength of this logic.

(If you know an atheist who would like to respond to this, we would like to hear from him or her at info@occg.institute)



Years in the writing with a timely release!



NEW BOOK RELEASE

HEALING AMERICA

Richard Blount IV has a mission: he seeks to bring comfort, encouragement, and the soul solutions to every living person in America. He hopes to help recover peace for Americans through an understanding of our challenges in culture, politics, religion, media, and race and to present a new set of eyes to help us navigate and progress relationships to a healthier state of being. This book's message will develop hope and optimism in those seeking to be healed.

Healing America explores the problems, causes, solutions, and benefits of being an American. Blount investigates this history, culture, perceptions, responsibilities, and challenges that come with those topics and shares alternatives to vindication, such as listening, humility, and empathy. With an intentional and purposeful approach to the country's healing process, he aims for healthy relationships as the ultimate goal. Finally, he presents the benefits of being part of America and the joy that comes with the opportunities we share in the United States. This study examines stressors in the United States stemming from perception and fear, offering ways to diagnose those pains and respond to them in a more spiritually mature and effective way.

About the author:

Richard Blount IV is a Houston native that holds an assortment of titles. Husband of Gwendolyn Blount and father of three wonderful kids. Over 21 years Client Solution Executive at AT&T. Cyber Security Certification, Minister Certification, Real Estate Broker, Criminal Justice Degree. Now Author.

This book can be purchased for \$19.95 at:
Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, and Westbow Publishing

SUMMARY: The Bible teaches that there is a Hell as the eternal punishment for the wicked. Although described primarily in physical terms, it is actually an ending destination for spiritual beings.

Matt 5:22 "But whosoever shall say, thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matt 5:29 "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." (NAS)

Matt 5:30 "And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to go into hell." (NAS)

Matt 10:28 "Destroy both body and soul in hell."

Matt 13:42 "and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matt 16:18 "build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matt 18:9 "rather than having two eyes to be cast in hell-fire"

Matt 23:15 "two-fold more a child of hell than yourselves"

Matt 25:46 "and these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life"

Mark 9:43 "than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

Mark 9:45 "into the fire that never shall be quenched;"

Mark 9:48-49 "Where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. For everyone shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with fire."

Luke 16:23 "and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom... for I am tormented in this flame ...between us there is a great gulf fixed; so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot;"

Acts 2:31 "spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell."

James 3:6 "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity:... and it is set on fire of hell."

II Peter 2:4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them unto chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement."

Rev. 14:11 "and the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever"

THE END

HELL



Rev 20:1,3-14 “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they judged every an according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

Psalms 116:3 “the cords of death compassed me, and the pains of hell got hold of me.”

Psalms 139:8 “If I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there.”

POSSIBLY RELATED VERSES WHICH DO NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION HELL

II Peter 2:9 “then if God knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.”

II Thes. 1:8-9 “dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”

I Thes. 4:16-17 “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven.... those who remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds”

Matt. 24:40-41 “Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken; and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.”

Luke 17:34-36 “I tell you, on that night there will be two men in one bed; one will be taken, and the other will be left. There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken, and the other one left. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left”

II Peter 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”

THE END

HELL



SPECIFIC DESCRIPTIONS OF HELL

1. Fire (hell-fire)
2. Fire that shall never be quenched
3. salted with fire
4. Destroy body and soul in hell
5. Gates of hell
6. Tormented in this flame
7. Great gulf fixed, cannot pass
8. Christ's soul not left in Hell
9. Lake of fire
10. Second death
11. Chains of darkness
12. Pains of hell

ALL REFERENCES TO HELL

OLD TESTAMENT

Deut	1	Isaiah	4
II Sam.	1	Ezekiel	3
Job	2	Amos	1
Psalms	4	Jonah	1
Proverbs	7	Hab	1
		Total	25

NEW TESTAMENT

Matt	7	James	1
Mark	3	II Peter	1
Luke	3	Rev	4
Acts	1		
		Total	20

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Hell, Hades, and Sheol are never mentioned in a Pauline epistle (NAS)
2. Is darkness and fire compatible?
3. See lesson 9.3 for distinction between Hell and the Hadean World.
4. II Peter 3:10 "the earth and its works will be burned up" Does it match that description of Hell?
5. Would a loving God prepare an eternal punishment in Hell?



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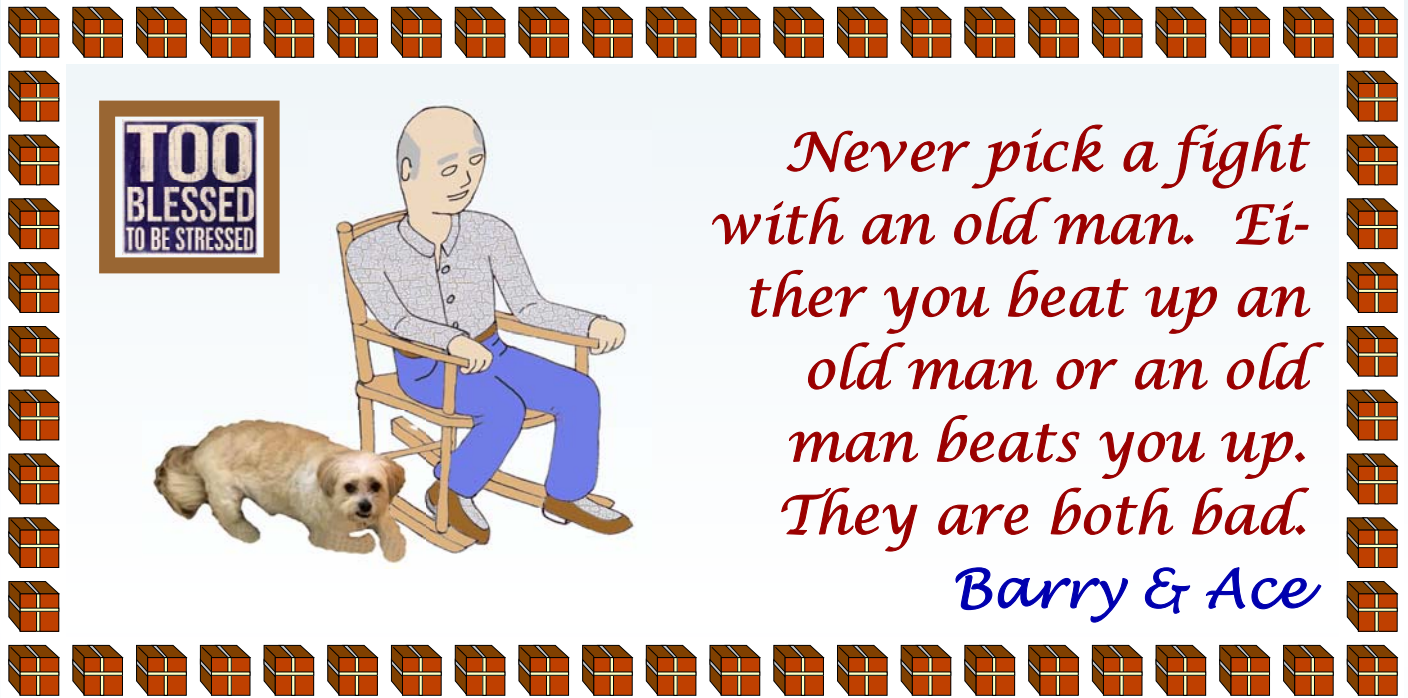
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