

# **SUPPOSE IT IS TRUE- WHAT THEN?**

Two friends were talking about religion and they discussed the subject of punishment for sin in a future life. Their conclusion was that there was none, and that hell is just a myth. They decided that since God was a God of Love, He could not possibly consign His creatures to an everlasting punishment.

The conversation came to an end when a Christian who had been silently listening to the discussion said: "Suppose it IS true, after all?" These words came upon them with crushing power. Solemn silence fell upon them for many minutes. Perhaps those who doubt that there is such a thing as eternal punishment should consider this thought provoking question.

Suppose it is true after all - that God WILL punish sin? How would you fare if you had to stand before Him as judge? The Bible says that "He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:31).

Suppose it is true after all - that hell is a reality? Some will ask, "Where is hell?" While it is impossible to give it a geographical location, there is no doubt that it lies at the end of a godless and sinful life! The Scripture says that "...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27). Are you willing to honestly consider what lies at the end of the path which you are now traveling?

Suppose it is true after all - that the Lord Jesus is the ONLY Saviour, and His death is the ONLY means whereby you can be fit for God's presence? What will you do? Jesus says that "...No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6). What if you should reject the ONLY way to the heavenly Father?

Suppose it is true after all - that the "blood of Christ" is the only thing that can cleanse you from your sins? Are you willing to take the chance that you may have to stand before God stained by the sins you have committed in this life? Paul says that we will all be judged according to the works we have done in the body, "whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10). He also says that the ONLY way we

can come under the saving benefit of the "blood of Christ" is in baptism (Romans 6:3,4). "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard {Him}." (Hebrews 2:3).

Suppose it is ALL TRUE after all? If it was NOT true, and there is no God, what has the Christian lost? Certainly he has not sacrificed anything that is good for him in this life when he has refused to give his body to dissipation. No doubt he has shown his ability to express himself well with the proper use of the language without cursing and swearing. So what if there ISN'T a reward after this life? He has certainly enjoyed the best this life has to offer! But SUPPOSE IT IS TRUE! How terrible your destiny if you should "die in your sins!" (John 8:21). Jesus tells us that any whose name is "not found written in the Book of Life" will be "cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15). This is the lake which Jesus said is "prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41). And it is the place where "they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Revelation 20:10). Are YOU willing to face the possibility that this MAY be TRUE and you MAY be UNPREPARED?

Gailen E. Evans