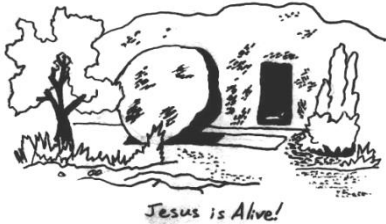


Living God Ministries

Living God Ministries PO Box 38353 Colorado Springs, CO 80937 www.livinggodministries.net

November 1, 2023



New Radio Programs

Four new programs on the Book of Ephesians have been uploaded to the radio archive. You can find these through the link at the bottom of the radio archive page. The programs cover Ephesians 1:8-13, and include the following topics:

Wisdom and Prudence
The Mystery of His Purpose
Gathering into Christ
Predestination of the Jew and Gentile

Being Forgotten in Hell

Sometimes I refer to Hell as the place of the forgotten. Recently, I received a letter from someone describing this as really scary. You would think the description of pain and suffering, and eternal fire would be scary enough, and in some cases it is. Still, you probably noticed that most people are not very inspired by the possibility of being placed in that kind of situation. In fact, it is not unusual for people to respond with contempt at the thought there would be such a place, to the point that

some might even dare God to go ahead and send them to Hell. Many of you would likely remember the tracts from 30 or 50 years ago being passed around that spoke about the threat of Hell, and 50 to 100 years ago, there were a lot of conversions just because people wanted to avoid going there. Today, I still encounter people who started their journey of discovering their God through being concerned about this, but they are becoming rare.

It could be the threat of Hell has somewhat gone out of style, but I have taken the approach of speaking about one of the reasons why people do not fear Hell. I have been watching an increase in the use of extortion as a way to solve life's problems. It's a relational style of expecting or demanding someone do something, or not do something, through the threat of punishment in some way. The punishments can be to either do something to harm someone, or refuse to do something that would benefit someone. The simple way to understand the extortion model is to think about when someone expected you to do something or not do something, and you knew full well they would make you suffer if you did not comply with what they wanted.

The relational style of extortion is easily adapted towards God. It starts with God's assertion that those who do not have a place in His kingdom will have to go to Hell instead. The attitude I have been seeing an increase in sounds like, "how dare He," and, "who does He think He is?" People are approaching God as a potentially violent offender who should probably be taken to court for damages, for disturbing someone's comfort with a suggestion like that. In fact, in some parts of the world, you will be

put on trial for causing someone discomfort for telling them that. The way people are thinking is that God has no right to cause harm to anyone by sending them to Hell, and if He dares to do that, He will be the offender. Presently, in our world today, to be offended or violated is like hitting the jackpot in many cases. Our legal system provides what seems like an abundance of opportunities to take private property from one person and give it to someone else, to settle disputes like these. I am finding this attitude towards God increasing, to the point where it seems people would like God to send them to Hell, so they can be compensated for it. This of course is a distorted view of reality, but I have gotten this sense from a lot of unbelievers I have interacted with.

In order for people to gain some supposed compensation for being hurt in Hell, it is necessary for this to be public, exposed, and of course, remembered. If they are forgotten, and God cannot be exposed and publically ridiculed for putting them in a place where they suffer, then this can be frightening. Now, of course all of this is completely distorted and dysfunctional when we think about the reality of what God has already told us, and His authority in the universe. However, that is one of the reasons why they are going to Hell. They have decided to try and distort reality and be dysfunctional. This of course works in many cases in our lives here on earth with each other, but God does not have to tolerate or suffer under these kinds of relational tactics. He really can, and will, remove people from His presence eternally, and just forget about them. They will find themselves to be alone, and there will be no one to complain to about God's decision and behavior.

I do not believe fear is the best reason to turn to God. If it works and gets a person started in that direction, maybe they will get to know Him for who He is. However, I do get the sense from people sometimes, that they are counting on God feeling ashamed of Himself, and sad for the pain and suffering people are going to experience. They think that because He is kind and loving,

He will eventually repent and not do something others would disapprove of. The truth is that there is no genuine love without justice, and I do believe God will quickly get on with His life without them, and forget about them.

We do have a deep desire to be known, and there tends to be an open ended belief that God knows us. He does know everyone He would like to know, and I do suspect he has some knowledge of everyone. Jesus gave a powerful description of how God will likely relate to people who do not believe in Him. In Matthew 17:21-23 He said, "I never knew you." A good question to ask an unbeliever would be, "how would it make you feel if God did not know who you were?" This could lead to an interesting conversation if handled gently. I do genuinely believe that God takes notice of those who seek to know who He really is, and makes a point to know them also when someone does.

Most Sincerely,
Aaron
Teaching Pastor for Living God Ministries

Radio Stations

We are presently broadcasting on the following radio stations:

Denver, CO KLTT 670 AM 5:00 – 5:30 pm
Denver, CO KRKS 990 AM 3:00 – 3:30 pm
Colorado Springs, CO 100.7 FM 7:00 – 7:30 pm
Sacramento, CA KCBC 770 AM 8:30 – 9:00 am
Los Angeles, CA KBRT 740 AM 5:30 – 6:00 pm
Los Angeles, CA KKLA 99.5 FM 11 – 11:30 pm
Portland, OR KPDQ 800 AM 3:00 – 3:30 pm
Dallas, TX KWRD 100.7 FM 3:00 – 3:30 pm
Dallas, TX KAAM 770 AM 6:00 – 6:30 pm
Milwaukee, WI WJYI 1340 AM 11:30 – 12 pm
Milwaukee, WI WJYI 98.7 FM 11:30 – 12 pm