

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Mr. Hadley, Ashley Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

March 14, 2021

Seasoned with Fire

By Derek Long

Mark 9:49-50 record for us the words of Jesus as He says, "For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another" (NKJV). As one reads these verses, some questions may arise. How is it everyone is seasoned with fire? What is meant by the statement, "every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt"? Let's examine these verses in an attempt to understand what we can learn from them.

Jesus begins by saying, "For everyone will be seasoned with fire." Jesus has just been pointing out the wicked will end up suffering in an eternal fire which will never be quenched (Mark 9:43-48). The wicked will experience the fires of hell. However, how will the righteous be seasoned with fire? One possibility is to say trials which are sometimes compared to fire will refine the faith of the righteous (1 Peter 1:6-9; 4:12). Another possibility in light of the context of Mark 9 is to say the righteous are seasoned by the fire of hell. Such does not take place by the righteous experiencing the fires of hell. Rather, it takes place as the righteous put off sinful conduct because of

the desire to avoid the fire of hell (Mark 9:43, 45, 47). If such is the meaning of the passage, we should realize teaching on hell is a means to motivate people to get rid of sin in their lives. Hell fire and brimstone preaching can have a seasoning effect upon the lives of the righteous who seek to avoid the place of punishment. The fire of hell will impact both the righteous and the wicked although in a different way.

Jesus additionally says, “and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt” (NKJV). Some translations simply say, “For every one shall be salted with fire” (ASV). If one follows the American Standard Version, the fire salts (perhaps preserves) the wicked by keeping them in a state of suffering and salts the righteous by their willingness to put off sin to seek to avoid the fire of hell. If one follows the New King James Version, there appears to be a clear allusion here to the Old Testament practice of including salt with the sacrifices offered by the children of Israel (Leviticus 2:13). Just as every sacrifice under the Old Testament was to be salted with fire, so every person is going to be salted with fire. Being seasoned with salt could also possibly speak about how the righteous will be preserved throughout eternity.

Verse 50 begins by saying, “Salt is good.” Many good properties exist in salt. We often think about using salt as a flavoring for our food. However, salt has been and continues to be used as a preservative. Salt is at times in the New Testament used to speak about the distinctness of children of God. Matthew 5:13 says, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men” (NKJV). God’s people need to be different and when

they become like the world they lose their influence for good. In the context of Mark 9, the preserving impact the teaching on hell can have on a person is a good thing. A person who fails to be motivated to have the proper actions and attitudes in light of Jesus’ teaching about hell will be hard to motivate in any other way. Let’s make sure we do not allow our hearts to become calloused to teaching on hell.

Jesus commands us to, “have salt in yourselves.” We need to allow Jesus’ teaching about hell to have its purifying and preserving impact in our life. When we act as we should in light of what Jesus has taught about hell, then we will act in a way which will lead us to “have peace with one another.” When Christians fail to “have peace with one another,” they fail to act like salt and have a positive impact upon the world around them.