

“Unless you believe that I am he?” Who is “he”? “He” is “God”.

Unless you believe that Jesus is God, you will perish in your sins.

Why is this important? It is important because, as the unbelieving Jews confessed,

“Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (See Mark 2:7)

They knew that, on an eternal level, only God could forgive sins. I may be able to forgive you a sin that you committed against me, but what about the sins you have committed against God? Can I grant you redemption? No, I cannot. Can I pardon your sins with which you have sinned against Almighty God? No, I certainly cannot! Only God can do that! The unbelieving Jews knew this! That is why when Jesus forgave the sins of a man, they responded,

“Why does this man speak blasphemies like that? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (Mark 2:7)

You see, they did not believe that Jesus was God. And that was their trouble. He was, and he is. Yet many people today argue about this. In fact, there are some people who call themselves “Christian” who even argue about this. They are lying. They may not be thinking they are lying. But they are still lying to man, and to God, when they insist, against the Scriptures, that Jesus is not God! For he is, he always has been, and he always will be. He is not “the God who once was a man,” but rather, “the man who always was and always will be God.”

Does this make any sense?

Do you see that these people are lying when they say Jesus is not God? And all who say that Jesus is not God, they are lying. They may not *intend* to be lying. They may not *consciously* be lying. Yet the words they speak about who God is are *not* true. Therefore, they must readily confess (if they are truthful), that they are *lying*.

Who then are going to perish? Did we not read it already? For it says,

“But for the cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8)

Included in that group are the *liars*. The liars do not accept God’s forgiveness. The liars deny that Jesus is God. Instead, they want to throw stones at Jesus, and even kill him, and kill his disciples.

They will perish.

It is not because they cannot be forgiven that they will perish. For God eagerly desires to forgive them! Rather, it is precisely because they refuse to believe the truth, and so persist in believing the lie, that they are not saved.

The Bible puts it this way (read clearly):

“they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (see 2 Thessalonians 2:10).

The above quote is, in fact, part of a greater passage which talks about the man of sin (or the man of lawlessness), who will one day appear on the world stage, in order to deceive the world. This spirit (of antichrist) is already at work in the world, even as the Bible says.

“Children, it is the last hour, and just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen, by which we know that it is

the last hour.” (1 John 2:18, LEB)

You may have heard of the expression “the last days.” In the above passage, John (the writer) goes even further and calls this time period (meaning any time after Jesus came) “the last hour.” It is the last hour, meaning that you need to be ready now, as though it literally were the last hour, because you do not know the day, or the hour, of the Lord’s return, and so you need to be ready.

Why else might you need to be ready now? You need to be ready now, because even if Jesus were to delay coming back for another thousand years, you can never predict the day of your death. And after you die, what happens?

“Inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this, judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)

You will die. We all die. Every person who has ever been born has died (except a few³). You cannot escape it. And the Bible tells us that we will have to own up to all that we have done. How will we fare? Without a Savior, without someone to rescue us from the penalty of sin (which we all deserve to take), we will not make it.

Life is short. Be wise. Trust in the Savior today. His name is Jesus. He died for your sins on the cross. He did so so that you would not have to take those sins upon yourself. For who could possibly bear such punishment and survive? There is only one, and his name is Jesus. This is the same one who said,

“Behold, I come quickly. My reward is with me, to repay to each man according to his work.” (Revelation 22:12)

What are you doing to serve Jesus? And, are you really ready for his return? For he is certainly coming quickly, as he said.

3. Enoch was taken up by God without dying (see Genesis 5:24). So was Elijah (see 2 Kings 2:11). In the end times, when Jesus returns, there will also be many believers who will be taken up without dying. They will supernaturally receive glorified bodies, and live to be with Jesus — on the earth (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51-55, Revelation 21:1-3)!

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