

**Oak Grove  
Church of Christ**  
(502) 749-9209

**Sunday**  
Bible Class: 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship: 5:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
Bible Class: 7:30 PM

**Evangelist:** Bruce J. Dehut  
Home Bible Studies Available  
Upon Request  
oakgrove.churchofchristonline.org

Oak Grove church of Christ  
9203 Thixton Lane  
Louisville, KY 40291



## OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

**“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works” Hebrews 10:24**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

### WE MUST GO “THROUGH” IT

Most of us are familiar with the account of the nation of Israel securing their freedom from Egyptian bondage by the all powerful hand of God utilizing His servant Moses. Let’s pick up the narrative at the point where the children of Israel have left the borders of Egypt weighted down with the plunder pressed upon them by their captors. Pharaoh has had another change of heart and is in hot pursuit of his primary work force and the fleeing people are between a rock and a hard place, in other words the Egyptian army and the impassable waters of the Red Sea.

*Exodus 14:9-10 So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth,*

*before Baal Zephon. 10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.*

*Exodus 14:13-15 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." 15 And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.*

Bear with me as I insert an alternate remedy to their perilous dilemma.

“But lift up your rod, and summon the bridge builders to commence erecting a structure so that My people may cross over safely.”

We know from God’s holy word he said no such thing. The Lord could have done anything He chose like instructing them to go over, under or around the Red Sea but He commanded His people to go “THROUGH” it.

*Exodus 14:16 "But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.*

All of the afore mentioned options would have worked but none of them would have tested the faith of those fickle minded people like telling them to start marching toward the sea. I believe there are experiences in our lives when God could lay out an easy route for us to travel over, under or around conflict but instead says “trust Me, and go through it.”

Whether it’s a showdown at Mount Carmel against the four hundred and fifty prophets of

Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah (1 Kings 18), smelling the foul breath of lions after being thrown in their den (Daniel 6), or next to be barbecued in Nebuchadnezzar’s furnace (Daniel 3) these are the circumstances that test the metal of a person’s faith.

Our Lord and Savior met His challenges square on and never attempted to take the easy way out. In fact He knew the formidable task awaiting Him in the city of David and committed Himself to go through it.

*Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

We must demonstrate the same type of faith that those newly freed Hebrew slaves did as they trusted the Lord to hold the waters back as they walked on dry ground to safety on the other side of the sea.

*1 Peter 1:6-9 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.*

- Bruce J. Dehut

# Why Go to Hell Twice?

By David Diestelkamp

Arguably, the statement, "My life is hell on earth," is false. Of course, exaggeration is understandable during times of intense suffering--but what if it wasn't exaggeration? What if life really is so bad that worse cannot be imagined? Well, God still insists that eternal hell is worse, since it is total absence of the presence of His glory (2 Thes. 1:8). Faith says, no matter what happens in this life, to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9) is not the answer.

If someone maintains that their life truly is "hell on earth," then surely they will get their fill of it here and do everything possible to go to heaven in eternity! If life is hellish, why go to hell twice? Why let temporary suffering lead to eternal suffering? Any glimpse of hell someone may think they get in this life should serve as driving motivation, pushing them to find the way to heaven and to do whatever is necessary to go that way.

Why do so many blame God for evil and suffering, rather than Satan? Why do so many choose an eternity in hell rather than in heaven? The biggest problem we face is that it hurts *now!* It's hard, perhaps even impossible, to ignore searing pain, even if we are told it is temporary or that something better

awaits us in eternity. The cry is, "Make it go away now!" The temptation is to deprecate future eternal spiritual bliss while desperately searching for and clinging to false promises of temporary physical relief.

Faith and hope say we have to wait to see and have what we desperately need (Heb. 11:1; Rom. 8:24-25). We hate waiting--especially when the deficiency is or seems urgent or unbearable. God does not ask that we ignore pain, depravation or loneliness. He does not suggest that these are not real. What God does ask is that we know and trust Him enough that we will accept His answer to these.

Most people contend that God sometimes answers "yes" to requests for relief from suffering, and sometimes He responds with a "no." This, in turn, opens up a debate as to why God might give such replies in certain circumstances. Some conclude that a good and loving God wouldn't sit by and do nothing as suffering and death ravage us--and they are right! God has done something!

Unbelief based on human suffering misses the theme of the Bible, it denies the value of God becoming flesh, and ignores the proclamation of the cross--God cares! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him

should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). Is it possible that, as God told Paul, His grace is "sufficient"? (2 Cor. 12:9). God knows that we need our tears wiped away--no more death, sorrow, crying and pain (Rev. 21:4). These are real needs and are addressed fully by God by giving His servants a home where none of these exist for eternity. It is not cruelty for God not to end suffering for everyone now, it is merciful for Him to give us a way to conquer even death "through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

Suffering now pushes us toward God because He alone can end it for us. Focusing on heaven motivates faithfulness since "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

What is the alternative? What is the point of being "of those who draw back to perdition"? (Heb. 10:39). Will we let the feeling of being cursed in this life cause us to choose damnation? What is the point of going through a life of suffering while also holding to "a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries"? (Heb. 10:27).

Why would anyone want to go to hell twice? God's mercy and grace says we don't have to.

## THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

### Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: **David Shepherd**

Song Leader: **Steve Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Jr. Stout**

Lord's Table: **Arvil Young**  
**Chris Runner**  
**Chuck Sharp**  
**Doug Smith**

Scripture Reading: **Mike Shepherd**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Closing Prayer: **Jim Phelps**

### Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: **David Shepherd**

Song Leader: **Steve Smith**

Opening Prayer: **Bill Milliner**

Sermon: **Bruce Dehut**

Lord's Table: **Arvil Young**

Closing Prayer: **Mark Smith**