# CHALLENGE TO THE CULTS, NO.2.

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by
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## CHALLENGE TO THE CULTS

No.2 - IS THERE A LITERAL HELL?

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Why do men deny the existence of hell? Do human souls really go to such a place? What do modern "Versions" say about hell? What does the Bible say about hell?

One of the outstanding characteristics of the modern cults is seen in the fact that there is in their teaching a consistent departure from the "faith of our fathers" concerning the matter of hell. Some deny its existence outright and completely. Others modify the meaning of the term, reduce the temperature, and so limit its effectiveness that it might just as well not exist at all.

This booklet is written to turn the blazing, uncompromising light of the Word of God full upon these claims. It is written to give every reader the FULL and UNDENIABLE facts about hell. It is written to challenge the cults of today with the point-blank question: "Who says there is no hell?" We challenge the cults to show Bible PROOF of the non-existence of hell, to produce any single Bible text that says: "There is no hell". We challenge any teacher of any modern cult, or any modernist now perverting the Christian faith or polluting the Christian pulpit, to deny the truths written in the following pages.

May God use and bless this booklet to the heart of every sincere reader of its pages.

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#### IS THERE A LITERAL HELL?

#### A OUESTION THAT OUGHT TO BE ANSWERED.

Here it is:- "Who says there is no hell?" God doesn't. The Saviour doesn't, for if there is no hell He died in vain to save us from nothing. The Bible doesn't. No text from Genesis to Revelation says "There is no hell". Angels don't say it, for they have seen their fellows cast down into hell. (II Peter 2:4). Devils don't say it, unless to deliberately deceive, for it is "their own place".

Who says it? God tells us that "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God". (Psalm 53:1). For exactly the same reason, the man who says "There is no hell" is a fool. Both such men are fools, because their imperfect, mortal, limited knowledge has not penetrated beyond the narrow limits perceived by the physical senses into the realms of the eternal, the invisible, that life beyond the veil of death, wherein lie the mysteries of heaven and hell. God and the devil. To be able to say with assurance, either "There is no God" or "There is no hell", a man would of necessity have to searchthe universe, penetrate beyond time into eternity, until no place or period remained unknown or unseen, for somewhere, at sometime, beyond human knowledge, there yet might remain either God or hell or both. To her Grandfather, who denied the existence of hell saying, "I've lived for 70 years and never saw hell yet", a little girl replied, "Grandpa, have you ever been dead yet?" Only the fool is rash enough to say, "There is no hell". Before you make up your mind to commit such folly, take time to weighthe question. And weigh it in the scales of God's infallible Word, the Bible!

#### THE FOUR GREAT OUESTIONS INVOLVED

To the question, "Is there a hell?", there can be, in the final analysis, only two simple answers, either "yes" or "no". But around this subject great issues gather, and ought to be settled. Let me propose the four great questions that stem from this discussion, and form its very core.

- 1. Where does a human soul go at death? Do some people actually go to hell?
- 2. Is the fact of hell contrary to God's moral, just government of the Universe? In other words: How can a God of love burn His creatures in hell?
- 3. Does the word "Hell" really mean "Hell", a place of burning torment, or has it some other, less terrible meaning?
- 4. What does the Bible actually teach about Hell? Do the Scriptures really describe such a place, and tell us who is going there?

One by one, step by step, we propose to deal with these tremendous issues. The answers to all these questions are in God's Word, and in that Word alone. The speculations of men, fools or not, are completely worthless. We suggest that the next time someone says to you, "There is no hell", challenge him with this searching question: "Who says so?". The results will be most interesting!

### WHERE DOES THE HUMAN SOUL GO AT DEATH?

That's a common question. It is a vital question. It is the basic question of any religious system. Religion must have an answer. My soul must have the answer, with absolute assurance, or I can never die in peace. Where am I going, when I die? To-day there are five common opinions about the matter. Here they are:

- 1. At death the soul is annihilated, it ceases to exist. This is the opinion of the atheist, the materialist.
- 2. The soul moves into another body, and is reincarnated in some animal. This is the teaching of many eastern religions, such as Hinduism.
- 3. The soul stays in the decaying, putrefying body, in a state of sleep. Such cults as Jehovah's Witnesses, and Seventh Day Adventism teach this.
- 4. The soul at death goes to Purgatory, unless it is too wicked. This is the doctrine of Roman Catholicism.
- 5. The soul goes at death immediately to either heaven or hell.

Which of those five varied opinions is true? It is evident that they are so at variance that only ONE of them can be true, and the rest must be utterly wrong, and their followers completely deluded. Now, this matter is no mystery that I have taken upon myself to reveal. The evidence is abundant, for the truth is written clearly in the Bible. Let me set the Scriptures before you, and then YOU DECIDE which opinion is right. You will not find it difficult.

First of all notice that there are no less than ten records in the Bible of people who died, and then returned to life. Let me quote you three from the Old Testament and seven from the New Testament. Here they are:-

1. The son of the widow at Zarephath. I Kings 17:17-22. Here we read that his soul "came back into" his body. That proved that the soul was neither annihilated nor was it asleep in the body.

- 2. The son of the Shunamite. II Kings 4:32-36. The fact that the child returned to life is proof that his soul was not annihilated, and is strong evidence against the theory of reincarnation.
- 3. The man whose body touched the bones of Elisha, and returned to life. II Kings 13:20-21. Again it is evident that his soul was not destroyed.
- 4. Lazarus returned to life at the command of Jesus Christ. John 11:43-44. His soul had remained somewhere alive for those four days, even after the body had begun to decay. It was not annihilated. It re-occupied the same body.
- 5. The daughter of Jairus. Luke 8:49-56. Note that we read: "Her spirit came again". It had been away. It was not asleep in the body, nor was it annihilated.
- 6. The son of the widow of Nain. Luke 7:11-15. He was a continuing personality after death.
- 7. Many saints who rose at one time. Matthew 27:52-53. I don't know how long they had been dead, but they were evidently not annihilated or reincarnated.
- 8. Our Lord Himself rose from the dead. Matthew 28:5-9. Where had His soul been for three days and nights? It was not annihilated, nor was it reincarnated. It was not asleep in the body. In Matthew 12:40 we read that He spent those three days in the "heart of the earth", and in Acts 2:31 we read that His soul "was not left in hell", where it was at that time. What was He doing there? In I Peter 3:18-19 we read that He "preached to the spirits in prison". Read these Scriptures carefully!
- 9. Dorcas died, and arose. Acts 9:36-42. She was neither annihilated nor reincarnated.
- 10. Eutychus fell out of a window, and died. Acts 20:9-12. Death did NOT end all for him, or send him into some other body. His soul was available, living somewhere, ready to return to his body. Thus, through these examples we can see that the soul at death does not cease to exist, nor does it occupy some other creature. And it is certain that it does not sleep on in that decaying, awful corruption.

But because so many cults teach this latter idea, I am going to challenge them with many other Scriptures which utterly discredit this notion. Here are six more Bible examples:-

- 1. Moses, on the Mount of Transfiguration. Matthew 17:3. He had then been dead, as to his body, for 1500 years, yet in this record we see him alive, not asleep but wide awake, talking to the Lord Jesus Christ. He was in CONSCIOUS existence.
- 2. The penitent thief on the cross. Luke 23:43. Jesus promised

him that he would be in Paradise that very day. Did the Lord keep His word? Of course He did! He did not put the thief to sleep in his tortured, broken body, but took him that day to Paradise. He was not annihilated nor reincarnated. Nor did he go to some imagined Purgatory. Iknow the Jehovah's Witnesses, or Russelites as they should be called, dare to change this verse around in a wicked endeavour to make it fit their impious and blasphemous teachings, but the truth remains unchanged. Who says this verse should be changed? Only wicked men who want to dodge the truth. Let no man lay his perverting hand on your Bible! Our Lord did not let this penitent man die in despair and uncertainly while asking him a sneering question, but rather gave him this sweet and wonderful assurance of a glorious home ahead, waiting for him that very day.

- 3. The two menspoken of in Luke 16:22-23. Neither the rich man nor Lazarus was annihilated, or reincarnated, or asleep in the body after death, nor were they in some Purgatory. Such a place as Purgatory is never mentioned in the Bible. I challenge anyone to produce the proof of such a place. Where were these two? One was in Abraham's bosom; the other was in hell. That really happened! Jesus said so. And He never lied, never told some mere fairy tale.
- 4. The writings of the Apostle Paul were inspired of the Holy Ghost, and bring us the infallible Word of God on this matter. In II Cor. 5:6-8 he declared in words beyond misunderstanding that when a Christian dies his soul becomes "absent from the body", not sleeping in it, and is immediately "present with the Lord". Again in Phil. I:23-24 the Apostle voices the burning desire to "depart and be with Christ, which is far better". He did NOT long to go to Purgatory, or to go to sleep in the body, or to be annihilated or reincarnated, but he earnestly desired to be with his Saviour, IN HEAVEN! These two important Scriptures completely demolish the four false notions we have just mentioned.
- 5. When Christians die, it is evident they do not remain in their bodies, for when Christ appears in the clouds to catch away His living saints, the dead in Christ will come "with Him". Read I Thess. 4:14. If with Him, they certainly are not in the graves, for He is not there! They are now in heaven.
- 6. The Tribulation martyrs will not, after their death, remain in their slaughtered bodies. In Rev. 6:9-11 we read that their "souls" will be at once in heaven, around the Throne of God. How can anyone read this Scripture and yet miss the truth? This one Scripture shows the utter falsity of annihilation, reincarnation, soul-sleeping and purgatory.

The Scriptures are clear beyond any doubt: No sober-minded person will fail to see that the teaching of the Bible eliminates four of the five positions people take about life after death. All these people that we have mentioned are shown after death as conscious, speaking, moving, and either in peace or torment. Death begins for everyone a more conscious existence than before death took place. And men, at death go AT ONCE EITHER TO HEAVEN OR HELL. God says so. Let God be true and every false teacher an evident liar! The first question is answered. Now turn with me to the second.

#### IS THE FACT OF HELL CONTRARY TO GOD'S MORAL NATURE?

That is a pertinent question. Sometimes it is put this way: How can a God of love burn men in hell? To some that presents a very real difficulty. Yet, though it may seem to carry a measure of reasonableness, no person should think or attempt to reason in this manner. If we are in God's Word confronted with the FACT of hell, we dare not reject it, even though we may not be able to discern any reasonable explanation for that fact. If God says so, I will believe it!

But look at this question a moment. Is it true that God's moral nature will not allow Him to have some place in His universe called "Hell". Just the contrary is true! The trouble is that men so easily forget, and sometimes just conveniently forget, that God's nature is many-sided. He has many, glorious, necessary characteristics. As a wise Ruler He tempers justice with mercy, but His justice yet remains. In Romans 11:22 we read: "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God". There are two opposite sides of His character. In Him there is love, but also justice, holiness and righteousness. He is both a Saviour and a Judge. The One known as the meek and lowly Jesus is some day returning in flaming fire to take vengeance upon those who have spurned Him and rejected His love. Read this in II Thess. 1:7-8. He RULES the universe in exact righteousness, dealing rightly with every creature. And He will punish sin wherever it is to be found. He will not fail to do this! Read Gal. 6:7. God says that!

There are some who almost blame God and charge Him with wrong doing in allowing hell to exist. How wrong God would be not to make a hell! Without a hell there could never be a heaven, Some say "God is too good to send men to hell". But the opposite is true. God is so GOOD that He must send men to hell. He must bar them from heaven or He would not be good at all. Sinners would not only be miser-

able in heaven, forced to live amongst God's people for ever and to listen to the Bible and the praises of God, but they would ruin it for everybody else. Suppose, with thieves and murderers in heaven, we saints were forced to lock the doors of our heavenly mansions, guard our families from libertines, and shut our ears against the basphemies of those who revile the Saviour's wonder-ful Name? And if there was sin in heaven, there would be sickness and death. Preachers would have to labour on, seeking to win the lost. And heaven would be no heaven at all.

Even here on earth it is necessary, for the sake of health and happiness, to separate the bad from the good. Every garbage can is an argument for hell! For it tells of the necessity of separating the good from the bad. So in the spiritual realm, the ungodly person is the refuse of the moral sphere. Every jail you see is an argument for hell, for hell is the penitentiary of God's Universe. Cemeteries are necessary on earth, and each one argues for the moral necessity of hell. To leave the dead amongst the living would be disastrous. Every tomb argues for hell. God cannot, and will not lest He should be unjust, allow His Universe to disintegrate, and so He has to deal with wickedness justly and adequately. Did God do right at the Flood? Was He just when He destroyed Sodom? Those judgments, separating the righteous from the wicked, were an absolute moral necessity. "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and SEVER the wicked from among the just". Jesus said that in Matthew 13:49. Hell is necessary. The second question has its answer from God's Word. Now look at the third.

### DOES THE WORD "HELL" REALLY MEAN "HELL"?

Why not? What else should it mean? It is a good, Anglo-Saxon word that expresses an exact meaning. English speaking people know what it means. It is a Bible word, and its meaning it made abundantly plain in the Scriptures. Yet some would still try to say that this word does not mean what it is supposed to mean.

Let me set before you an important premise. The devil hates the Bible. This Book is so valuable, so mighty to transform lives, so life-giving to men dead in sins, that the devil always fights it. It robs him of his citizens, converts his followers, exposes his character and his machinations, and reveals the truth about the Hell to which he would drag his victims. Thus all falsities, sponsored by the devil, hate the blazing light of the pure Word of God. As a result there has always been an unceasing attack on the Word of God. The first method the devil used was that of force. Thus

through the Dark Ages we find the Bible a forbidden Book, as Roman Catholicism tried to destroy it. Bibles were burned by the false Roman church as she sought to dominate the minds and hearts of men. That domination is impossible where the Word of God is free to do its work. Tyndale was martyred because he tried to get the Bible into the language of the common people. Today the methods of falsity are a little different, but far more deadly and subtle. The present method is to CHANGE THE BIBLE! Bit by bit, revision by revision the modern ecclesiastical termites are eating away the very foundations of truth, hoping that the whole house will finally collapse. The false cults are doing this now. Modernism is aiding with all its power. And the Bible is being changed, senselessly changed, without the slightest authority or basis in research or language, to fit the notions the cults are teaching. Let me sound a clarion warning about this matter. Beware of the man who will seek to change this grand Authorized Version of the Bible. Be sure to read this author's book about the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, "Why Christians Should Not Accept the New Bible".

Now I have spoken about this because many of these changes have centred around the word "hell". Here are the facts. In the Old Testament the word "hell" appears 31 times. In the Revised Standard Version the word has been entirely removed! In all 31 cases it has been replaced by the Hebrew word "Sheol", a word that is completely incomprehensible to the reader of English. Was this supposed to make the matter clearer, or is it just a modernistic desire to get rid of the idea of hell? In the New Testament the word hell is found 22 times. In the new version this is, in every case, either changed to read "Hades", or else modified by a footnote saying "Gehenna" or "Tartarus". Why is this done? Simply to eliminate the idea of an awful, burning hell. Thus in the whole Bible the 53 occurrences of the word "hell" have been tampered with by these latest "revisers". Two Scriptures that describe hell as a place where the "worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched," Mark 9:44, 46, are completely omitted in the Revised Standard Version. Does "hell" really mean "hell"?

Unfortunately for these mutilators of the Bible, the sense of hell and the meaning of hell is not as easily removed as it seems, even if the name is changed. In Deuteronomy 32:22 we read of the "lowest hell", where God's anger burns. Now change that to "Sheol" and it still cannot mean the grave. That would make language ridiculous! Imagine God warning us about getting into the deepest grave! Again in Psalm 86:13 we read: "Thou hast

delivered my soul from the lowest hell". We have shown that the soul does not sleep in the grave, in the body, and so again the "lowest hell" could not mean the grave, but the abode of damned souls, once visited by Christ between His death and resurrection. Then in Proverbs 23:14 we find the advice of the wise man, Solomon, where he says: "Thou shalt beat him with a rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell". No amount of word changing can make that mean the grave! Beating a child does not keep it from the grave. Hell means hell. A lot of young people are on their way to hell today because modern parents have failed to heed this injunction.

Read with care Isaiah 14:4, 9-10. This is one of the most terrible, fearful passages in the Bible. It pictures for us the reception committee of hell! Here they are rising to welcome another inmate into the eternal fires. The King of Babylon is pictured there. His soul was not in the grave. It was in Hell. And here we read of conversations going on and motion, dead kings standing up and experiencing astonishment. That is a terrible, but real and accurate picture of hell. Again in Ezekiel 32:21 and in Luke 16:23-24 we read of people talking in hell. HELL does NOT mean the grave, or anything but HELL. Is not that abundantly clear? We challenge the false cults to face these facts. The third question is answered. Now we turn to the fourth and last one.

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE ACTUALLY TEACH ABOUT HELL?

We ought to be ready to face Bible facts, and accept them as truth. Men do not know whether there is a hell or not. Only God's inspired Word can give us the exact truth about that unseen world which lies beyond the veil of death. Some would put away all talk of hell, as something in bad taste, or something that doesn't matter anyway. That sort of thing is always the devil's business. He does not want Hell advertized, and so covers it up, as the hunter covers the snare. How he has used the modern Bible "versions" to accomplish this subtle deed!

Does it matter whether there is a hell or not? It will matter a great deal in eternity! Read Mark 9:43-48 and Luke 16:22-23. But it also matters in this life. The teaching of this truth makes men flee from the wrath to come. See Matthew 3:7-8 and Acts 24:25. And this teaching ought to make Christian folk live more godly lives, for their own sake, and for the sake of the unsaved about them. Read about this in II Peter 3:11-12.

Now when we ask such questions as "Where is hell? Why is

there a hell? What is hell like?", we must at once search the Scriptures for the sure answer. Where is hell? Can it be located geographically, or is it just some figurative state of mind? We shall begin with the words of the Lord himself. In Matthew 12:40 He declared that the Son of Man would be, at some time, for three days and three nights in the HEART OF THE EARTH. When was this to take place? It must have been at some clearly recognized time, for He gave this as a "sign" that He was the Messiah. What is the sign of His Messiahship? In Romans 1:4 we find that He is declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead. Thus these three days and three nights must be that time between His death and His resurrection, and for that period Jesus said He would be "in the heart of the earth". Where was that place? Does it mean the grave? It could not in any sense mean simply the grave, for His soul was not in His body during those three days and nights. It must mean exactly what it says, the "heart of the earth", the centre of this planet, right in its fiery, burning core. Now turn over to Acts 2:31. This is a very clear statement, made by Peter, under the direction of the Holy Spirit. When the Lord Jesus died, He took the repentant thief with Him, as He promised, to Paradise, and then went onto the lowest hell, in the heart of the earth. Jesus did not go to heaven at that time, for He said, after his resurrection, that He had not yet ascended to His Father. Read John 20:17. It is evident that at that time, Paradise was a different place than heaven. During those three dreadful days, our Lord Jesus went to hell, and there preached to the spirits in PRISON. See I Peter 3:18-19. Hell is a PRISON. in the HEART OF THE EARTH, a rigorous place of awful confinement, burning with sulphurous heat. It is a real, literal, geographically located place!

Now why is there a hell? We have already spoken somewhat of this, as we discussed God's moral nature. Now read Matthew 25:41. Hell is the Penitentiary of the Universe! It was made to receive the angelic rebels against God, led by Lucifer in that pre-historic, primal revolt against God, spoken of by the prophet Ezekiel. (Ezekiel 28:11-19). And all humans who have since followed him in sin and rebellion against God, refusing to believe His Word or to accept His Son as Saviour, have already, or will in the future, follow Lucifer to hell. There is no heaven for such, and so hell is necessary. It is the refuse pit of earth and heaven.

Then what is hell really like? Words and spirit fail us to attempt the awful tale. Let us summon the Holy Spirit to read into our hearts the words He has written. Hell is a madhouse.

Hell is a burning prison, with fiery stones, with white-hot bars, with chains of darkness and solitary confinement, a place of unquenchable thirst and filthiness and sin going on and on, where people are forever incapable of ceasing to sin for one moment, and where every sin increases the awful penalty to be extracted. That is why hell is everlasting. Read Rev. 22:11-15 in regard to this last fearful truth.

What is hell like? We have shown it is a physical place, and therefore it has a physical temperature. What is it? Not some equable 70 degrees, with air-conditioning for the health of its inhabitants. Is it a comfortable place, where everybody will be jolly with their friends? Or is it really a place of punishment? Every picture of God's wrath speaks of FIRE. Fire fell on Sodom and Gomorrah. (Gen. 19:24, 28). In II Peter 2:6 we read that the fire on Sodom was just a sample of what God's wrath is like. Nadab and Abihu died by fire, under God's wrath. (Levit. 10:1-2). Achan was partly punished by fire. (Josh. 7:25). All the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were offered by fire. It is the picture of God's burning wrath against the sinner.

But the Bible is very explicit about hell, giving unmistak able descriptions of that place of horror and torment. Take God's Word and read these Scriptures: Luke 16:24, Matthew 5:22, Matthew 13:40, 49-50, Matthew 25:41, Mark 9:43-49, (This passage mentions fire 7 times), II Thess. 1:8, Rev. 14:10-11, Rev. 20:11-15. These Scriptures will surely show us what hell is like, and help us to realize how it is God warns men to flee from this wrath to come. Then God tells us that the end of hell will be something worse than ever. In Rev. 21:8 we read that hell and all in it will finally be swallowed up in a great lake of fire, more immense than hell, a great burning lake, eternal in its enduring nature. Hell is thus a place of real, burning fire, a place of dreadful remorse, pain and horror. No love or joy or pleasure will ever be known in its awful abyss. There will be no fun, or drinks or companionship in hell. In all God's descriptions of hell, no two people are ever pictured as speaking together, except to curse and scoff at each other.

And how long will hell last? Is hell everlasting, and why? When sinners are finally called from hell to the Great White Throne, Cain will have been in hell for at least 7,000 years; others for only 1,000 years. But there will be far more yet ahead for them in the Lake of Fire. Read such Scriptures as Daniel 12:2, Matthew 25:46, Luke 16:26, Jude 12-13, Rev. 14:10-11 to under-

stand the everlasting nature of the punishment lost souls will suffer. Because of this, the Lord said of Judas that it had been good for him if he had not been born. (Matt. 26:24). Why will punishment last for ever? Because men who go to hell will never be reconciled to God. Because in hell sinners go right on sinning, every day, every moment, unable to change or stop, heaping up punishment unendingly. They will be incapable of repentance, unable to change. The wicked things done on earth will continue in hell, unrestrained, magnified and perpetuated. (Rev. 22:11).

#### WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN TO US?

If you are able to say with confidence, "I am a Christian I am born again. I have accepted Christ as my Substitute, my Saviour, and He has cleansed me from my sins", then the realization of these truths will surely fill your heart with deep thankfulness, as you realize the awful condemnation from which Christ has delivered you. But it should also fill every Christian heart with a deep concern for the souls of those all around, who are yet on the road to this fearful hell. May God so burn these facts into our hearts and minds that we shall be stirred to warn the wicked from his way, and earnestly point all men to the Saviour.

If, as you read these things, you must say, "I have not yet received the Saviour, and I have no confidence that my sins are forgiven", then the fact of hell becomes a terrifying reality as the Bible is read and believed. Let me earnestly invite you to the waiting, loving arms of the Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered and died on Calvary to pay the price of your sin, that it might never be able to drag you to hell. God's promises are absolute and unfailing. He says: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36). There are two sides to this Scripture verse. On the other side we find this: "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him". The matter of your salvation is simply the matter of your relationship to the only-begotten Son whom God sent to redeem the world. I sincerely urge you to step, by faith, from one side to the other. Believe what God has said. Simply, but completely, put your faith and trust in Christ Jesus. Abandon your own efforts to free yourself of sin, and ask Him to save and cleanse and then keep you by His own power. He will! He said: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out". (John 6:37). Then come! Come just as you are. Come NOW! And God bless you as you do!

If this is your decision, we suggest you record it below, to make the matter clear and definite, and for your own record of

the day you became a Christian. We shall be pleased to have you write us, and tell us of your new birth, and to have you write for further spiritual help.

\* \* \* \* 1

#### MY DECISION

Knowing that I am a sinner condemned before God; and believing that Jesus Christ shed his blood and died for me, I NOW accept Him as my Saviour, and with His help I intend to live for Him and confess Him before men.

Signed	
Date	 -

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