



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, FL

Volume 11 Number 31

July 18, 2010

# SKYVIEW BULLETIN

## "All Suffering Soon To End"



I recently returned home to find a tract attached to the front door of my house. The tract was entitled "All Suffering Soon To End." This tract talked about all of the suffering the world has experienced since the fall of Adam and Eve and then made a prediction that war, poverty, disasters, crime, injustice, sickness and death will come to an end very soon. According to the author of this tract, "Suffering is nearing its end. Soon God will intervene in human affairs by destroying this entire unsatisfactory system of things." We are in the "last days" according to this tract when "critical times hard to deal with will be here."

Of course, we would like to see the end to the suffering of mankind. No one would not welcome an existence where there is no pain or sorrow or death. But the solution to the problem offered by this tract is based on a misapplication of scripture and an erroneous concept of the end of time.

Here is what this tract offers as a solution to mankind's suffering: "After God removes wickedness and suffering, the earth will be transformed into a paradise. Then people will be able to live forever in perfect health and happiness."

According to this doctrine, the earth is going to be purged of all evil and wickedness and restored to a "Garden of Eden" type "Paradise," where mankind will live forever under the physical rule of God. One of the verses used as a proof-text is Psalm 37:29, which says: "the righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever." It is important to notice that what is to be inherited is the "land" and not the "earth," as is taught in this tract. In fact, the religious group who wrote the tract have their own translation of the Bible and the word "land" is translated "earth" in that translation. They have to use their own translation so they can force their doctrine into the passage. David is not talking about the earth being a restored Paradise and lasting forever. The second thing to notice is the expression, "for ever." This term is used in the Bible many times to describe things that were not eternal. For example consider these verses: In Exodus 12:14, 17 God told the children of Israel that they were to keep the feast of the Passover forever. It was to be an everlasting observance. Of course we know the Passover was not observed forever. Within the tabernacle there was a lampstand which was to be cared for by Aaron and his sons. The Bible says in Exodus 27:21 that this was to be a statute forever. We know this also, did not last forever. In Exodus 31:16,17 God said the Sabbath was to be established as a day of rest forever. There are several other verses where the word "forever" is used when it does not mean eternal or never ending. The word "forever" is often used in scripture to denote an indefinite period of time rather than eternity. The passage quoted in the tract does not say that the earth will stand forever and we will dwell on it forever. (back page)

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### ELDERS

*Ron Bastien  
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*Charles Murray*

### MEN WE SUPPORT

*William Stewart--Kingston, Canada  
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe  
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba*

### WORSHIP TIMES

#### SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.  
Classes.....10:50 A.M.  
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

### WORSHIP PLACE

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The writer to the Hebrews said, "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come" (Hebrews 13:14-15). Here, on this earth, there is no continuing city. There is nothing about this earth that will last forever. We look for an eternal city according to this verse.

Peter makes it very clear as to the future of the earth. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). Notice carefully the Bible says that the earth will be burned up. The elements of the earth will melt with fervent heat. Not only the earth itself, but the works that are in it will be destroyed. Then Peter issues this warning: "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:11-13). "All these things" will be dissolved.



**Adult**

**Auditorium**

**New class**

**beginning in**

**January:**

**The Life Of Christ**

**GOD'S**

**PLAN OF SALVATION**

**Believe—Heb. 11:6**

**Repent—Luke 13:3**

**Confess—Rom. 10:9**

**Be Baptized—**

**Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38,**

**1 Pet. 3:21**

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It is also significant to notice the word "new" Peter uses to describe the future heavens and earth in this passage. It is the Greek *kainos*, which according to W.E. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, means "that which is unused." We would use the term "brand new" in modern terminology. Something that has never been used before as opposed to something restored or renewed. The earth is going to be destroyed—it will melt with fervent heat—it will be dissolved. There will be nothing left to be restored or renewed. The earth and heavens will "pass away," or go out of existence. While this tract offers a paradise here on this earth, the Bible teaches that this is not going to happen.

Daniel 2:44 is quoted as another proof-text for this false doctrine. In fact many religious groups use this prophecy from Daniel to teach that God is going to establish an earthly kingdom here upon this physical planet and reign for a thousand years. The key to understanding Daniel's prophecy is a proper understanding of the expression "In the days of those kings..." What days was Daniel talking about? And what kings were under consideration?

The "days of those kings" refers back to the fourth kingdom mentioned in verses 40-43 which describe the Roman Empire which was in power when the kingdom was established. The prophet Joel in chapter 2 prophesied that when the kingdom was established God's Spirit would be poured out and salvation would be offered to those who called on the name of the Lord. He said that in Jerusalem there would be deliverance. In Acts chapter 2 we see the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy when the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles and they proclaimed deliverance and salvation in the city of Jerusalem. This is where the Gospel was preached for the first time following the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ. Jesus had earlier promised Peter that he would be given the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:19). This promise was made after Jesus said he would establish His church. Peter used the keys of the kingdom when he preached the gospel and three thousand were obedient. In Acts 2:47 we are told that the Lord added to the church those who were being saved. The church is that kingdom that Daniel said would come in the last days. The last days were the days of the Roman Empire. It was at that time, A.D. 33, that the kingdom was established in Jerusalem and all nations flowed into it. That kingdom is spiritual in nature, not physical. Christ is reigning now as the Head of the church (Ephesians 1:22,23).

No, this earth is not going to exist for ever. No, saints are not going to live on the earth forever. The earth is going to be destroyed by God. There is a new heaven and a new earth that are spiritual in nature. It is in this "city which has foundations whose Builder and Maker is God," that we will dwell for eternity.

Friend, you can inherit the kingdom of God and live with God for eternity—not on planet earth—but in heaven where the Paradise of God is. Don't be deceived by false teachers who want to rob you of your place in heaven. Be obedient to the Gospel because it is God's power to save (Romans 1:16).

CEM