

## *The Pains of Hell*

*Psalms 114:1 – 116:19*

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~ During World War II, the food supply in Germany was reduced to a bare minimum. Bread became a scarce item. So, the Nazi's produced a type of imitation bread that was not made from grain; a substance labeled Ersatz Bread. This bread was made from sawdust. In their starving condition, people clamored — and even killed for this imitation bread. Of course, it led to long-term health problems. Today, most of us live in a land of plenty, where there is no food shortage. Even luxury items are produced beyond demand today. Americans particularly seem to have need of nothing. Well, the only reason *ANY* poor people are currently starving in this world is *NOT* because there isn't sufficient food-substance to meet their needs. No, it's because the hearts of the rich are corrupt, fraudulent politicians, who care only about themselves.

Currently, we are experiencing chronic dearth; a severe famine of spiritual bread. This deficiency has been plaguing the world for decades now. The spiritual equivalent of Ersatz Bread has been distributed by the church for so long that the spiritual appetite and digestive needs of man have adapted to only desire a fake bread. Fake is all they can process in their minds and bodies. This imitation spiritual bread has been leavened and preserved with artificial junk theology — and it pleases the masses just fine — but it will ultimately kill the soul. Most Christian's on the Ersatz spiritual diet are very discriminating concerning what they eat physically, too; but I digress. The Lord Jesus Christ of Scripture has been replaced by a liberal Jesus that most people have acquired a taste for. Now, decades on, the spiritual cancer caused by a diet of false religion has progressed to a malignant killer.

**John 6:32** *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world ~*

*Psalms 114:1 – 116:19*

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Today's modern religion factory is turning out the imitation bread of false doctrine to pacify spiritually starving masses, whose souls are utterly bankrupt, and lives have been decimated by lies and evil. All walks of society are bombarded by quasi-religious content from various organizations that are only interested in one thing: increase their congregations. Of course, that's code-speak for increasing revenue. These organizations do not care one whit about glorifying Christ. They defraud, deceive and spiritually kill unwitting souls without compunction. If the modern church does not yield to false teachings, you can be assured of one thing: they will *not* increase their attendance quickly. I understand that is a sad and dogmatic statement; I stand behind it *one hundred percent* — because it is God Himself Who draws men — and few are chosen.

The primary source of imitation bread being dished out today begins with “*Christian*” music; and it seems to be the biggest contributor to the number one problem in the church — which is a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God. We have billions of self-professed born-again believers in this world who want to be superstars — and that makes deception easy and lucrative. There is more contemporary music posing as Christian music spiraling the problem out of control; and it is a problem the church is unable to solve. More safari dogmatism? — You bet! The pride associated with today's “*Christian*” music, created by anyone who can strum three chords, or those who have the unmitigated audacity to sing off key, has devastated the true Gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Compounding the problem in myriad ways, we have unqualified people posing as missionaries. They trot around the globe handing out what they label “*Gospel tracts*” stereotyping Christian's as common people who do whatever they want to do because Jesus will forgive them. Naturally, this has led to the explosion of a self-serving special interest industry; nefariously dubbed ‘*contemporary Gospel music*’ — bringing everyone together in a tonic harmony from hell. This also gives the atheist no reason whatsoever to be convinced there really is a True and Living God. When the atheist says there is no evidence that God exists, they are exactly right — within their personal existential environment — because God isn't in darkness. They are. God is the God of the living — not the dead; and, until we are born-again, we are dead in trespasses and sins. See how that works?

Contemporary Gospel music is, by far, the fastest growing and largest segment within the full spectrum of modern music. Even drunken country singers and drugged-up rockstars are jumping on the bandwagon of a never-ceasing golden-egg laying goose named contemporary “*Christian*” music. The Lord Jesus has been reduced to merchandise in the form of a crudely designed book, displayed on a table in the back of the sanctuary with some beautiful worldly man or woman on the cover, smiling prettily. Make no mistake: it is *big* business for both the record company and the so-called artists and performers, if they’re smart enough, that is. The top performers who hit the road for Jesus can easily rake in several hundred million dollars per year.

To call a Gospel music group a legitimate missionary ministry is to call God a liar, my friends. I *KNOW* that is not popular – but – too bad. That’s what it is. It isn’t saving people; it’s sensationalism that might bring people a momentary emotional relief from their anxiety, overwhelmed circumstances. Music brings the feeling of spiritualism – and it *IS* spiritual – but it isn’t from above! Your ‘*ministry of music*’ is making merchandise of the Lord Jesus Christ and I *P-R-O-M-I-S-E* you that you will answer for your sinful charade. I also promise you that God *HATES* your music – He doesn’t listen to it, and He doesn’t use it in any way, shape or form. You are literally, wasting your time with a self-proud and foolish meaninglessness. Don’t get me wrong: there is an *appropriate* place for Biblically based, Christ-centered music in praise and worship – but it isn’t a missionary ‘*ministry*.’ – no, not even close.

**1 Samuel 16: 23** *And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him ~*

The words “*Jesus*,” “*salvation*,” “*Christ*,” “*sacred*” and “*Gospel*” – and even “*the cross*” – are used generously in contemporary “worship” songs. Interestingly, however, no mention is *EVER* made of the Word of God – and I do mean not a *PEEP*. Biblical literacy is *o-u-t* from their vocabulary, my friends. To make matters worse, contemporary preaching follows close suit to contemporary music. With limited exceptions, the sermons I hear today

speak of everything under the sun *except* for the Word of God. Most teach *ABOUT* the Bible; because they aren't qualified to teach the Bible. The Lord Jesus Christ and the Bible are not the centerpiece of the church any longer; they are merely used as props to credibly segue into a feel-good motivational speech — designed for one reason and one reason only: donations. Increasingly, an entirely new set of clichés and slogans are being used in churches that are already common in the marketplace.

Even the best church can be deceived into a misguided tendency of employing every new method that comes along in order to reach a new generation. It's nothing new, either; when the modernist — now called the liberal — first captured most of the denominations roughly one hundred years ago, independent churches and new denominations began to grow like weeds. There was still a period of honest Bible teaching, though; and educated, sincere, Spirit-filled preaching ensued for a time — because the horrors of the Great Depression and the Second World War changed the American outlook. During those years, sound doctrine continued to meet the needs of many hungry hearts and hurting lives. Unfortunately, that faded as quickly as the noonday sun could appear; and it did appear with prosperity and plenty — but hasn't risen again in revival. Yes, I mean that.

Everything has completely changed in our modern religious arena. Men today are only concerned with one thing: increasing the head count on Sunday morning. That has relegated "*Christianity*" to pride-filled musicians, seminars of every secular imaginable type, books that are complete heresy, radio programs that cannot be distinguished from the world's programming, missionaries who literally do nothing, and beyond absurd television shows that dissolve into entertainment. They all have a dab of Jesus here and there for credibility — but they're utterly devoid of sound doctrine. A few disconnected verses from fractured passages in the Word of God are used as props in the background to make the scenery look good. "*Christianity*" is the modern Ersatz Bread; designed to feed the person who is hungry and dying inside with a feel-good imitation of spiritual food that helps them die easy. Is that an ugly picture? — It sure is....

*CX.OO*

***1 When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language;***

***2 Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.***

***3 The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back.***

***4 The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.***

***5 What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?***

***6 Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?***

***7 Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;***

***8 Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.***

~ Our Spiritual Safari is in the Deuteronomy section of Psalms and, specifically, in what are known as the “Hallel” Psalms. Our last report brought us several Psalms of hallelujah – meaning they opened with praise to God and, generally, closed the same way. Psalm one hundred fourteen is another call to praise the Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ – God Himself! We have seen God as our Creator and also as our Redeemer in the last few reports; and God will also be the Redeemer of creation. Because of that truth, we should all fall on our faces and praise God. This Psalm is about redemption from Egypt, and it looks back to the time when Israel first became a nation.

When Abraham came into the Promised Land, he was a complete stranger there, and God told him that his people would go down into Egypt where they would become a great nation. The nation Israel, technically, began in Egypt. Anti-Semitism was also born in Egypt! The children of Israel suffered in great hardship and persecution that didn’t end until God remembered His covenant, and heard their cry from the brickyards of slavery; and that’s

when God looked upon them and had respect unto them. So, this Psalm begins with the wilderness march, and God views the entire nation as a tabernacle at this time. The original intention of God was for Israel to be one nation of priests as His witness to the world. Not just one tribe of Levi. I believe that will be the picture in the Millennial Kingdom, too — the whole nation — all twelve tribes — will serve in the temple *in that day*.

We have the crossing of the Red Sea *AND* the crossing of the River Jordan in verses three and five. We also saw the omnipotent God roll back the waters of the Red Sea and part the waters of Jordan in Psalm one hundred thirteen. Those were miracles that cannot be explained on any other basis than supernatural. They put blood on the doorposts, the death angel passed them by, and Pharaoh wanted them out. Interestingly, when they went through the Red Sea, they experienced deliverance out of Egypt — but into the wilderness; and when they crossed the Jordan River, they were separated from the wilderness and brought into the Promised Land! That constitutes redemption in two stages: going out and coming in. The Lord Jesus Christ delivered us from the penalty of sin by His death on the cross. Christ will deliver us from the power of sin *in the present* — providing we meet His conditions. In the future, Christ will deliver us completely from the presence of sin. That has not been realized yet, my Preterist friends. This Psalm wraps all of that up in a very wonderful and definite way....

*CXV*

***1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.***

***2 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God?***

***3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.***

***4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.***

***5 They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:***

***6 They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:***

***7 They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.***

***8 They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.***

***9 O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.***

***10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.***

***11 Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.***

***12 The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron.***

***13 He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.***

***14 The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children.***

***15 Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.***

***16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.***

***17 The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.***

***18 But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the LORD.***

~ Psalm one hundred fifteen was a song the apostles and Jesus sang in the Upper Room during the last supper. I feel that Psalm was sung at all the feasts; and it was bound to have an effect upon the people. Although the authorship is not known, this Psalm is generally attributed to someone speaking of the return of the remnant of Israel from the Babylonian



captivity. I believe it refers to the Millennial Kingdom. Either way, verse one reveals that the nation Israel has assumed a very humble position before God. They had not been trusting God before this – but they are now. That certainly affirms the Millennium perspective our safari has viewed almost all of the Psalms from; because Israel isn't trusting God today. As always, the nation's round about them were mocking and taunting, asking "... *where is your God?*"

See, God sent Israel into captivity in the first place; because doing so was according to His will, His plan, and His purpose for their lives. This marks the beginning of acceptance of that fact. God was a Spirit to Israel; even though they had the visible presence of the Shekinah Glory to lead them – but the nations around them had gods that were made by man. The idols had hands and feet and noses, but they couldn't move, they had no sensory perceptions, and the idols couldn't help the idol worshiper – and *EVERYONE* knew it. Isaiah has the finest satire against idolatry, and he said, in essence, that they went out to make gods by cutting down a tree, shaping it up into an image — and then they used the off-cut to make a fire; then, Isaiah says that the fire was the only helpful result of making the idol! Then, they would have to lug this heavy log-like thing all the way back home. Well, God says, *"I am carrying you!"* So, friends, does your God carry you; or are you trying to carry your god? Religion is a strain and a burden for most people; and, as a result, they carry the weight of the entire world on their shoulders, too. If you're carrying your god, then you are in modern-day idolatry. Most people are; you can just write that down.

The answers to humanism, fatalism, atheism, materialism, immorality – and all problems in this life – is the Lord Jesus Christ! Seeing a psychiatrist and spending five hundred dollars an hour to lie on a couch and tell a stranger your problems is utterly absurd. The real answer of trusting and obeying the Lord Jesus is so completely simple that the world cannot accept it. In the midst of all the chaos in our lives, we can trust God, friends. If you will draw near to the Lord, He will draw near to you. If you cast yourself upon Him, He will catch you before you fall. Verses nine through eleven of this Psalm can bring us very close to God.



If we will turn to Him, He will bless our home, our family, and our church. God is mindful of us – He hasn't forgotten about us. When you fly in an airplane, and look down and see subdivisions of houses as far as the eye can see, it's almost impossible to understand that God knows our name, our address, where we work, where we go to school, where we play – and that He knows where we are at any given moment. But He does know. God knows more than that, too — He knows all about us; you may be absolutely sure. Let's trust Him; it can't hurt – all we have to gain is His love. Verse thirteen is a categorical and infinitely dogmatic statement that you either believe — or you don't! If you believe it, then there will be a radical difference in your life. If you don't — that's okay — it's still true.

Verse sixteen makes it more than clear to me that God didn't intend for men to live on Mars or on the moon. Frankly, we're trespassing when we go out in space! God has given man the earth to live on. This earth is where we are to praise the Lord. That's our function here. From the dignified Presbyterian to the devout Episcopalian, the directive is the same for each and every one of us – and it wouldn't hurt to have a little more genuine and honest praise for the Lord Jesus Christ and for the Word of God; because, without the Word of God, you and I would know *NOTHING* about the Son of God. You may want to think that over really good. Most people are all tied up in their hang-ups. What they need to do is let it all down and open up their hearts to the Lord by praising His Name! Talking to God like we would talk to our best friend wouldn't hurt, either; in fact, it would do us a world of good. Drop the pious phoniness and speak to God like a man for a change – and see if that helps your relationship with Him....

**CX70**

***1 I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.***

***2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.***

***3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.***

***4 Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.***

***5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.***

***6 The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.***

***7 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.***

***8 For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.***

***9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.***

***10 I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted:***

***11 I said in my haste, All men are liars.***

***12 What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?***

***13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.***

***14 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people.***

***15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.***

***16 O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.***

***17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.***

***18 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people,***

***19 In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with a thanksgiving Psalm. We have a man in distress who has called upon the Name of the Lord; and God hears this man, and has mercy upon him. It's another simple Hallel Psalm — but it is mostly a love Psalm! It speaks definitely of past sufferings of Jesus in the presence of death. This also speaks of the deliverance of the Godly remnant of the nation Israel during their time of trial and testing during the Great Tribulation period. It has a very real message for you and me — and for modern man in this present hour, too. These are the things God wants you and me to know, my friends. Only the Word of God can relieve our anxieties and dispel our doubts.

When is the last time you told the Lord that you love Him? Have you ever told God that you love Him? The most important factor of the Christian life is whether we truly love the Lord Jesus — or not. Do you love His Person? Do you love His commandments? Jesus said, “.... *If you love Me, keep My commands.*” Do you love His people? Is your relationship with Christ personal; or is it just some formality you drag around once a week? Do you have any real communication with God? Have you talked to Him today? Has He spoken back to you in His Word? Is God vital and real in your life; or is He some entity out there beyond the clouds? The world is tired of the phony and pious religious man — are you? Do you love God because He first loved you? Do you truly love Him Whom you have not seen? Jesus asked Simon Peter, “*Simon, lovest thou Me?*” Do you love the Lord because He has heard your prayer? Do you believe God knows what you are going through? Do you believe God can deliver your soul? Do you believe He will?  
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