

[The Great Pumpkin](#) is a great Halloween tract available from OneMillionTracts.com. Grab a few packs to give out to the trick-or-treaters that will be coming to your door.

Tract Text: In the movie "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown," Linus Van Pelt spends every Halloween night waiting in anticipation to see the 'Great Pumpkin.' You see, Linus believes in the 'Great Pumpkin' just like others believe in 'Santa Clause.' He believes that this 'Great Pumpkin' will rise from a pumpkin patch and give toys to all the children who have been 'good.' But, there are two problems with his belief. The first is that the 'Great Pumpkin' lives only in imagination. Linus is caught up in believing something that simply isn't true. The second problem is that none of us have been 'good.' Oh sure, we sometimes think we are good people when we compare ourselves to each other, but according to God's standard (The Ten Commandments), all of us have fallen short. Let's use the Ten Commandments to see how far we fall short: Is God first in your life? Do you love Him with "heart, mind, soul and strength?" Have you made a god to suit yourself? Have you used His name in vain? Have you always honored your parents? Have you lied (including 'fibs'), stolen (the value is irrelevant), or coveted other people's things? It doesn't take long when looking at God's commands to see that we will all be guilty on Judgment Day. God, however, doesn't want to send us to Hell. Jesus Christ suffered and died on the Cross, so we could go free. Then He rose from the grave and defeated death. That's how much God loves us. If we repent (turn away from the things we know are wrong) and trust in Him, God will forgive us and grant us everlasting life. Begin living for God today! A great way to start is by reading your Bible daily (start with the book called John) and obey what you read. God will never let you down. For more information and free resources to help you please visit: www.YouGotOurTract.com.



Questions & Objections:

This O&A comes from [The Evidence Bible](#).

O. Hell is just a metaphor for the grave.

A. There are three words translated "hell" in Scripture:

- Gehenna (Greek): The place of punishment (Matthew 5:22,29; 10:28; and James 3:6)
- Hades (Greek): The abode of the dead (Matthew 11:23; 16:18, Luke 16:23; Acts 2:27)
- Sheol (Hebrew): The grave (Psalm 9:17; 16:10)

There are those who accept that hell is a place of punishment, but believe that the punishment is to be annihilated -- to cease conscious existence. They can't conceive that the punishment of the wicked will be conscious and eternal. If they are correct, then a man like Adolph Hitler, who was responsible for the deaths of millions, is being "punished" merely with eternal sleep. His fate is simply to return to the non-existent state he was in before he was born, where he doesn't even know that he is being punished.

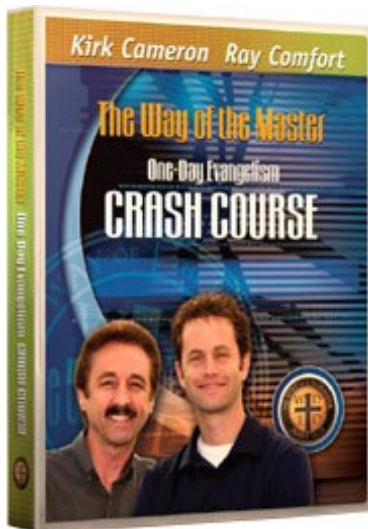
However, Scripture paints a different story. The rich man who found himself in hell (Luke 16:19–31) was conscious. He was able to feel pain, to thirst, and to experience remorse. He wasn't asleep in the grave; he was in a place of "torment." If hell is a place of knowing nothing or a reference to the grave into which we go at death, Jesus' statements about hell make no sense. He said that if your hand, foot, or eye causes you to sin, it would be better to remove it than to "go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43–48).

The Bible refers to the fate of the unsaved with such fearful words as the following:

- "Shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2)
- "Everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:46)
- "Weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 24:51)
- "Fire unquenchable" (Luke 3:17)
- "Indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish" (Romans 2:8,9)
- "Everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thessalonians 1:9)
- "Eternal fire...the blackness of darkness for ever" (Jude 7,13)

Revelation 14:10,11 tells us the final, eternal destiny of the sinner: "He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone ... the smoke of their torment ascended up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night."

One-Day Way of the Master Training:



We would be glad to host a Way of the Master evangelism training for your church or small group. This one-day seminar is a proven, effective way to help people overcome their fear of witnessing and show them how to reach out to the lost. We will quickly equip those who attend to simply and effectively share their faith with family, friends, and strangers. What makes our training unique is when the classroom training is over, you have the option to hit the streets and immediately start to use the new tools you have just learned. The seminar consists of the following activities:

- Three powerful interactive messages that will equip the attendees in how to share the gospel effectively and biblically with anyone, anytime, anywhere.

- Quick Tips on how to have fun sharing your faith while overcoming your fears.
- Quick Tips on how to effectively witness one-2-one using the Way of the Master.
- Hands-on, in-the-trenches training with proven leaders.

The One-Day Way of the Master Training is **FREE** for the host and to all who attend.

** The Way of the Master has been commended by Franklin Graham, Dr. D. James Kennedy, David Wilkerson, Bill Gothard, John MacArthur, Ravi Zacharias, David Jeremiah, Joni Eareckson Tada, Josh McDowell, and many other Christian leaders.

Weekly "Fishing" Report:

The fall Wine Stroll was being held downtown on Saturday. This is a great opportunity to pull out the pink & blue [Curved Illusion](#) tracts and offer people a "free field sobriety test." It gets some good laughs and puts the gospel message in many hands.

We also made our usual pass through Riverside Park where we picked up a few witnessing encounters. I met three young men named Kevin, Alan and Corey. Kevin said he'd been a Christian for 14 years (since the age of 5). Alan had just started going to church six months ago. Corey was an atheist and just sat off to the side listening to us. I told Kevin and Alan to imagine they died and stood before God. God asks why He should let them in to Heaven ... what would they say? Kevin answered that the blood of Jesus covered him. Alan said he "hoped" he was among those God had chosen. We then went through The Good Person Test to fit the pieces together. I told Alan that 1st John chapter 5 tells us the apostle John wrote these things that we might **know** we have eternal life. We don't have to just hope, but if we'll bow our knee in humble repentance and call out to Christ in faith we can be assured of our salvation. They shook my hand after that. Kevin said he was grateful to see us out there and that he'd pray for us.

Dave was blessed with a chance to follow up with Jim, an older gentleman he'd had a one-2-one with a couple of weeks ago. Dave says that Jim was rather closed when they first spoke, but this time around he was much more open to talk about the things of God.



My most memorable encounter that afternoon was with Fred. He was a gentleman perhaps in his early fifties sitting at a picnic table near the river and sorting through his tackle box. I used the [Curved Illusion](#) tract to break the ice and we got into some small talk. Unfortunately, I found that like sometimes happens the longer we chatted about nothing in general the harder it became to then shift over to the gospel. At one point I actually turned to break it off and leave, but Fred kept the conversation going so I stayed. A few more minutes passed by and I prayed 'God, please give me an opening to share the gospel with him.' Fred went quiet and as awkward as

it sounded I asked, "You mentioned that you'd lived here for about 15 years. Do you come from a Christian background or go to church around here?" He said his grandmother had been Mormon but his dad really wasn't anything in particular. His mom was Foursquare. He said he'd been going to Jubilation Fellowship off and on and asked what denomination it was ... Baptist, Protestant, etc. I took the opportunity to explain that Protestant meant the Christian denominations that had split off from the Roman Catholic Church and then under that umbrella you have Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Foursquare, etc. He thought about this for a second then asked, so do they all teach the same gospel? Bingo! There was my opening and the door was wide open. Praise God! He makes it so easy when He sets it up.

I sat down and told Fred I'd give him a quick "Gospel 101" then he could see how it fits together. We covered the basics of sin, righteousness, judgment and grace. His face changed and he looked almost sad. He told me he fully believed Jesus was God in the flesh. However, he wanted to know what I thought of someone who'd received Christ as his Savior, but continued to sin. I probed a bit. I could tell Fred was talking about himself, but I wanted to find out if he meant a one-time stumbling in sin or an on-going practicing of it. Fred is a truck driver and spends a lot of time on the road in the western states. He's wrestling with some of the fleshly lusts that all too often accompany such a lifestyle. We talked about the differences between horizontal repentance (man-centered regret) and vertical repentance (recognizing our sin against God).

For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. (2 Corinthians 7:10)

I pointed to the importance of understanding what happened at Calvary; looking into the mirror of the Ten Commandments and then to the cross ... back and forth as the Holy Spirit works on you and breaks your heart. When we recognize our sin for what it is -- a wicked offense against God and the very thing that put our Lord on the cross -- it loses its allure and shine. We see our lust is another strike on the nail in Christ's wrist. We went over this for a while. It was a good talk. Fred was seeking; he asked several questions and I clarified as best I could. The rest is in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

We talked a bit longer about the differences he was hearing between some programs on Christian radio. I then left him with a [Why Christianity?](#) booklet along with my card, encouraging him to call or contact me if he wanted. Please, pray for Fred and the other seed that was sown.

Jesus, may you receive the honor that You're due!

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the families of our team members this week.
- "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38, NASB)

Calendar:

- **Downtown Fishing Hole** (Recurring)
Saturdays
Street witnessing (3pm to 6pm) downtown along 6th Street. Meet in the Budget Internet parking lot (4th St & F St).

If you would like to join us, [email us](#) your contact info.

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'til the nets are full...

