

Transforming Daily
“ . . . I came to send fire on the earth . . . ”
Luke 12:49

What did Jesus mean when He said that He came to send fire on the earth? Simply put, He came to bring judgment upon sin. As a matter of fact, Calvary’s cross was and still is about that very judgment. Due to erroneous portraits of what Jesus is purported to have looked like (portraits and images that I think should be removed from association with Christianity), many people have a mental image of Jesus as some kind of soft-handed, limp wristed, wimp. Furthermore, this misperspective of who Jesus was and is lends to the idea that He was, is, and will be soft on sin. Don’t count on it. Jesus Christ was and is the second person of the Trinity!

Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. The fire to which Luke refers in his gospel is the fire of judgment on all who fail to repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as their Savior. John 3:16 declares that it cost the life of God’s dear Son to gift the repentant sinner with redemption. I guarantee, based on the authority of God’s Word (not my feelings), that God did not, does not and will not, take the wages of sin lightly.

It is true that Jesus elsewhere in this gospel (Luke 19:10) says, “. . . for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” This very declaration underscores His first advent as Savior. However, the Scriptures also records that there will be a second advent, His second coming (Revelation 19:11-16), where He is rightly and biblically portrayed as Judge.

Luke is very clear in the previous verses to 12:49 that “to whom much is given, from him much will be required” (v.48). The believer has been given eternal life through Jesus Christ, illumination into truth and righteousness through the power of the Holy Spirit, and direction from the inerrant, inspired, infallible, authoritative and complete Word of God. Therefore, we are to use everything at our disposal, prayer, God’s Word, worship, fellowship, service, ministry, etc., to exalt the Savior, edify the saints, and evangelize the unrepentant sinner, especially in light of the fact that Jesus said, “. . . I came to send fire on the earth . . . ”