



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

7/23/09

Program 94 **“Goin’ Up In Smoke”** © Allan Felder and Norman Harris

These days, it seems the world at large deems it politically incorrect to talk about hell. Having seemingly defined the character of God to fit their notion that He would neither create a place of eternal torment nor send anyone there, many choose to simply ignore what the Bible says about hell. Yet, would it surprise you to learn that the Bible contains more verses about hell than it does about heaven? Today’s song on “Cross Connection” has been described as “cautionary”. Let’s consider the lyrics, and look at what the Bible says!

The Song ¹

- Title cut from 1976 album by Eddie Kendricks
- Describes God’s plans:
 - Judgment for a sin-filled world
 - For salvation through faith in Jesus Christ



The Artist – Edward James Kendrick, a.k.a., Eddie Kendricks ¹

- American tenor singer and songwriter from Alabama; lived 1939-1992
- Noted for distinctive falsetto singing style
- Began singing with his best friend Paul Williams in their church choir in late 1940s
 - Formed doo-wop group (*The Cavaliers*) in Birmingham in '55
 - Moved to Cleveland, then to Detroit; performing as *The Primes* and *The Elgins*
- Co-founded the Motown singing group *The Temptations* in '61
 - Sang lead until 1971, on such hits as "The Way You Do The Things You Do", "Get Ready", "Just My Imagination", "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me" (with the *Supremes*)
- As a solo artist, recorded several hits during '70s, including the #1 "Keep On Truckin'"
 - Other hits include "Boogie Down" (#2), "Son of Sagittarius" (#28), "Shoeshine Boy" (#18), and "He's a Friend" (#36)
 - Also sang with David Ruffin, and Hall and Oates in the mid-1980s
- With the *Temptations*, was voted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989
- Ironically, he was a chain smoker who passed away as a result of lung cancer in 1992

Talked to my friend again today
Forty days and forty nights
It rained all over the world
To be exact [to be exact]

sinners played and disobeyed
the Word coming down,
that's a fact [that's a fact]

- Who is the “friend” mentioned here? Why?
- What event is described here?
- “...God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood..." – Genesis 6:13-14a
- Did God promise **not** to destroy the world again?
 - See 2 Peter 3:5-7

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie_Kendricks

Some people take it for a joke
they can't understand
They nailed our Saviour to the cross
But He told them all
He'd rise again, rise again!

*"...if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
– 2 Corinthians 4:3-4*

I talked to my friend again today
This is what he had to say:
You're going up in smoke
going up in smoke
going up in smoke
and we ain't got no hope
we're going up in smoke

*"I am the god of hell fire and I bring you:
Fire, I'll take you to burn.
Fire, I'll take you to learn.
I'll see you burn!"²*

*"...the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and **the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.**" – 2 Peter 3:10*



(stanza repeats)

I talked to my friend again today
don't be afraid by what I say
don't wait 'till Judgment Day
to start to pray...
stop the hey! killing now
We'll all have to go anyhow
Everyone's having tons of fun
Who's gonna take the blame?
He let His Son get close to earth
So we all go up
In bright of day
In bright of day

"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." – Hebrews 9:27-28

- What do these lyrics refer to? Why?
 - See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I talked to my friend again today
This is what he had to say:
You're going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
and we ain't got no hope
'cause we're going up in smoke!....

To say "...and we ain't got no hope" might help shape a rhyme here, but would God really tell us that?

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." -- John 3:17

You're going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
and we ain't got no hope
'cause we're going up in smoke!
Oh, I talked to my friend today....

"The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." -- Revelation 20:14-15

Everybody's having tons of fun
Who's gonna take the blame?
He let His Son come to earth
So we all go up
In bright of day
In bright of day
I talked to my friend again today
This is what he had to say:

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..." – 2 Timothy 3:1-4

² from "Fire" by *The Crazy World of Arthur Brown*, © 1968

You're going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
and we ain't got no hope
'cause we're going up in smoke!....

You're going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
and we ain't got no hope,
'cause we're going up in smoke!
I talked to my friend today....

going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
and we ain't got no hope,
'cause we're going up in smoke!

going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
and we ain't got no hope,
'cause we're going up in smoke!
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
and we ain't got no hope,
'cause we're going up in smoke!

Going, going...
Yeah, sinners played, disobeyed,
The Word coming down....

Going, ooohh, yeah...
Everyone's having tons of fun....
Who's gonna take the blame?...

Chorus: (*repeats x 5*)
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
going up in smoke,
and we ain't got no hope,
'cause we're going up in smoke!

Final Thoughts: ³



How could a God of love possibly send people to such a place as hell? ³

The ideas of *love* and *hell* seem to be opposites. Some people solve the problem by saying there is no such place as hell. Everyone, according to them, will go to Heaven - even Hitler.

But Christ taught very plainly that hell exists, that it is eternal torment and punishment, and that all who reject God's free forgiveness will have to endure it.

Do we really think that a God of love has no right to punish us for our sin?

Why can't God open Heaven to everyone?

Because He is *holy* - He is *perfect*. We, on the other hand, are full of pride, greed selfishness and callousness. We are full of back-biting, whispering, gossiping, cheating and lying; not to mention sensual deeds and thoughts. He hates sin and will never tolerate or co-exist with it.

If Heaven were to be opened to us without our having to repent and be converted, then it would immediately cease to be Heaven.

The pain of the nails through His hands and feet was nothing by comparison with the weight of agony and torment He felt in His soul, as God the Father placed upon Him the punishment due to all those who would one day be forgiven.

When we ask, 'How can a God of love send people to hell?' we must never forget that God's amazing, unfathomable love is shown in the lengths to which He was prepared to go to deliver us from the just punishment of our sin. Jesus died for you. Will you recognize your sinful condition, ask Him for forgiveness, and accept the price He paid for you?

* * * * *

³ <http://www.freedomministries.org.uk/masters/hell.shtml>