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## THE FIRE THAT CONSUMES

### A BIBLICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE DOCTRINE OF FINAL PUNISHMENT

Around the world today, evangelical Bible scholars are giving hell a serious second look. Would the God who gave his Son to die for sinners finally keep billions of them alive forever to torment them without end? Does Holy Scripture require such a conclusion—or offer a different vision? The story of how the great majority of Christians came to teach unending conscious torment is as fascinating as any mystery or “Who-done-it.” In this lecture, Edward will identify scores of generally-overlooked Scriptures, then lead a tour through some paths of church history that are less well travelled, and which are haunted by pagan philosophy, medieval law and Reformation politics.

One match that helped ignite the current debate about hell was Edward’s book, *The Fire That Consumes*, first published in 1982, with a foreword by the respected New Testament commentator F. F. Bruce. A revised and updated third edition (June 2011) has a foreword by Professor Richard Bauckham of the University of Cambridge.

Edward William Fudge is an evangelical Christian theologian, assigned the joyful task of talking about Jesus and explaining the Bible in churches, schools and other venues across Christendom and around the world. The author of more than twenty books, with articles published in leading Christian journals, Edward also writes *gracEmail*, an internet column now in its fifteenth year. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in biblical languages, and a doctorate in jurisprudence, Edward also practiced law full time for more than two decades, primarily with the Lanier Law Firm. He and his wife Sara Faye have been married 44 years, have two children and five grandchildren, and live in Katy, Texas.

