

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Christ - A Covert From The Tempest

Introduction

Two of the most frightening things on earth are a sudden unexpected continuous loud noise and absolute silence. Another circumstance which is very unnerving is to know that something is going to happen to the individual but not know what it is. For instance, if the reader was told that tomorrow at 3:05 PM something is going to happen you and I cannot tell you what it is? How would the individual feel as the time drew near?

- a) That is exactly what happens in Revelation 10:4. To these people the gospel of salvation will have been clearly presented and then there are seven great thunders, an ongoing frightening ominous sound, then the most frightening things happen. John is about to write what happens under the thunders but God forbid him to write. All that was revealed is there was pitch darkness. Whatever they indicate will be an unknown and uncontrollable by humanity.

The Storm of Isaiah

In Isaiah God expresses a word which sounds like a bell tolling or the muffled beating of a somber funeral dirge. This word is used in 1 Kgs. 13:20 of a mourning at a death.

- a) In Isaiah the word “Woe, Woe, Woe”, occurs twenty one times. It is like a flashing red light on a dark road warning “Stop”, consider, move cautiously, danger is ahead!
- b) This is the cry of the heart of the God of love, deeply wailing because of “His love spurned,” giving unspeakable sorrow due to man’s unwillingness to listen to God and obey and escape the judgment that could have been avoided. However, the people of Israel did not obey and judgment came on them in the loss of their freedom, their land, and blessings from God.

God’s Warning Specified and Applied To Us

First warning and the sin being committed.

Isaiah 28:1 - Woe to them for their drunkenness of self sufficiency.

- a) Years ago Frank Sinatra and Elvis sang a song entitled, “I’ll do it my way”. When it comes to salvation and the condemnation of humanity, because of their sins or crimes against God, all are guilty criminals. God’s righteous judgment says, “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Rom. 3:19). Individuals may go to church, say beads, do the best they can in helping others, even hold a position in the church, they are doing works in the hope of pleasing God. But the Lord said, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he

hath sent (Jn. 6:29). Either Jesus is a liar or the individual who rejects His salvation through Christ alone is defying God to His face and calling God a liar. By adding their works to the work of Christ they are doing the same as Israel, being self sufficient and being like the song of Frank and Elvis.

- b) Self sufficiency is a declaration that I have no reason to be thankful to God for salvation, I will get to Heaven by my works, God will be satisfied with my good and serious endeavours. However, for salvation the individual must learn what it is to be dependent on God and Christ.
 - i) Our backgrounds make us ungrateful to God. We get baptized, confirmed, go to church etc., and taking the free gift of God is so against our nature for to believe means to put dependence on God. Man's 100% independence on God must bow in 100% dependency on God and His salvation. To believe is illustrated by John Patton who was a missionary to the New Hebrides. When it came to translating of the scriptures, he learnt that the word "believe" was translatable by the expression "to lean ones whole weight upon". That is how an individual can be assured they will never go to Hell and will be in Heaven for eternity. They lean all their security for eternity on Christ alone.

Second warning and the sin committed

Isaiah 29:1 - Woe to them because of their formal dead religiosity.

- a) Humanity loves ceremony whither it is a wedding, graduation or religious ceremony. Religious ceremonies can be very delightful to man, the fragrance of the incense, the beauty of the robes and pageantry, the delightfulness of the singing and chanting. However, the scriptures inform us, "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7). What then does God see in all the fragrance, beautiful robes and high chanting as? He declares they are dead works (Heb. 9:14). In other words, they are lifeless activities, they can not give everlasting life or support that life in any way. They are living a dead formal religion.

Third warning and the sin committed

Isaiah 29.15 Woe to them because they think they can hide that which they do from God.

- a) Because of sin man's understanding of God is dreadfully deficient. He thinks that God is like himself, that He forgets things or cannot see what man is doing. How foolish for the God of the Scriptures knows every move an individual makes, every thought of every mind and every word said. He is omnipresent and all knowing therefore, He knows everything about everyone at all times, in all places irrespective of language or culture (Psa. 139:1-12).

God's Remedy For My Sin

Having shown to humanity that rejecting God's warnings always results in judgment from God. However, He also tells of a glorious way of escape and He offers it as a free gift, in other words, like any gift it is just a matter of acceptance. In unmistakable language God says, "And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land" (Isa. 32:2). This is the core of the Psalmist rejoicing when he said, "Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah" (Psa. 32:7) and "Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word" (Psa. 119:114).

- a) Christ alone is the shelter from the storm of God's judgment in Hell. God has caused to be written so that its truth is unchangeable, "There is ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5). Let there be no mistake, it is not "there is one mediator, Christ and my works". In Isaiah it is not "a man doing good works sincerely that are the hiding place." It is 100% dependance on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) He is the hiding place, the covering, by His work on the cross.
 - i) For Christ to be that covering, my escape from the tempest of God's wrath, then it necessitated Him becoming the bearer of the tempest. On the cross at Calvary God looked upon Christ as me, and all that I deserve in being forsaken by Him for all eternity. He bore that punishment. **He** was forsaken by God, **He** endured the chastisement that was my due. The tempest of God's executing of judgment that righteously would have come on me, **He** bore my sins penalty.
- b) How secure is Christ as my protection from the wrath to come?
 - i) God is very understanding for He gives me wonderful assurances:
 1. The question is asked, "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth?" (Rom. 8:33). For the individual depending on Christ alone for salvation, there is nothing now to charge the individual with. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up

for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? (Rom. 8:32). My criminal record is completely cleared.

2. "Who is he that condemneth? Because in Greek there is no "it is" rather it is an answer of astonishment. "Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Rom. 8:34). Since Christ bore all our sins and condemnation He now says to us, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).
3. Can an individual ever lose that covering? "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:35-39).

[The Big Question](#)

Can I accept or reject that covering? Yes! I have a free will and no one will ever be in Heaven against their own will and all those in Hell will be according to their own will. The decision is the individual's. Will I accept God's covering or die in my sins saying, "I tried it my way" and it failed, and I will eternally reap the fury of God's wrath?

. . . . *Rowan Jennings*



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