

God's warnings are spoken to every generation. How will you respond?

August 17, 2014

From the beginning of time, God has spoken words of warning to his creation, mankind. He sent prophets, teachers, judges, and his servants wrote the Scriptures under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Yet each generation rebels, rejects, sets aside and refuses to heed the warnings that are clearly spelled out in the Holy Scriptures. There are consequences for rebelling against the laws of nature and there are eternal consequences for rejecting and ignoring the warnings that God has placed within the Old and New Testament. If you read the Bible, you will gain knowledge of the consequences of those who refused to follow the commandments that God laid out for his people. Some people were shown mercy and found a place of repentance while others suffered the wrath of God and death resulted as a consequence of the action.

In the book of Deuteronomy chapter 11, God spoke through Moses exhorting the people to obey his commandments. He reminded them that their eyes had seen all the great acts of the LORD which he did. (See verse 7) He told the people that God had not given the land of Egypt to them, but he had something better in mind for them. He had wanted them to enjoy hills and valleys and a fertile land that was watered from water from heaven. It was a land that the Lord cared about and his eyes are always on it from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. He promised that if the people would love the Lord with all ~~their hearts and serve him with all their souls, He would ensure that their crops would~~ yield plentifully and there would be grass for their cattle and they would always have enough. He then gives a warning "Take heed to yourselves that your heart is not deceived and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them." This will bring a curse on you rather than a blessing. To protect their hearts, they were to put God's words in their hearts and souls and to teach them to their children from morning to the evening hours. They were to write them on the doorposts of their houses so they would be protected from the enemy of their souls. God would go before them and drive out the enemies that inhabited the land that God had purposed to give to his people. There was a condition given that had to be met before they would enjoy the fullness of the promises of God. Sadly, they didn't heed the warnings; they didn't protect their relationship with God and the curses that they were warned about, came down upon them and they still suffer the consequences of them even to this day.

In James 4: 7, James has just discussed how that people follow their own lustful desires and that those who build their friendships with the world are enemies of God. (Verse 4). It goes on to say that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. In verse 7 it reads like this: Submit yourselves therefore to God; resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. He exhorts people to look at their own hearts and turn to God in repentance. Humble yourselves in the sight of God and he will lift you up. Turn back to James 1:21-27 for it tells us that we need to be doers of the

word and not just hearers of it. It isn't enough to be able to quote Scriptures; it must be applied to our hearts. I enjoy reading cook books and finding out new ways of preparing food. But if I spend all my time reading the books and gaining knowledge, but I don't apply any of the preparation to food to nourish my body, it isn't going to do me any good. I'm going to starve to death. Those who hear the word but don't apply it to their lives, are like the man who looks at his natural face in the mirror and though he sees himself, he goes on his merry way and forgets all that he just saw. The unkempt look, the dirt on his face, teeth that need to be brushed; it is all put behind him as he goes about his business. In verse 25, it says that a person who hears the word and looks into the perfect law of liberty and follows through in obedience, that man will be blessed in his deeds. A man who seems religious, but doesn't control what comes out of his mouth, is deceiving himself though he may appear to be religious. That man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

James says that we are not to think that God tempts us for He cannot be tempted with evil and He doesn't tempt anyone with evil. We are tempted when we are drawn away and enticed by our own desires. See James 1:13. If you don't resist the temptation, you will find ways to justify your actions as you partake of the sin that glitters so brightly before your eyes. That will plant a seed in your heart and after it has conceived, it brings forth sin and sin when it is finished brings forth death. Do not be deceived! With every temptation God makes a way of escape! 1 Corinthians 10:13. Paul writes Flee from idolatry! In Timothy 2:22, it says Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

If you read the account of Joseph who was a servant in Potiphar's house, you will find that Joseph determined in his heart not to offend the God of his father. In verse 7 of Genesis chapter 39, Joseph had it pretty good under this wealthy man's care. God blessed Potiphar because of his kindness to Joseph and God prospered him. However, in verse 7, there is a glitch in the perfect surroundings that Joseph was immersed in; the wife of his master decided that he was fair game for her. She blatantly asked him to lie with her. Joseph refused and told her that everything that Potiphar owned was given to him to take care of except his wife. He would not dishonor the responsibility that had been entrusted to him by his master and neither would he do this great wickedness and sin against God. (See verse 9) Joseph avoided her whenever he could but she pressed upon him day after day. One day he went into the house and none of the other men were present and she grabbed him by his clothing and again tried to seduce him to lie with her. Joseph left his coat and fled from the house. She lied about Joseph and he was thrown into prison, but God watched over him and there came a day that he was elevated as ruler over the land next to Pharaoh. His godly character was vindicated by God and God used him to bless all of Egypt with food during a famine and to save Jacob's family from starvation.