

Proclaiming the Gospel

Message
of
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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If The Footmen Have Wearied Thee . . .

Jeremiah states clearly what most of us think – and some of us say!

Righteous *[art]* thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of *[thy]* judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? *[wherefore]* are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou *[art]* near in their mouth, and far from their reins (Jer 12.1, 2).

Jeremiah is venting as we do many times. Jeremiah is telling the Lord God what he thinks about the inequities of life, how the wicked seem to flourish while those endeavoring to live for the Lord Jesus Christ flounder, many times. He is also telling the Lord how he perceives the judgments of God. There are times those living for the Lord Jesus Christ, such as Paul and Silas and many others all through history, are imprisoned for living for Jesus Christ – while the wicked go free. However, we see in this passage that Jeremiah recognized that the Lord is God, that He is righteous.

How many times have you stood in Jeremiah's shoes seeing what Jeremiah saw? How many times have you been angry with God because of the *seeming* inequities? How many of you have walked away from the Lord God in Christ Jesus because of what you perceived as injustice towards you by someone – or by God?

The people of God in Christ Jesus are often ill-treated, threatened, imprisoned, stoned to death . . . Look at Stephen who preached powerfully the Word of the Lord – and was stoned to death for the Truth of the Lord being preached (Acts 6; 7). Look at Peter in Acts Two who preached powerfully – and was crucified, as history tells us. Reflect on the many who have been falsely accused – such as the prophets of the Old Testament, the disciples and the apostles of the New Testament, and the followers of Jesus Christ of Nazareth all through history. Have you not read in the Bible that it rains on the just and the unjust?

Look at Jeremiah 12. When the children of Israel were delivered out of Egypt, do you think it was only the ones whose hearts were longing to follow the Lord Jesus Christ that left Egypt? No. Those whose lives were not stayed upon the Lord God also left with those who loved the Lord. They wanted to leave to escape the rigors of bondage in Egypt. Remember? However, those whose hearts were set against obeying the Lord were not allowed to enter the Promised Land, nor were those who caused the Israelites to murmur against the Lord and walk in disobedience allowed to enter the Promised Land. Some of them were even destroyed by the Lord. Read Exodus 32; Numbers 14.20-45; and Chapter 16. God knows who is not walking with Him.

their mouths while they acknowledged who their *real* god was by the life lived. He came to know that the Lord God Almighty was not in their hearts; their lives were not lived for Him (Jer 12.2). They loved **not** the Lord God.

Jeremiah realized that the judgment of the Lord God was upon the just and the unjust – as well as the rain, the blessings on this earth. He realized that God's judgments are true and righteous. Judgment day will bring each one before the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Christ and will bring us to our eternal home according to our relationship with Jesus Christ while on this earth.

Let us go forward with the Lord that we might take up our cross and follow Jesus Christ all *The Way*, walking the *Via Dolorosa* all the way with joy and gladness of heart, with the strength of the Lord flowing in us and through us for His glory.

Let us **decide now** – not to let the "Footmen" weary us.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Jeremiah prophesied to those who did go to the Promised Land, but, who many years later began walking in disobedience to the Lord God. Jeremiah wrote, “Thou hast planted them . . .” They were indeed planted in the land of Canaan, the Promised Land, as were those whose hearts were fixed upon the Lord. They enjoyed the goodness of the land. Jeremiah also wrote “...they have taken root...” Yes, what they did prospered.

How many do you see today whose lives *seemingly* prosper? How many *seemingly* have so much? You look around and see all the amenities of this world enjoyed by those whose hearts do not belong to the Lord; then, you look at what you do not have. You look down. Your heart becomes accusing as was Jeremiah’s: “Why, Lord, when I am trying to live for You, is there such inequity?”

Yes, they have been planted, and they have taken root, it *seems*; but what they plant is of this world. Their hearts are stayed on this world and all that is in it. They are established in the things of this world, the ways of Satan.

You continue watching them and notice that “...they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit...” Note that their fruit is not of the Lord. It is not the righteousness of Christ that is seen. But, you say, “They are ‘church’ leaders; they prosper in all they do in the ‘churches’ and in the world, in their business endeavors.” Yes, they may possess riches, but it is the riches of the world, the life to which Satan leads them. They are not growing in the grace of the Lord nor are they seeking to walk in the holiness of the Lord God – to which He calls His people (Lev 20.7; I P 1.15, 16).

Contrary to the word of those hiding behind the pulpit while standing on a pulpitum (stage), prosperity of which is spoken in the “churches” and outside the “churches” is not righteousness; it is not holiness unto the Lord. The fruit that they bring forth is not “meet for repentance” as written in Matthew 3.8. Those whose hearts are fixed upon the Lord Jesus Christ will hear the call to turn from the worldly ways and make that one hundred eighty degree turn; they will turn to the Lord Jesus Christ seeking Him and His holiness.

Yes, someone whose heart longs for more and more of the Lord also may prosper in this world, but not be **of** the world. They will seek what it is that the Lord wants of them realizing that the fruit brought forth from their prosperity, as well as all they have, belongs to the Lord; all they have is to be used as He directs – even to the giving away all they have to the poor – if that is the Lord’s will (Mk 10.17-31).

We live in a time when the majority has become the standard – even in the “churches.” We wrote a *Message* January, 2013, entitled, “Can So Many Be So Wrong?” We have been, especially in latter years, taught to look around and see how others are living their lives, to look at their standards – not caring if they know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Just look and see how they are living and emulate them, we are told. It is all good. It is about you!

Hear this well. They are not our standard nor is the leadership of this world. The Bible says in Matthew 6.31-33,

... take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or,
Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
... for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

How we have been wearied by Satan and his apostles, deceitful workers and ministers (II Cor 11.13-14)! We have experienced the spurning by those who seem to have followings in “churches” and are praised. They speak forth a word that sounds so good, and all falls into place for them. And, yet, remember in the Word of the Lord how often the children of Israel spurned the Lord God, walked in their own willful ways, following those who were prospering in their ways, the ways of the world – instead of walking in obedience to the Lord God. All suffered as God’s chastisement was upon the nation when the nation chose to walk in their sinful ways, when the nation chose to seek the ways of Satan – and called it good (Isa 5.20).

Those who were servants of the most High God, the Lord God Almighty, had made a turn in their lives and failed to hear the prophets of the Lord God that had remained faithful. Even the people followed the false pastors, the false shepherds, the false prophets. The “leaders” were speaking forth lies, lies that the people wanted to hear. The “leaders” were one with the people. But the Lord God has a hard word for those who walk away from Him, leading the people to hell. The nation fell! How like that are we today! (Read Jeremiah 21; 23; 26; 27; 28 – the whole Book of Jeremiah.)

How many are willing to take a stand, to stand with the Word of the Lord, and walk with the Lord in the midst of such grave sinfulness all around us? We are many times inundated with the voice of the world; we are wearied by the power of those walking with the world, following the worldly ways, to include the worldly “churches.”

How often do we think, “I must be wrong. I must be misreading the Word of the Lord for even my friends and family are following the majority.” I hear them say, “We might as well follow; what can we do to change the situation?”

Now, **the “Footmen”** (Jer 12.5):

If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and [if] in the land of peace, [wherein] thou trustedst, [they wearied thee], then how wilt thou do in the **swelling of Jordan?**

Jeremiah saw the sin in the lives of the people and how they were prospering though not living for the Lord. But the Lord speaks to Jeremiah as He is speaking to us in verse five above.

When we allow the smaller darts hurled at us to take us down, to take from us our life in Christ Jesus, how are we going to contend with the “**Horses**” that come our way endeavoring to discourage us?

If the “Footmen” weary us while we are living in a land where we still have, to some extent, religious freedom, how are we going to do when we, like the children of Israel, are carried off to “Babylon”? **If** living in a land where we, at one time, experienced the nation following Jesus Christ, we are wearied by the straying, the new thoughts and teachings that are not of Jesus Christ, how will we do in the time of persecution as our brothers and sisters have in many countries today and all through history? How will we do in the “Swelling of Jordan”?

Jeremiah realized, Ah! “thou art near in their mouth, and far from their reins.” As they came against Jeremiah so harshly, and he was placed in a pit where he could have died because of his speaking forth the Truth of God in Christ Jesus, Jeremiah remained faithful to the Lord God of Israel. He realized that they said the name of God out of