



Mighty in the Word

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

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

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. XIX.11

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:
For if God spared not the natural branches, *[take heed]* lest he also spare not thee (Rom 11.20, 21).

This is a strong word, for someone said to me yesterday, "'he' cannot help everyone. 'He' does not help everyone, just look at the world and all the hurt in it. Why does 'he' not stop people from getting hurt?"

I responded that when a person lives in sin, their sin is on them as Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary that they might be forgiven; HOWEVER, they cannot continue in sin. They must turn their lives over to the Lord, and TAKE HEED.

And know that Satan fights the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ through his cunning ways that appear goodly, and for the good of the Lord's people. And, the Word tells us that the followers of the Lord will suffer persecution for their love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

TAKE HEED of the "false Christ's, false prophets, false doctrines, false pastors.

Take Heed to Yourselves!

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Take Heed to Yourselves

We live in a day in which many false Christ's have risen, and are standing on pulpits with great numbers of followers - because few there be that know the Word of God, the living Word - Jesus Christ, and the written Word, the Holy Bible. People have become good followers of those who hand out *candy*, who are like the Pharisees in their garments, who are like those who went against Moses in the desert. Oh, they wanted to leave Egypt, but when life was challenging, they turned against Moses. And, the Lord would not have it. Read Numbers 16 to see the wrath of the Lord God against those going against His chosen vessel, Moses.

There was a book written many years ago about the *dumbing down* in this nation in the schools and life, itself. I have often said that ignorance, folly, witlessness (*see Webster's 1828 Dictionary*) makes for good followers, who are open to false praise of their ability, thinking they are a leader when being used to accomplish evil for the enemy. They are easily deceived as they walk in ignorance believing they are a great leader in their little group.

There are many passages in the Bible giving forth "Take heed," lest you be deceived. I recall many, many years ago when in an institution of *higher learning* where it was accepted to use incorrect language to the point of believing a light bulb was an airplane. Today many words are used inappropriately and incorrectly and taught.

My point is how can a person in any position, whether on the pulpit or in the assembly, for example, know the Word of God when they are lacking in understanding the correct usage of the language! It is as it was many, many years ago when I uninvitedly attended a layman's meeting on the Bible. I asked why were they using different versions, not caring about the incorrect wording when placed against the original language, and heard said that all that is important is what **you** think a verse says. Whatever it says to you is what it says.

Does this not align with the usage of a pulpit, doing away with what it means to stand behind the pulpit proclaiming the Word of the Lord, "**Thus saith the Lord,**" speaking forth the Truth of the Lord God that people can go forward in Him, walking in obedience to the Lord God, living for Him a life of holiness, desiring more and more of the Lord Jesus?

Oh, "Take heed that ye be not deceived." The Lord made it clear, "**Many** shall come in My Name . . ." How many do so even in a local area. But many do so over the plastic that is used today; and people are deceived and like what they hear because it tickles their ears. What is given today does not touch the lives of people and the sin that doth so easily beset us (Heb 12.1, 2).

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *[is]* Christ, or there; believe *[it]* not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *[it were]* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *[he is]* in the secret chambers; believe *[it]* not (Mt 24.23-26).

"Take heed" is in the Old Testament twenty-nine times, and twenty-six times in the New Testament.

And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am *[Christ]*; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end *[is]* not by and by. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end *[is]* not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute *[you]*, delivering *[you]* up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony (Lk 21.8-13).

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, **and** to stand before the Son of man (Lk 21.36).

Hear the word to Timothy by Paul.

I charge *[thee]* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *[their]* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (II Ti 4.1-4).

The Lord is clear in His Word to us to "Take Heed," but also He is clear in what we need to be doing. We need to be in the Word of God that we might know His Word, and what it is that He demands of us as a follower of His. He tells us in His Word:

And he said to *[them]* all, If any *[man]* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me (Lk 9.23).

We are to take heed of the false Christs, to the many voices crying for our attention, deceiving all who will give ear to them. But the Lord makes it clear that we are to take heed and turn away from any that are not of the Lord Jesus Christ,

and we are to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our lives. St. Francis of Assisi of the twelfth century, "Preach always, and, if necessary, use words."

We need to understand that we are to daily take heed of the enemy who comes to us dressed in sheep's clothing, using the "church-goers" and those standing on the pulpitum - anyone who will listen to him. So, we must put on the full armor of God (Eph 6), that we might be ready for the warfare that lies before us daily, and be not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Rom 1.15, 16).

Many say nothing is going to happen to them, and all is okay. But when I look through the centuries of God's faithful, many, many were persecuted even in our century. Oh, many have suffered horrendously for the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, the Lord strengthened them for the journey that lay before them, but, oh! How they suffered for the Lord.

I have heard people respond to the above comments with, "I have God. Nothing is going to happen to me." Some have said, "You just need faith; God is not going to let anything happen to His people." When I mention what our brothers and sisters all through the centuries have experience for their love for the Lord, their response is, "Oh, you always bring up persecution when talking about faith that will not let things happen to you." In their minds persecution does not exist, and they believe they are above anything happening to them.

Oh, this is shallow. Do we not believe Christ was crucified for our sins, that He died, and that He arose from the dead - for our salvation? Let us be careful that we understand the Holy Word, that we ask of the Lord to reveal to us what He has for us - that we not make light of the Living Word as well as the written Word.

Take Heed, the Word says. Take heed of the false Christs, the false prophets, the false pastors, the false shepherds - and the false word that they proclaim that they might exalt themselves and make you feel that you are above the Truth, the true Word, the Holy Bible.

Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees (Mt 16.6).

The false teachings are *running* rampant today as they always have. For some reason, people seem to run to the *leaven of the Pharisees*, instead of the Truth, the Truth of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus and His Holy Word.

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *[yourselves]*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in (Mt 23.13).

Is this not what the enemy is doing today as in days of yore? Is this not what the followers of the enemy, of Satan, the devil, is doing today in this nation, as well as other nations, and in the "churches"? Re-read the above verse with your heart and seek the Lord that you might not follow that broad road that leads to destruction.