

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.

YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

OAK HILL ■ 2115 GRAEFENBURG ROAD ■ LAWRENCEBURG, KENTUCKY 40342

JANUARY 7, 2005

GOD'S JUDGMENT

As I begin this message, I am compelled to remind you that our GOD is love, and that He demands we love one another.

"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." (1st John 4:8)

I am fully persuaded that everything that FATHER does in relation to His sons and daughters is motivated by His love for them. Our FATHER desires to bless us, not punish us. FATHER desires only good for us and never evil. He desires that we prosper in all things and that we enjoy good health. Listen -

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers." (3 John 2)

FATHER'S written record is clear. His love for us has been established from the beginning, and that love will prevail until the very last day. Nothing can separate FATHER from His sons and daughters – Nothing!

"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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 8:38 & 39)

All any reasonable man need do to convince himself of God's love for man, is to look at God, in the form of man, hanging as so much butchered flesh, on a crude wooden cross. We cannot imagine the suffering and pain that our Lord went through, simply because He loved us. Love was His motivation as He suffered and died for you and for me.

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you." (John 15: 13 & 14)

Yes, saints, there is no question about FATHER'S love for His people and His desire to bless them and to care for them. Neither is there any question about FATHER'S desire that all men be saved.

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

(1st Timothy 2: 3 & 4)

We can be assured that whenever GOD sends His judgment upon His people, it is out of His love for them, and is for their own well being. God's judgment is designed to turn His people back to Him in meek humility. His judgment is designed to cause those who can hear, to repent, and to turn from their wicked ways. His judgment is designed to cause the hearts of His people to turn toward righteousness. His judgment leads His people back to Him, alone, as their Lord and their God. It is the judgment of God that turns the heart of man back to Him. I thank God for His judgment because apart from that judgment the population of Hell would swell even further with the souls of those who followed the dictates of their own hearts. Yes, saints, thank GOD that He loves us enough to apply the measure of discipline that He knows to be in our best interest. Without His judgment there will be no turning of the heart of man toward righteousness in any significant numbers. I know this to be true because FATHER has so declared it! Listen –

**"For when Your judgments are in the earth,
The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**

**Let grace be shown to the wicked,
Yet he will not learn righteousness;
In the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly,
And will not behold the majesty of the Lord."**

(Isaiah 26: 9-11)

Today, the Church is dominated by those who believe that GOD'S grace excuses us from His judgment. No longer do we fear GOD. No longer do we tremble at His word. No longer do we judge ourselves as believers. We are taught to never judge others in what we call the Church. Oh, the deception in these days in which we live. Those who would tell us to not judge the Church ignore the entire fifth chapter of 1st Corinthians where Paul warns us to not only judge the Church, but to purge the evil therein. Read it for yourselves and then decide whom you will believe – GOD or some deceived man.

When GOD'S people fail to judge themselves they soon allow corruption to infect the entire body. The signs of corruption are, at first, unnoticed, and then, ignored. The first sign of trouble is the loss of fear when it pertains to GOD. Secondly, there is the failure to tremble before the words GOD has spoken to His people. Thirdly, religious pride sets in and man's heart becomes convinced he is OK, and that he knows the truth. From that point on, things only become worse. The decline continues year after year and, in some cases, from one generation to another. As this process continues, GOD withdraws His power and allows man to continue on in his form until He says "*enough*"! While I believe that FATHER does not desire to judge us or to punish us any more than we would enjoy punishing one of our own children, nevertheless, He must. If He does not punish, the leaven of corruption would eventually corrupt the entire body, regardless of how correct our theology may be – regardless of how good our praise and worship may be – regardless of our use of the name of JESUS, or our confession of His lordship in our lives. Leaven is leaven. Left alone it will eventually destroy the entire fellowship just as one single cancer cell left alone, and with enough time, will kill the body.

**"Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?
Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump,
since you truly are unleavened." (1st Corinthians 5: 6 & 7)**

Today, only the intellectually dishonest or spiritually blind Christians would believe that the Christian Church in America is healthy or that it represents the fullness of the body of Christ. For years, I have been sounding the alarm about the decline of the American Church, and I have been warning believers of what was to come. Mine is but one small voice among many others whom FATHER has been using to warn His people, in the hope that they would hear and turn from their wicked ways. (Psalm fifty, verses 16 & 17 defines the wicked as those who ignore His word.) As in past generations, we have become very stiff-necked and spiritually stubborn. Also, we have allowed into our leadership, those who fail to uncover the iniquity of GOD'S people, allowing the leaven of corruption to spread throughout the body. We have become a people who now peddle the gospel of JESUS CHRIST before the entire world, sounding more like carnival barkers and snake oil salesmen, than of the voice of holiness and righteousness. "*Name it and claim it*" is in, while repentance, meekness, and humility are out. Those who claim to be Christians and claim to be followers of Christ have brought more shame and reproach on His name than any generation before them. We talk a lot about family values while we live lives which deny GOD'S command to pursue holiness (see Ephesians 1: 4, – 1st Peter 1:16, Hebrews 12:14). If ever a generation needed our FATHER to apply His discipline and to put His house in order, it is ours. That much-needed discipline in the form of judgment is now upon us.

"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God? Now – if the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1st Peter 4: 17 & 18)

The judgment of God must begin with us first in these last days simply because a holy GOD must set an example for the unbelieving world. God cannot judge an unbeliever and punish him for sin while He allows His own people to escape scott-free for "unconfessed" sin. He cannot! To do so would deny His perfect justice and the whole of who He is.

**"Now therefore, let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes. "
(2nd Chronicles 19:7)**

"Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality." (Acts 10:34)

"For there is no partiality with God." (Romans 2:11)

**"And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;"
(1st Peter 1:17)**

The record is clear. Do not be deceived. GOD shows no partiality concerning His judgment – none whatsoever! He judges His people first and then everyone else. Just because we may not be experiencing judgment at the moment, be assured that it is on its way. Please remember that God desires to bless us rather than to punish us (see Jeremiah 29:11). He will delay His judgment so long as is possible because He is the GOD who is long suffering and exceedingly patient, desiring that we only repent and turn from our wickedness.

"Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" (Romans 2:4)

For those who would say that we are not wicked, but rather sons and daughters of God, in whom He is well pleased – to you I would say: Our opinion of ourselves means nothing if it is not the same opinion God has. His opinion is expressed clearly through His word. I have examined His opinion and it causes me to tremble before His word. I have examined His opinion and I cry out "*Oh God, have mercy on me – have mercy*". I have examined His opinion and found that we have brought open shame on His name that we so proudly proclaim. I have examined His opinion and found that we are now ripe for His corrective judgment. That judgment is on its way. Our God is about to strike a holy fear into the hearts of His people. Once again, He is about to demonstrate that His word is absolute and not subject to debate.

Dear brothers and sisters, when God's people lose their fear of Him, they lose their safety nets which protect them from His judgment. We are now living as a generation of believers who have, for the most part, lost all fear of God. That loss is clearly demonstrated in the leadership of what we call the Church. We have become a people full of religion and religious pride, void of all fear of the God who struck fear into the hearts of John, Moses, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel, Isaiah, Paul, and so many of our forefathers. Do we worship and serve the same God these men worshipped and served? If so, why is our response to our God so different today? Why? Is it possible Lucifer disguised himself in what appeared as light (2nd Corinthians 11:14), cloaked himself as love with his lying signs and wonders (Matthew 24:24), and entered into the camp to spread his message of love so loudly that it drowned out God's message of fear?

Saints of God, please listen to me. The greatest commandment from FATHER is to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. When we fulfill this commandment, we will obey God, rather than man. Out of that love for FATHER, all else He desires of us will be fulfilled. As our love for Him grows, He reveals more and more of Himself to us. As our revelation of Him increases, our fear of Him also increases, along with our obedience to His every command. We begin to take on the characteristics of the "*blessed*" as outlined by our Lord in Matthew 5: 3 – 12. So, "*love*" is the key to our spiritual maturity; not love as it is presently taught in most Christian circles, but rather the love of God above all else. You cannot receive revelation knowledge of Him unless you love Him. You cannot love Him without having a hearts desire to obey Him, and you cannot love Him, know Him and obey Him without fearing Him.

Spiritual maturity is clearly a process. That process cannot be completed apart from God's word (Matthew 4:4). It is worth noting that God has a great deal more to say through His word about fearing Him than about love, as man understands love. Think about it. Even pagans love their own as do the animals. The message of love apart from the love of God

sounds good. It seems to agree with scripture and it certainly appeals to our flesh. After all, who among us does not want to be loved, but is it from God? I would suggest that the love that FATHER desires we have toward our brothers and sisters in the Church, as well as our neighbors, is the direct result and outgrowth of our love for Him. That love is impossible for any of us to receive or to walk in, except for the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. All other love is designed to deceive us and to cause us to turn away from a holy God. Lucifer will always shout down the call to fear God with his message of love – love – love. The enemy will bankrupt Hell to keep God's people from fearing Him because he knows that fearing God causes Him to draw near to His son or daughter. Listen –

"Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. He himself shall dwell in prosperity (goodness), and his descendants shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant." (Psalm 25: 12-14)

David fully understood the importance of fearing God and the blessing that resulted from so doing. Is it any wonder the modern day Church is approaching spiritual bankruptcy after losing the fear of God that King David had? Is it any wonder that our nation and world are in such moral decline and in a spiritual freefall toward self-destruction as we ignore God's word to fear Him? Listen to our God –

"Gather the people to ME, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear ME all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children." (Deuteronomy 4:10)

"Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him." (Psalm 33:8)

Is it any wonder that there is so little Godly wisdom today when the fear of God results in wisdom and the lack of such fear deprives us of FATHER'S wisdom? Listen –

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments." (Psalm 111:10)

To fear and obey God from a heart that loves Him are the qualities one needs to avoid His corrective judgment. When we neglect our FATHER'S instruction as it relates to fearing and obeying Him, we end up right where we are today – a people split and divided asunder with little if any love for anyone other than our own – a people with lots of religious form, but virtually no power – a people who love pleasure more than God – a people who praise and worship God with our lips, while our hearts are far from Him – a people who judge not themselves and allow sin and corruption to spread throughout the body, bringing shame and reproach on our God's holy name. We do all this without shedding so much as a tear. Are these the qualities of a people that love God with all their hearts, minds and souls? Are they? Let's listen to our Lord –

"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15: 8 & 9)

Dear saints, please do not be deceived. Our Lord's words in Matthew, chapter fifteen, apply to us today the same as they did on the day He spoke them in Jerusalem. Only fools would think otherwise, and in so doing, invite God's judgment on themselves.

"I the Lord have spoken it; It shall come to pass, and I will do it; I will not hold back, nor will I spare, nor will I relent; according to your ways and according to your deeds They will judge you, says the Lord God." (Ezekiel 24:14)

God also spoke to His people through His prophet, Jeremiah, and those words apply to His people, today – Listen

"This is what I commanded them saying, Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you." (Jeremiah 7:23)

During Jeremiah's day, God's people failed to heed His warning. Listen –

**"They did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward."
"They did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers." (Jeremiah 7: 24 & 26)**

God sent His judgment on His people in the days of Jeremiah and warned us clearly through His Son as well as the Apostle, Peter, that He was also going to send judgment on us. Only the voice Eve heard in the garden would tell us otherwise. Sadly, that same voice is still being heard today. Instead of fleeing, the vast majority have fallen into deception and will suffer the consequences. Eve had heard God's word and quoted it back to Lucifer correctly. When Lucifer said: "*You will not surely die.*" (Genesis 3:4) Eve believed the lie and death followed just as God had promised (Genesis 2:17). God's word prevailed. Now let me ask you, dear saints, whose voice will you believe?

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12: 13 & 14)

God Bless,

Your brother
Tom

