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DROWNING IN PROSPERITY (A Word of Warning)

I believe what you are about to read is a word of warning to every child of GOD in this land. If you consider yourself to be a Born Again child of the most high God, listen with your spiritual ears and hear what GOD is saying to you, it could save you much suffering in the very near future. The measure of hardship and suffering that you will experience or that you escape could very well depend upon your reaction to this warning! Now hear the word of the Lord!

“Dreadful sounds are in his ears; in prosperity the destroyer comes upon him.” (Job 15:21)

“Now in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.” (Psalm 30:6)

“For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

We in America live in one of the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest nation on the face of the earth. America is the only remaining super power from a military standpoint. In America we have more cars, more trucks, more shopping malls, more TVs and VCRs, more boats, more motor homes, more golf courses, tennis courts and swimming pools than any other nation. In America we have more hospitals, doctors and more medical drugs than any other nation. We have more country clubs, more theatres, grocery stores and restaurants than any other nation on the face of the earth. In America we have the largest stock exchange in the world. We have the largest banks and the greatest accumulation of wealth that man has ever known. In America we have more leisure time than we have ever had before. By all outward signs any intelligent person would say that we, in America, are blessed and that we are truly a prosperous nation. It is true that we are a “worldly prosperous” nation, but are we truly prosperous in the eyes of our GOD? I think not! In fact - - IN OUR WORLDLY PROSPERITY WE HAVE BECOME, FOR THE MOST PART, SPIRITUAL PAUPERS! WE ARE NOW DROWNING SPIRITUALLY AS WE SOAK IN A LIFESTYLE THAT HAS ITS ORIGIN IN HELL!

Strong words, you say. Yes, they are strong words but – THEY ARE TRUE! Before you discount what you have heard let me clarify a few things.

1. Our GOD is a GOD of great prosperity and He desires that we prosper in all things.
(See 3 John 2)
2. FATHER’S children (that’s us) will not beg for bread. (See Psalm 37:25)
3. FATHER will supply all our needs from His riches. (See Philippians 4:19)

4. Worldly riches will fail! (See Proverbs 11:4)
5. If you are trusting in your riches, YOU WILL FALL! (See Proverbs 11:28)
6. We view prosperity as a state of having accumulated adequate wealth to maintain the lifestyle to which we have become accustomed. I might add that that lifestyle rarely says “enough”. It’s the truth!
7. FATHER’S definition of prosperity is quite a bit different from ours. According to the only source of pure truth, the Word of GOD, the word “prosperity” when originally used by the Holy Spirit in the Hebrew language is properly translated as follows: “Safety, wellness, happiness, healthiness and peacefulness.” It was usually translated as peace. Peace results from needs being met.

Think about it! Would you rather have 10 million dollars or be free of cancer? Would you rather have your country club membership, a new Mercedes, a motor home and a paid for house in your favorite location or a sound mind? I believe most of us would like to have our cake and eat it too. In other words we would like to be happy, healthy, safe from harm and full of peace and at the same time enjoy all that the world system has to offer us. Our flesh really does enjoy much of what the world has to offer. I find it interesting that in Matthew, chapter 4, we read the account of our Lord being “tempted” by Satan himself. JESUS was tempted three times. The first two temptations came in the area of performing a miracle. In other words, JESUS was asked to do something. He refused to perform and passed the test. However, after the enemy failed twice to get JESUS to perform at his command, he then tempted Him with something that he (Satan) could do. Listen to Matthew’s account of what happened.

“Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the Kingdoms of the world and their glory.

And he said to him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” (Matthew 4:8,9)

JESUS rejected the devil’s offer as He rebuked him using FATHER’S word, and the devil finally left Him. I believe the enemy used what he knew was man’s greatest temptation in an effort to entrap our Lord. The world and all of its glory – all of its pleasures – all of its comforts – all of its abundance SURE DOES APPEAL TO OUR FLESH!

ONLY THE MOST SPIRITUALLY MATURE OF MEN CAN WITHSTAND THE TEMPTATION OF THE WORLD’S GLORY! Be absolutely assured that you cannot mix the holy things of GOD with the things of the world and expect GOD’S best for you. It just will not happen! The world and the things of the world system are for the most part pleasing to our flesh. However, those same things that satisfy our fleshly lusts separate us from a more intimate relationship with our Lord. Not only that, but many of these worldly things that we would call good are in fact designed to kill, steal from us and in the end, destroy us. Think about it – as we eat and eat and eat, our stomach grows and grows and grows. Before we realize it our heart breaks down prematurely or the body suffers in some other area as a direct result of our worldly lust. We acquire more and more things, more toys, more and more devices to make our lives easier and in doing so we go further and further into debt, violating one of FATHER’S precepts for living.

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6)

Just as our Lord knew what His Father’s will was as He was tempted by the world and all it had to offer, SO MUST WE KNOW HIS WILL! You see nothing has changed from FATHER’S viewpoint as it relates to the world and it’s system. Listen to what James had to say on the matter.

“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with GOD? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of GOD.” (James 4:4)

Paul also warned us on this matter in Romans 12:2 when he wrote:

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of GOD.”

My brothers and sisters if we desire to prove FATHER’S will in our lives we cannot conform ourselves to the world. For in so doing, we are in DIRECT OPPOSITION TO HIS WILL and that is not a good place to be. At the very least we will miss His full blessing and at the worst we could incur His wrath.

One might ask what is meant by the term “do not be conformed to this world”? The dictionary defines “conform” as “meaning to be in accord or adapt” or to “make similar”. Naturally our flesh would say that we have not conformed to the world. After all, we are believers and the world does not believe. We stand for Godly family values and the world does not. Therefore we are OK! I do not believe that we get off quite that easily.

There is an old saying that says “regardless of what you are, if you walk like a duck, quack like a duck and hang out with the ducks, pretty soon folks will think you are a duck”. I like that analogy. You see a person may be a believer and still have conformed themselves to the world. If you believe and at the same time pursue the same interests that the world pursues, is that not adapting or conforming? If you are trusting in your worldly wealth, is that not conforming to the ways of the world? If your primary interest is being successful in your worldly pursuits, is that not conforming to the world system? If you continually fellowship with the worldly, is that not conforming? If you accumulate as the world accumulates, if you dress as the world dresses, if you indulge your flesh as the worldly do, if you pursue the same interests as do the worldly and then find yourself spending more of your waking hours dealing with the things of the world rather than the things of GOD, have you not conformed yourself to the world?

Why do you suppose our FATHER had so much to say concerning our relationship with the world? Could it be that He knew more about the evil of the world and the weakness of our flesh than we do? Were His warnings to us concerning the world given because He wanted us to be deprived of a better life, or were they given because He loves us so much that he desires only the best for us? Let’s listen to JESUS:

And the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” (Mark 4:19)

“How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the Kingdom of GOD!” (Mark 10:23)

“Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of GOD.” (Matthew 19:23,24)

Does the world love you or hate you? Think about it? If you are loved by the world, you most likely have a major spiritual problem. Again, listen to JESUS:

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.”

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (John 15:18,19)

My study Bible contains a footnote relating to John 15:18 & 19 as follows: “Our Godless secular society is hostile toward Christ and His followers, simply because Christian standards are in opposition to the world system.” When we begin to think that we can mix the world and the devices of the world with the Holiness of GOD, we have set ourselves on a certain course of destruction. This is no small matter as many that call themselves Christians, even born again evangelic or charismatic Christians have stepped into this trap. The evidence confirming this truth is obvious for any informed person to see. Please consider the following facts;

In the past eight years, by an overwhelming majority, we have twice elected a man to lead our nation and to hold the most powerful office on the face of the earth. This man has openly promoted and supported activities that are in direct opposition to the commandments, precepts and judgements of GOD. Many Christians point a finger of blame at this man, but I say the problem is not with the President but rather the problem lies with those who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ and have chosen to mix sin with their Christian walk. Our President is only a mirror image of the majority of our society, many of whom call themselves followers of Christ. Think about it! Millions of Christians went to the polls (excuse the first mistake) the second time and cast a vote that said “GO AHEAD AND CONTINUE TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE SLAUGHTER OF THE UNBORN, BUT KEEP THE MONEY FLOWING IN!

GO AHEAD AND CONTINUE PROMOTING THE HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE, EVEN IN OUR GRADE SCHOOLS, JUST KEEP THE MONEY FLOWING IN!

GO AHEAD AND SUPPORT THE REMOVAL OF ALL BIBLES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INSTALL CONDOM MACHINES BUT DON'T FORGET TO KEEP THE MONEY FLOWING IN!

GO AHEAD AND CONTINUE SATISFYING YOUR SEXUAL LUSTS AND WE WILL FORGIVE YOU AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU, JUST DON'T FORGET WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO KEEP OUR MONEY FLOWING IN!

GO AHEAD AND LIE TO US IF YOU NEED TO. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO LIE TO PROTECT YOUR REPUTATION. DON'T WORRY WE WILL

SUPPORT YOU WHEN THE POLLSTER CALLS, BUT REMEMBER TO DO YOUR PART AND KEEP THE MONEY FLOWING IN!

My brothers and sisters the people of the world are just what they are – unsaved, uninformed in the things of GOD and subject to living a lifestyle that our GOD hates and will ultimately destroy. This should not surprise us. However, if we call ourselves “Born Again” Christians and we say that we believe the Holy Bible, then we have no excuse what so ever for embracing or supporting any person, system or organization that is dedicated to the destruction of the things of GOD. No excuse what so ever! I must also tell you that not knowing what FATHER’S word says is no excuse. You have a copy of the Bible don’t you? If so, why are you not in It seeing for yourself what It says? Some of us will have a hard time explaining to our Lord why we had so much time to watch TV, movies, go to sporting events, fish, golf, etc., etc., etc. and so little time to spend in His word. IT IS ONE THING NOT TO HAVE ACCESS TO HIS WORD AND QUITE ANOTHER THING TO HAVE ACCESS AND CHOOSE TO DEVOTE ONE’S TIME TO THE THINGS OF THE WORLD RATHER THAN THE WORD! Somehow I do not believe that behavior will endear us to our GOD. Again JESUS warned us

“Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of GOD.”
(Matthew 4:4)

I want to conclude this message with a warning. I would invite you to test it’s content against the word of GOD and let those who have ears hear what the Spirit of GOD would say.

The prosperity that we are now seeing in America is not the result of obedience to GOD, it is not the result of our holiness, it is not the result of our promoting the precepts for living that FATHER has given us and our prosperity is not a blessing from GOD that confirms that we have found favor with Him. The prosperity that we now see is the product of the world system, and that prosperity while it looks so good, is in fact designed to entrap you and me and suck us in just like a vacuum cleaner sucks in dust. Our flesh would say “just a little”, then “just a little more” and before you know it your heart will be held captive by a force that I can assure you, you do not want to become a part of. This is a real war that we are in! Satan has baited the trap just like he baited the trap for our Lord and we had better wake up and flee before it is too late. For those of us who stepped into the trap of prosperity (your writer did) be assured, it is not too late for you to escape. Repent, get your heart right before a Holy God and He will help you to retreat from the Babylonian system. Remember that He loves you and if you will flee, He will cover your flight and bless you and yours. However, He will no more excuse you than He did Lot’s wife. Her heart could not “let go” and she was destroyed.

Finally, GOD’S judgment is soon to be revealed. I know that many well-intentioned saints do not believe that. To them I would simply say that “time” will prove who is right. Our GOD will not be mocked and the time is fast approaching when His judgment will so shake this nation that even unbelievers will be heard to say, “That could only be GOD”! I beg you my brothers and sisters get out of Babylon while you have time! Much destruction is on the way and only those whose heart is hidden with Him will escape unharmed. It is the truth and you have been warned!

GOD BLESS

Tom

