Clips from Psalms

Psalms 91:9-11
Security of him who trusts in Jehovah

"O Jehovah, thou art my refuge! Thou hast made the Most High thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy tent. For he will give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

---

Floral Heights Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas 76309

Schedule of Services
Sunday Worship:
9:30 AM Bible Study
10:30 AM Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday:
7:30 PM Bible Study

---

26 February 2012
Volume 12; Issue 09

Floral Heights Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas 76309
(940) 322-1650

In This Issue:
Personal Responsibility .......................................1-2
Local News ..................... 2
Sermon Outline ............. 3
The Book of Psalms - back

Elders
Mike Chancellor
(322-6374)
Tom Witherspoon
(923-6479)

Deacons
Joe Cronin
Jim Hall
David Witherspoon

Preacher
John Robertson

---

Personal Responsibility

The Apostle John writes, "And the sea gave up the dead that were in it; and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works" (Revelation 20:13).

The Word of God is clear about man's individual responsibility. No man will have the right to blame another for self delusion, error, or ungodly living on the day of judgment. We will all stand alone as our life is compared to the word of God (see John 12:48).

Throughout the New Testament we find people who were made merchandise of by false teachers (2 Peter 2:1-2). The Galatians were bewitched and had fallen from grace due to the erroneous teachings of men (Galatians 1:6-7; 3:1; 5:4). The Corinthian church was divided because of the work of factious brethren (1 Corinthians 1:10; 11:18-19). The Colossians were submitting to the opinionated convictions of fleshly reasoning (Colossians 2:20-23). Though Christians were being infected with the erring doctrines and practices of the world they nonetheless stood personally responsible. If such were not the case we would not have the epistles warning and admonishing men to repent.

Consider the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah tried to divert the guilt of Judah away from the people and back upon the heads of the false prophets of his day. The prophet of God, early on in his work, did not want to see Judah face the terrifying wrath of God at the hands of the Babylonians. Jeremiah reasons with the Lord that Judah had sinned because their shepherds, scribes, wise men, priests, and prophets had misled them with erring doctrines (see Jeremiah 2:8; 6:14; 7:4; 8:8-11; 10:21; 14:13).
Jeremiah writes, "Then said I, Ah, Lord Jehovah! Behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place" (14:13).

Jeremiah does not understand why all the people must be condemned when it was the shepherds of Judah that had led them astray. The Lord’s response to Jeremiah teaches us that both teacher and student bear personal responsibility when it comes to measuring up to God's standards. The one taught could not tell the Lord that the fault with their soul lays with the teacher.

The Lord replies to his prophet saying, "The prophets prophesy lies in my name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spoke I unto them: they prophesy unto you a lying vision, and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their own heart. Therefore thus saith Jehovah concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land: By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed. And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them--them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them" (Jeremiah 14:14-16).

The Lord acknowledged the fault of the prophets who taught "lies in my name." The words of these prophets were comprised of "deceit of their own heart." Those who teach a personal opinion or doctrine of their own mind and tell people that it represents God's truths are liars (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; 1 John 2:22). Notice; however, that the Lord does not stop the condemnation at the teachers. The people that were taught would also bear the consequences of their sin.

All Christians today have the responsibility to test any and all doctrines (see 1 John 4:1-4). No man shall be excused by God on the day of judgment by saying, "But it was the fault of my parents, my Bible class teacher, my preacher, my environment, etc." Paul brings this principle out to the Philippians (see Philippians 1:15-19). Paul acknowledges that some preach the gospel for factious or personal reasons. The motives of man; however, do not change truth. What I do with the truths determines where I will spend eternity.

Blessed people are those who are poor in spirit, mourn over their sins, meek, hunger and thirst after righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and persecuted for righteousness sake (Matthew 5:3-12). Jesus identifies such people as the salt and light of the world. The faithful Christian is very significant to this world.

I. The Salt of the Earth (Matthew 5:13)

A. Jesus said, "13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men" (5:13).

B. The affects of the blessed Christian upon the world is that we season and preserve. Those who do not season and preserve are "good for nothing."

II. Lights in a Dark World (Matthew 5:14-15)

A. Jesus said, "14 Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid" (5:14).

B. Consider the darkness of the world we live in.

C. Blessed Christians are lights of goodness that are likened unto a bright city atop a hill that all can see from afar.

D. Jesus said, "Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shines unto all that are in the house" (5:15).

E. The Christian's objective is to salt and let their lights be seen rather than hid.

III. The Affects of Salt and Light on the World (Matthew 5:16)

A. Jesus said, "16 Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shines unto all that are in the house; for your light is come to shine upon all." (5:16).

B. The light of the Christian shines bright as they display the spirit of the beatitudes and teach the gospel message to the lost. Such a one is not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ but rather loves the souls of self and others (Romans 1:16).

Conclusion

When the world sees the good works of the faithful they will be encouraged to "glorify your Father who is in heaven." When the world views the hope and joy of the Christian many will be moved to hear, believe, confess, repent, be baptized, and live faithfully. The world of ungodly will only come to the light as we let our lights shine.