Clips from Psalms
Psalms 103:15-18
Praise for the Lord’s Mercies

"As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep his covenant, and to those who do his precepts."

Watchmen Yesterday and Today

The prophet Ezekiel is identified as a watchman in the Old Testament. The very fact that watchmen existed illustrates God's will that not one man or woman perish in their sins (see Ezekiel 18:23; 33:11 and 2 Peter 3:9). To avoid man losing their souls for all eternity the merciful heavenly father sends his prophets (2 Kings 17:13; Jeremiah 7:25; Ezekiel 3, 33; Luke 11:47; Acts 7:52), apostles (Acts 18:6 and 20:26), his own son (Matthew 21:37ff), and faithful loving brethren of all generations (see verses below) to watch and warn the wicked.

Ezekiel's charge to watch and warn people falls in the context of three principle areas. First, God tells Ezekiel to warn the wicked and the righteous who have erred so that they would not "die in their sins" (Ezekiel 3:18-19). Secondly, God tells Ezekiel to watch and warn the wicked because those who die in their sins will go to the pit of Sheol and dwell for all eternity in their shame (see Ezekiel 31:15 through 32 all). Thirdly, God charges Ezekiel to watch and warn people because the shepherds of Judah and Israel were not doing it (Ezekiel 34). If the souls of men would be saved they needed to hear what they were guilty of. Exposing sin in other people's lives is not going to make you very popular yet we will be following in the steps of Jesus and his prophets and apostles.

Every Christian has the responsibility to watch and warn the wicked and erring righteous of their sinful
ways they will die in their sins. We are guilty of spiritual murder when we shy away from warning others of the consequences of their sins (see Genesis 9:5-6; Ezekiel 3:18; Acts 18:6; 20:26). The Apostle Paul commanded the Ephesians to expose man’s sins rather than fellowship them and so we are charged (Ephesians 5:11). One of the most compelling scriptures that illustrate modern man’s responsibility to watch and warn the wicked is found at Romans 10:15 as it is quoted from Isaiah 52:6-8.

Old Testament principles are binding as we find their application in the New Testament. Though the law was nailed to the cross much of its principles remain binding today (Colossians 2:14-15). We easily understand that stealing, cheating, murdering, and adultery are just as sinful today as they were in the Old Testament days because the laws are repeated in the New Testament. Why is it that some will not accept the repeated laws of God’s watchmen? Context, words, and cross references will guide you in understanding laws that have no limitations of time.

Let no man be deceived by doctrines of demons that exclaim, ‘but you violate another church’s autonomy when you cross the lines of geographic location to expose another’s sins.’ Consider the Apostle John who loved all those who know the truth. Whether the erring lived in Galatia or Palestine mattered not. John warned people based on his love for their souls rather than the local church that person attended (2 John 1:1). The Apostle Paul preached the same truth in every local church he came in contact with or established (1 Corinthians 4:17). The Apostle Peter commanded Christians to “love the brotherhood” (1 Peter 2:17). It was love of the "brotherhood" that motivated the Jerusalem church to send out preachers to expose the false doctrines regarding syncretism teachings that had invaded the churches in Galatia (see Acts 15). Let us all understand that sin is sin no matter where it is conducted and where there is opportunity there is responsibility. God wants all people to be saved don't you?

Hommes of the Bible

Introduction

When modern day preachers talk about the home they sometimes are guilty of painting an unrealistic picture of beauty and a problem free environment. When we look to the world and church we find terrible issues that contradict God’s will for the home. Today, blended families are the norm. There are more and more homosexual families raising children. Adultery, fornication, rebellion and worldliness in general are the model that many are following after. We sing the song "Where Love is in the Home" and it makes us feel warm as we contemplate the ideal and God desired home. Problems in the home; however, are a reality that must be addressed and openly discussed. Problems in the home can be traced back to the very beginning of time. Bible homes experienced adultery, fornication, murder, jealousy, favoritism, rebellion, and even death. Homes were, for the most part, destroyed in OT times by the end of the Minor Prophets. Let's examine some issues that Bible homes faced and learn from God's Word so that we may avoid these same issues in our own homes.

I. Problems in the homes of Good and Godly People:

A. The First home (Genesis 4:1-8) - jealousy and murder

B. Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 16:1-6) - jealousy

C. Isaac and his sons - (Genesis 25:27-34) - favoritism, jealousy, hatred

D. Jacob and his sons (Genesis 37:1-4) - favoritism, jealousy, hatred, murder, and great sorrow

E. Eli the priests of God and his sons (1 Samuel 2:12, 22- ) - fornication, rebellion to parent, evil influence

F. David (a family man with wives and many children - 2 Samuel 3:1-6; 5:13 / 2 Samuel 11:2ff) - Adultery, evil planning against an innocent man, death, and great sorrows led to other family issues - son rapes his own sister - Absalom tries to usurp his father's throne etc.

G. Godly kings that had ungodly children (Ahaz and Manasses - in a long line of Godly kings yet they chose wickedness 2 Kings 21:1ff) - quest for power, fame, idolatry and worldliness

H. By the time of Israel and Judah's fall the family unity had been destroyed (Ezekiel 23:37)

II. God's NT instructions for the Home

A. God gives us the blueprint for happy homes at Ephesians 5:22 - 6:4

B. Following these instructions will help us avoid the pitfalls of great sorrow in the home through jealousy, favoritism, hatred, fornication, adultery, evil influence, evil plans, and worldliness.

III. What can we do to Build Godly Homes?

A. Be dedicated, trustworthy, loving, faithful husbands and wives (Proverbs 5:19-20).


C. Instill fear and reverence for the name of God in your home (Proverbs 1:7).

Conclusion