

Renewing Our Spiritual Passion

Introduction:

a. Life as it was meant to be

Ecclesiastes 12:12-14

12

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

b. headlines show us life as it was not meant to be

c. why do people continue to live their lives without obeying God

Isaiah 57:10

10

Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved.

I. Why is the World Afraid to turn to God?

A. Some get used to the way life is they hardly take notice that life isn't what it was meant to be

Isaiah 57:11-13

And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?

I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works; for they shall not profit thee.

When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that putteth his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain;

- b. God asked Israel, "Who do you dread more than me?"
- c. How many seek the world's approval of their lives because they dread the worldly consequences of not doing so?
- d. Israel was standing where many sinners stand today..
- e. Changing direction in life seems frightful, even when we know it is absolutely essential.
- f. James tells us that we can choose our enemies as well as our friends

James 4:4

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

- g. Who would you rather have as your friend, God or the world? Some may think that God doesn't want to be their friend because of their sinfulness. However, Isaiah pleads with Israel as we would plead with a child to return to doing right

Isaiah 1:1-6

3

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1

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

3

The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

4

Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

5

Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

6

From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

II. God asks Israel, "Why should you be beaten any more? Why do you persist in rebellion?"

Isaiah 1:18-20

18

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

- a. Israel could simply return to God--God would erase all her sins. To refuse would mean disaster. Israel was free to make her choice. She didn't have to live in fear of her enemies. However, she continued in her sins.
- b. God's call was not solely to the nation of Israel, it was also a personal call for each Jew to return to God. Regardless of what the nation did each person in Israel needed to heed God's call.

III. It is Never too late to Return to God:

- a. God's vision for Israel was also his personal goal for every Jew. It was a vision that every Jew had a stake in, but it also placed the responsibility on every Jew to discover God's will for their personal lives.

B. God's vision is Christ reigning in every heart -

Ephesians 1:15-23

15

Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16

Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

5

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19

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,
according to the working of his mighty power,

20

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at
his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every
name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all
things to the church,

23

Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 3:20,21

20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or
think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world
without end. Amen

c. Can you imagine trying to map a plan for the survival of God's people
without the power of God? Yet that is exactly what Israel sought. Yet, history
repeats itself when we refuse Christ rule in our hearts. We are telling ourselves
we have enough strength to do it our way.

d. It matters little how much you have sinned or how much you are suffering
for your sin--God stands ready to rescue you. Manasseh was a king who reigned
during the last days of Isaiah. The Jews say that Manasseh was probably the
person responsible for Isaiah's death. He filled Jerusalem with blood from one
end to the other. He refused to listen to Isaiah. According to the Jews Isaiah's
blood flowed through the streets of Jerusalem also.

6

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II Kings 21:8,9

8

Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them.

9

But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

II Kings 21:16

16

Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

II Chronicles 33:9-13

9

So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

10

And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.

11

Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.

12

And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

And prayed unto him: and he was entreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God.

e. This is the most moving powerful story of conversion in the entire Bible -

1. II Chronicles 33:15-17

And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city.

And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

Nevertheless the people did sacrifice still in the high places, yet unto the LORD their God only

2. Manasseh led Israel to repentance.

Conclusion:

- a. This same possibility is extended to all through Christ.
- b. It looks as impossible for some as it did for Nicodemus when he asks, "How shall an old man be born again?"
- c. It is obvious a new birth is death to the way we now live

Romans 6:4

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.