

Wonderful Warnings from Almighty God

Jonah 1:1,2 Obadiah :15 Nahum 1:1-15
Acts 17:30,31 Revelation 1:1-8; 22:10-21

We have taken notice of only a few passages of scripture, from both the Old and New Testaments, words which were spoken by the Lord's prophets and apostles, His holy, called, sent ones whom He personally chose and commissioned to carry His message to the inhabitants of the earth among the various nations and peoples and languages of the world. In each of these passages, we find a dreadful warning of swift and impending judgment from Almighty God upon the wicked. We find a call to repent. We find that a cry is to be made, an alarm is to be sounded, because men, women, boys, and girls are on the precipice of eternal destruction and loss, everlasting shame and ruin, their names being blotted out forever from the memory of God, no recognition of them except as His eternal and incorrigible enemies, for whom He will maintain nothing but everlasting wrath and disgust, carried out in unending, unbearable torment forever and forever.

I find it to be an amazing thing that people can become enraged, stirred up, provoked to zeal and great swelling words, over just about every subject under heaven except that which God says is the most pressing, most urgent, most demanding of immediate and intense consideration, most universal, and most important for every single living person. People today have no problem getting worked up and even shouting and yelling about a virus; a vaccine; a president; a political candidate; a conspiracy theory; whether or not bars and taverns and saloons get to be open and selling their intoxicating poisons; the weather; taxes; their neighbors' business; things going on all over the world that they have no real comprehension of and no real interest in other than to be a nosy busy-body in matters that they have no ability to influence or improve whatsoever, all while they neglect and ignore the things that are their personal business and responsibility, and over which they have both direct and indirect influence, day after day. And let me say that I don't care if you are for a vaccine or against it, if you are for the Second Amendment or against it, your business as a child of God and a member of one of God's churches is not to tell people your opinion about any of those things, but rather to be concerned with being

sure they both hear and see the gospel of Jesus Christ from you and from your living. Why can you spend your time and your energy that you claim are so precious on all of these things that are of almost no consequence whatsoever in reality, and in the meantime almost everyone that you know personally, and whom you meet on the street, and whom you have anything to do with from day to day, are lost and on the road to hell?

I think that for the majority of people calling themselves Christians, the truths of God's Word are nearly inconsequential in their daily lives; and that is the worst possible condition for anyone who names the name of Christ. I read in my Bible that the blessed man meditates in the words of God day and night. I read in my Bible that no one can even live except by every word of God. And when I read my Bible, I find that this world is perishing, this life is fleeting, the days of this life are consumed with nothing more than vanity and vexation of spirit, and the only hope there is for any single person or for any group of people is in the Lord Jesus Christ whose blood was shed on the cruel, cursed cross of Calvary in order that wicked, vile, sin-loving, sin-enjoying, sin-preferring slaves of the devil might be washed completely clean and transformed from devilish sinners into saints of God and set free from the devil's bondage, from which they could never have loosed themselves, no, not for an instant.

Now, does your Bible tell you those same things? I know it does. Why can you not care about it? Why will you not stop caring about everything else and humble yourself before God until you do care about it?

Beloved, this world is never going to change. It is rushing toward a head-on collision with the wrath of Almighty God. This very season of the year, the stench of all the hypocritical, idolatrous abominations that people are calling worship and affixing God's name and the Savior's name to is ascending up to the nostrils of God from every quarter of the globe. Why, here we've been in the midst of a global pandemic for two years, and all that people are concerned about is whether or not they can have their drunken parties, have their festivals, and carry on in the pursuit of carnal pleasures and appetites unhindered and unrestrained more than they were before. And the vileness that has come out of the mouths of so many Baptists is appalling and disgusting. I do not recall a single call to fall on our faces in humility and repentance before God. I recall a lot of people being very angry that the usual vain and spiritually unprofitable habits

and behaviors in which they want to engage had to be interrupted. I recall a lot of people being filled with either arrogance or fear. All of a sudden, every person on the planet was an expert on what every other person on the planet ought to be doing or not doing. It was like someone poured a lot of fuel on the already burning fire of devil-driven division and fleshly willfulness that is apparently raging in the hearts of the vast majority of people, even church members.

What are we, whom God has saved and called out of darkness into light? We are pilgrims and strangers, sojourning in this world and in this earthly life. This is not our home. We are citizens of an heavenly country. We claim that we are looking for a city, which hath foundations, and whose builder and maker is God; a city that John saw in prophetic vision, a glorious and eternal city, coming down from God out of heaven, in appearance like unto a bride that is adorned for her husband, in beauty, honor, grace, and love.

What else are we, according to God's Word? We are ambassadors for Christ, chosen and called and given an official message from the Lord of all the earth to convey in urgent pleadings and gentle warnings, in tones of mercy and love, in seriousness and earnestness, to every person on the earth. Were not all of these of whom and from whose recorded words we have read this morning, given a God-sent, God-honoring, God-approved message to the people of their day and time? Was it not a message of repentance and turning to God, because the day of His wrath against all ungodliness, immorality, corruption, wickedness, violence, dishonesty, filthiness, covetousness, and idolatry, is swiftly approaching upon all people? Does not this blessed Book of God end with that very message, an official announcement of the coming day of the judgment of God upon the unbelieving and unrepentant, and a final calling and summons to come to Him by way of the fountain opened for sin, and to forsake the broken cisterns of this world that can hold no water, and freely come and drink of the ever-flowing spring of living waters that never shall run dry?

What a gracious and merciful, longsuffering God, abundant in mercy and truth, who so summons sinners to the fountain that He opened, the well that He dug, the spring that He setup and created and maintains, that those who, deserving of His wrath and inconsiderate of His claims and rights as the sovereign God and Creator and Possessor of all things, may be pardoned of

all their guilt, reconciled fully to God, and fitted for an everlasting abode as His own dear sons and daughters! How can we ever get over His manifested love! How can we not delight in sharing this wonderful and grand news! How can we ignore the needs of those who are perishing around us, knowing not only that we once were likewise perishing, but that there is so nearby a saving remedy! There is balm in Gilead! There is a Great Physician who now is near, the sympathizing Jesus, Jehovah who healeth thee!

Nah. 1:15 Rev. 22:17 The door is now open, today is the day of salvation, the time is at hand, the kingdom of God is even now pressing its claims upon all people everywhere. The longsuffering of God is waiting, even as it did in the days of Noah prior to the flood. Be saved today! Enter in through the door, which is none other than Jesus Christ, and be saved, and go in and out, and find pasture.

This church has a glorious message to proclaim, a saving, life-giving, God-honoring, Christ-exalting message. People may call the truth a condemning message. The gospel is not a condemning message. Every person outside of Jesus Christ is condemned already. The gospel is a saving, delivering, healing, rescuing, justifying message, the only God-authorized and God-given message, whereby already condemned and perishing sinners can be cleared of their sin-guiltiness and receive everlasting life. **Heb. 11:7 II Pet. 2:5** The gospel and gospel-becoming living will condemn, will denounce, unrighteousness. If you live as becometh the gospel of Jesus Christ, and you share the gospel with others as it is in truth, then you are not going to be walking the same path as them. Isn't it amazing that people claim that everyone should be able to make up their own mind; but if you have a mind for the things of God and Christ, and they do not, then they say you are walking the wrong path. You once thought that way, before you had the mind of Christ, the mind that is no longer concerned with pleasing the world and the flesh, but with pleasing God and doing His will because of the great love wherewith He loved you, and gave His only begotten Son to save you. Yes, a gospel-approving life, a gospel-witnessing life, a gospel-complimenting life, will condemn the world, because the world as it is stands in opposition to the gospel of Jesus Christ. *"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness," (I John 5:19).* You don't have to condemn people, they are already condemned in unbelief; and a soberminded, godly, righteous way of life and testimony will condemn the world

because you have renounced the world and any desire to have a part with it in order to follow Christ.

We have become so concerned in this day and age with pleasing people. Everything has to be attractive and appealing to the carnal mind. The carnal mind is dead. The carnal mind is enmity against God. The carnal mind is not subject to the law of God, and indeed cannot be – it never will be, it never will want to be, it never can be. No matter how much religion, how nice, how “Christian-like”, how “churchy” someone becomes, it will be only a hypocritical show, if they are not renewed in the spirit of their mind by the Spirit of God, and they are not born of the Spirit and therefore walking after the Spirit. Let me show you what the Bible says about carnal things and what our concern ought to be regarding them. **II Cor. 10:1-7** Oh, the outward appearance is so deceiving! We are to cast down carnal things, and stamp them to powder, and have done with them. They are like the demonic idols that the Canaanites worshipped whom God drove out from before the children of Israel; and the children of Israel were commanded to destroy their idols, cast down their images (meaning to break them in pieced and ruin them), and chop down and burn the groves they had planted and built where they worshipped their false gods. Have done with all that is not Christ’s! Have only one true love of your soul, the Shepherd and Bishop of your soul, who loved you, and died for you, and rose again, and is coming again to receive you unto Himself, that where He is, there you may be also!

May we hold fast the truth which God has delivered to us, and which faithful brothers and sisters of days past have lived and suffered and died to pass on to us. May we give out the true report, as faithful witnesses and ambassadors of Him who has called us, and who is calling out a people for His name from among all nations. May we shun all part of this world’s wickedness, and let our lights so shine before others, that, seeing our good works, our God-pleasing living and conduct, they may glorify God in acknowledgment of the truth of the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.