

Watching the Train Wreck

Wednesday, June 10, 2020
Straight Paths Bible Church

Ephesians 4:11-15 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

- I. The older you get the more life becomes like watching a train wreck continually.
 - A. You know that feeling as you watch someone about to pull out in front of a train and you know what is about to happen, but you can't do a thing to stop them.
 - B. If you live to be old and you have learned anything in life, this will be what your life is like.

- Ecclesiastes 1:18 For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

 - C. You watch others as they make choices and decisions that are going to take them down a road that is familiar to you, because you made similar choices and decisions and suffered the consequences.
 - D. You watch others making fatal mistakes in their relationships with their spouses, their children, their parents, and their friends or fellow Christians.
 1. Since you are now old enough to have seen a few generations you know what the outcome is going to be.
 2. As you watch parents try to train and discipline their children you are keenly aware of what kind of attitude those children are going to have as an adult.
 3. As you watch young husbands and wives interact with one another you see through the eye of wisdom what they will have together in the future – good or bad.
 4. You watch young people dishonor their parents and slander them and demean them in the eyes of others and you realize that theirs will be a short and miserable life, and that their children will do the same to them.
 5. You cannot help but start agreeing with Solomon's attitude about this world:

Ecclesiastes 1:14-15 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

- E. All these things happen because of the lack of wisdom, selfishness, and immaturity.

- II. God has done all He can to make a way for us to escape this vanity of life, where we mess it all up in our youth and spend our last years mourning over the way life is all backwards.
 - A. God set up the church and put in it pastors, teachers, evangelists, prophets, and apostles for the perfecting of the saints, and for the work of the ministry, and for the edification of the body.
 - B. Jesus told Peter three times in a row to "Feed my sheep."

- C. The feeding of the sheep is the giving to them of the bread of life, the Word of God, and to give the understanding thereof, that they might know how to live in this sinful world without making a shipwreck of it all.
 - 1. To know how to treat their wives, and to live with them and have a blessed life with them.
 - 2. That wives would know how to treat their husbands and live with them in joy and love.
 - 3. That they know, from the Word of God, how to train and discipline their children in love and in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
 - 4. That they know how to deal with injustice, loss, and pain in their lives under the influence of the grace of God and not the rudiments of the world.
 - 5. That love is the ruling principle in their life in all matters concerning God and others.
- D. So, church being the means that God has ordained for us to learn how to live, if we miss church, we miss the lessons, and the wisdom, and the knowledge, and the example.
 - 1. When we miss church, or sit out of it while we are sitting in the pew, we replace it with some other source of instruction.
 - 2. We gather knowledge from other sources.
 - 3. We listen to the opinions of others in order to form our own.
 - 4. We build a philosophy of life, and set of moral standards, and a playbook to follow in our dealings with others out of the godless, depraved, vain, minds of the sinners we listen to.
 - 5. We develop an attitude and an outlook that sets us apart from those who sit in church and listen – those who are fed.
 - 6. This creates division and eventually leads to separation, which is the opposite of what these Scriptures are teaching us about here.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

- E. So if we all listen to the same preaching, we will all be of the same mind in the important matters of life.
 - 1. If some of us go outside the fences and start grazing elsewhere it won't be long until there will be division and strife and a schism among us.
 - 2. This happens in families, as well as churches.
- F. The snare that Jesus talked about coming upon the whole world in the last days may be the social media that we are all entangled in right now.
 - 1. It is the perfect means for the devil to divide churches, families, marriages, and nations.
 - 2. It is called the information highway, and it is working very well for Satan in his war on God and righteousness, and his goal of destroying the human race.
- G. God gave us apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints.
 - 1. It has worked very well through many centuries of dark ages and persecution.
- H. What the devil could not accomplish with dark ages and persecution he is now accomplishing with our free access to all the knowledge and opinions of the ungodly world around us.
- I. If we want to survive in this world until Jesus comes and we don't want to lose our children, we better start drawing some lines and putting up some fences and stay in our own pastures.
- J. We better do our best to listen and to receive what God gives us here and not be grazing in unproven and unknown places where things are likely to be poisoned.