

A Godly Exhortation

“If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent me of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings.

And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you, To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened;

Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth”, Jeremiah 26:3-6.

The above Scripture is very much an end-times passage. When we look at a companion passage from our Lord’s Prophecy, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see”, Revelation 3:15-18.

Talking with many people lately, mainly in shopping centres or hospital car parks, I have discovered that there would appear to be just three main types of worshippers.

They have heard of God, but do not know Him

Sceva, a Jew, and one of the chief of the priests in the area had seven sons.

The seven sons, seeing what appeared to be an easy access to financial riches, claimed they had the power to free people from demonic possession.

They used the Lord’s Name, for it was what Paul was doing. Their problem was twofold,

1. Paul preached the Name of a person he knew, and the person whose

Name was Jesus, knew Paul.

2. The demons were aware of the Name Jesus, and also the person with the name of Paul.

Both names were associated with the love of a Heavenly Father. He was the Person who had enabled Moses to lead the Jewish Nation to freedom from their bondage with the Egyptians. He was the Person who gave Moses the direction for man to live righteously.

The demons could quite truthfully say, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?' and attacked the sons of Sceva, stripping them naked and wounding them, Acts 19:13-16,

We must be prepared to follow God's Will.

The Apostle John in his Gospel quotes the following teaching from Jesus, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love", John 15:9-10.

Two points in the above Scripture need to be looked at very carefully,

3. Jesus, if we have responded to His Call on our lives, calls on us to continue in the love He has shown to us individually.
4. Jesus also makes it clear, that for us to continue in His Love is conditional by the first word in verse 10.

The hardest part in Church Teaching for the Sceptical Worshipper is the major command of Jesus, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" John 15:12.

It is possible to find 'christians' in a Church to day who will associate with some, but not all. If taxed on this subject, the answer I have received more often than not is "Jesus I love, but He had never met so-and so. Him I hate!"

My reply has been along the lines, 'The above Scripture clearly states that whosoever Jesus loves, we must also love.'

We cannot be Sunday only Christians.

A few years back I was talking to a man who had sat beside me throughout the service.

As we headed towards the church hall for a coffee. I mentioned that it

was good to hear a person praising God for what God had done in the past week, but wondered why he had been quieter during the worship period.

It is quite simple, he replied. I was working out what I had to do to please my boss, and he would promote me. There is only one vacancy, but three of us are competing for the position.

I asked him what God would have thought about his actions, and was appalled by his answer. I think God understands as I often use that quiet time to work out the best way to please my boss!

I never did find out if he got his promotion, but he was trying to please the wrong person.