

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

A teaching bulletin produced and provided by FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 2 ♦ Issue 14 ♦ April 4, 2021

TURNING CITIES INTO ASHES

Larry R. Ping II

We have not yet met God face to face. However, this does not mean we do not have the capability to know who God is. The Bible spares no details in describing who our Heavenly Father is and is not. Have you considered this?

The problem is this, many only want to look at the "good" and "positive" attributes of God. God is love (I Jn. 4:8), God is light (I Jn. 1:5), and God is just (Dte. 32:4). These are all very true. But these same folks refuse to admit there is a "jealous" side to God (Josh. 24:19), a side that will not, in any way, tolerate competitors. Peter made this very clear in his writings.

(1) *"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment"* (II Pet. 2:4).

(2) *"And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the*

(3) *"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly"* (II Pet. 2:6).

Think of some of the phrases in these verses. ***"Spared not...bringing in the flood...turning cities into ashes."***

And think about this phrase that applies directly to you and me, ***"making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly."***

We have been Divinely warned. We have no excuses or reasons to offer as to why we have lived an ungodly and sinful life.

On this day, I am very happy that God is love and light and that He only wishes for my repentance (II Pet. 3:9). But on this day, I should be acutely aware that He also will be highly displeased with my ungodly living. And as we have read, such actions bring disastrous consequences.

The Bible wants its readers to be very clear as to the expectations of God. He has made these thoughts well-known throughout the world's history. These verses show this to be absolutely accurate.

(1) *"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation"* (Exo. 19:5-6).

(2) *"But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries"* (Exo. 23:22).

(3) *Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known"* (Dte. 11:26-28).

HEED THE WARNING!

WILL DEATH BE A BLESSING FOR YOU?

Larry R. Ping II

In lists that catalog top fears, the first two are always the same, fear of public speaking and fear of death. Fear of public speaking stems from having “stage fright” while fear of death is borne of anxiety concerning the unknown. No one reading these words has died.

Yet, the Bible makes it clear to the child of God that death is not to be feared. I know this is an easier said than done proposition. But as believers, we must be willing to take the Bible at its Word.

(1) *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them”* (Rev. 14:13).

(2) *“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints”* (Psa. 116:15).

(3) Do you recall Jesus’ conversation with Martha regarding death? He said *“I am the resurrection, and the life:*

he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this” (Jn. 11:25-26)?

To the faithful child of God, death is simply a portal leading from a mortal life to an immortal one. It is the gateway leading to an eternal life with God and His family.

On this day, we must strive our very hardest and our very best to live “in the Lord” so that we can die “in the Lord.” Death is not to be loathed. In fact, it is something to which we look forward. Today, really and truly trust in the Bible’s words. Words like the following.

“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth” (Eccl. 7:1). Do we truly have faith in these words?

As we live our life, and enjoy God’s blessings as we do, we should preparing and readying ourselves for the day we pass from this life. Many in the Bible were ready for this.

(1) The Psalmist said, *“I am afflicted and ready to die”* (Psa. 88:15). Will we be ready to die, and leave the earth?

(2) The Apostle Paul wrote, *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”* (II Tim. 4:8). Will the same be true of us? Will there be a crown waiting for us? Have we fought a good fight? Have we finished the course?

(3) David uttered, *“I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies”* (I Kings 2:2-3). What will be said of you when you go the way of all the earth?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm