



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 20, 2015

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:
Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:
Kirby Hinds

Secretary:
Susan Chandler

Service Times:
Sunday
Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday
Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday
Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

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A JUDGMENT WORSE THAN THE FLOOD LOOMS!

"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth..." Genesis 6:5

Before moving in judgment against the most evil and corrupt society in history, God commanded Noah to build an ark. It soon became a symbol of life and salvation to the few who believed God. Even though they refused to accept it, for those who disbelieved it represented impending death and judgment. Peter described Noah during the time he was building the ark, calling him "*a preacher of righteousness*" (**II Peter 2:5**). Every board he cut and nail he drove was an illustration of the urgency of his message.

God's warning was stern, His message horrifying. But His patience and mercy prevailed for 120 years, for Scripture says "*...the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing (being built)*" (**I Peter 3:20**). Though mercifully warned, the whole world scoffed and died.

A tragedy as great as the flood judgment is that man's attitude toward God is still the same as back then. Jesus said, "*The coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah...before the flood they were eating and drinking...marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be*" (**Matthew 24:37-39**).

Like Noah, you are to preach righteousness to an evil and perverse generation by your works and your life. A judgment worse than the flood looms in the future. Be faithful to do that even if folks don't want to listen. Sometimes you'll encounter people who scoff at God's judgment and mock your Christian life. Don't be discouraged. Pray for them and be available to serve them and teach them whenever possible. Some will listen, even if it's only eight souls.

Michael Gilbert

JESUS SAID A LOT IN FEW WORDS

In **John 19**, Jesus was brought before Pilate and Pilate asked the Lord, “*Whence are thou?*” Jesus was silent which prompted Pilate to say, “*Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?*” Jesus then broke His silence and said. “*Thou couldest have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that hath delivereth me unto thee hath the greater sin.*” (**John 19:8-11**).

There are several implications of Jesus’ words.

First, might does not always make right. Pilate did have the power of life and death over Jesus and the power was given to him by God, but he was still responsible for how he used that power. There are several positions of authority that humans hold wherein their authority is God given, i.e. an officer of the government whether a king or a local mayor, a master or employer, a husband, a father or mother and an elder in the Lord’s church. In each case, the one holding authority will answer to God for how they have used or abused said authority.

Second, Jesus words imply that there is greater and lesser sin. The Lord judged Caiaphas (“*he that hath delivered me unto thee*”) to have the “*greater sin.*” The difference in Pilate’s and Caiaphas’ sin might be summed up in the difference in weakness and malevolence. Pilate’s sin was great for his cowardice led him to crucify a man whom he knew to be innocent (**vss. 8, 13-16**). Caiaphas committed the greater sin for he had been on a quest to kill Jesus. His actions were premeditated and motivated by envy and hate. It is said by some that all sin is the same. While it is true that any sin can cause us to be lost, not all sin is equal in its heinousness. Good common sense tells us that child molestation is not on the same plane as littering.

Finally, the Lord’s words are prophetic. Jesus has judged both Pilate and Caiaphas guilty for putting Him to death (**vss. 10-11**). Yet it is obvious that Pilate has reservations. A mere man would have sensed the hesitation in Pilate and then begged for his life. Jesus, however, knew that He must drink the cup His Father had given Him. Throughout this terrible ordeal, Jesus is calm and in complete control, led as a lamb to the slaughter.

Brent Smith