

# **The Practicality of Redemption (9)**

## Warnings Regarding the Bible

### Introduction

- A. It overwhelms us to realize that God has revealed Himself to us and the revelation has been written through inspiration into a book.
- B. The Bible often warns us that we must have a correct attitude toward this revelation and choose to put it into practice. When we fail to obey God -- we are in serious trouble.

*I also will choose their delusions and will bring their fears upon them, because when I called, none did answer, when I spake, they did not hear, but they did evil before my eyes and chose that in which I delight not.*  
Isaiah 66:4

- C. We must accept the truths regarding obedience and understand that we have the power of the grace of God only as we choose to practice His Word in decisions of faith and love. (Exodus 20:2; Philippians 2:12,13)

### **I. The Warning Related to Being Offended.**

*But he that received the seed (the Bible) into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word and anon with joy receiveth it, yet hath he no root in himself, but dureth for a while, for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.* Matthew 13:20,21

Comment: What a sad commentary on our character. We must confess how easy it is to weaken or even reject the Biblical message -- so we will escape ridicule and be accepted by those we count important. How strange it is -- we would rather give up God's approval for human approval!

### **II. The Warning Related to Wrong Priorities.**

*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word and he becometh unfruitful.* Matthew 13:22

Comment: How vulnerable we are to the goals, pleasures, and priorities of the worldly culture about us! When we live according to these false standards -- the Word of God is crowded out of our life -- the power of the Bible is choked -- and we become unfruitful.

### **III. The Warning Related to Traditionalism.**

*He answered and said unto them, Well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men ... Ye reject the commandment of God that ye may keep your own tradition ... making the word of God of none effect through your tradition which ye have delivered ....* Mark 7:6-9,13

Comment: When we go beyond the message of the Bible in making rules and regulations, we cancel out the Bible! The reason is simple: when we make such rules we do so with ourselves in mind -- and we can obey rules without obeying God.

#### **IV. The Warning Related to being Ashamed.**

*Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*  
Mark 8:38

Comment: What does it mean to be ashamed of the Savior and His Word? It means being embarrassed of our relationship with Him and our belief in His Word. It means to feel shame before others because of the simple and unsophisticated person and teaching of the Son of God. How wrong this is! God's promise is that the believer who does what's right will not be ashamed. Romans 9:33

#### **V. The Warning Related to Unbelief.**

*And if any man hear my words and believe not, I judge him not, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him, the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.* John 12:47,48

Comment: Because God is the fullness of truth, righteousness, and faithfulness -- it is a terrible thing not to believe Him. By such thoughts and life we say to God, "I don't believe You know what You're talking about, I don't believe you can be trusted!"

#### **VI. The Warning Related to Merely Hearing the Word.**

**But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves, For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass, for he beholdeth himself and goeth his way and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.** James 1:22-24

Comment: No one would choose to be deceived. How easy it is, however, to fall into a pattern of life in which we merely hear, study, and learn -- but do not practice the Word of God. When this is true for us we are like a person who looks in the mirror and sees something that should be corrected but does not do so -- and then lives with the imperfection. To live like that is to continually bring ourselves in to defeat and unfruitfulness.

Conclusion: When we obey God by practicing His Word -- we open the door of our life to Him -- and then He can work with us and through us. The choice is ours.

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