

Divine Warnings Related to the Bible (2)

Introduction

- A. From the Scripture we recognize that the more important the doctrine - the more serious are the warnings related to it. While a knowledge of the future is held up as important, in the Bible, the truths related to the Person and work of Jesus Christ are of much greater importance.
- B. One of the major themes of the Bible revolves around the concept of divine revelation. God has revealed Himself to us. The Scripture is the inspired record of that revelation.

God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son Hebrews 1:1,2

- C. It is interesting to note the unusual promises that God has given to us in His Word. Some of the promises relate to cleansing (Hebrews 1:3), freedom from fear, death and bondage (2:14,15), sympathetic help (2:17,18), a priesthood in Jesus Christ (2:17; 4:14,15), prayer privileges (4:16), spiritual certainty (6:17-20), and many more.

I. The Warning Regarding Neglect, Hebrews 2:1-3.

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the Word spoken by angels (the O. T.) was stedfast and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation | (message of salvation), which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him?

Observation: This is a most serious warning indeed. Since God has spoken to us and since His Word is "stedfast" (an unchanging authority) and given to us with divine confirmation - it is a profound sin to neglect this Word by not giving heed to its message and thereby failing to put it into practice.

II. The Warning Regarding Unbelief, Hebrews 3:7-9,19.

Wherefore (as the Holy Spirit saith, Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness, when your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years ... So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief).

Observation: These verses are an inspired commentary on that incident recorded in Numbers 13,14 when the Jewish people refused to believe God and did not enter into the Land of Canaan. By their unbelief they lost the opportunity to enter the land and most of them died outside the land. We are here shown that unbelief has to do with one's "heart" and that it brings the judgment of God upon us.

God is worthy of being believed in that He is absolute in truth, love and holiness. Failure to believe an honest man is a serious matter - of how much more serious is our sin when we fail to take God at His Word and to put it into practice!

III. The Warning Regarding Spiritual Lethargy, Hebrews 4:1,2.

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them, but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Observation: Now we are shown what unbelief does not do. It does not mix the Word of God with faith. This is an important lesson to us. Here we have an explanation as to why the great promises of the Bible do not come true in our lives by way of experience. We must choose (faith is a decision) to believe God and then put the promises of the Word into practice - continually trusting God to carry Out His Word. The verses reminds us that we should be afraid lest we would not do this!

IV. The Warning Regarding Pretense, Hebrews 4:12,13.

For the Word of God is quick (living), and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do.

Observation: Here we are taught that when we come to God and His Word we must realize that there is nothing hidden. God knows all about us. If the Word is to become a living and powerful dimension in our lives then we must be honest.

V. The Warning Regarding Failure to Grow, Hebrews 5:12-14.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God and are become such as have need of milk and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the Word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Observation: God expects us to grow. There is little hope of substantial growth without consistent Bible study* This will enable us to discern and distinguish between good and evil. Without this we are in trouble.

VI. The Warning Regarding Rejecting the Truth, Hebrews 6:4-6.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame.

Observation: These verses are addressed to religious non-believers who refused to believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. They heard the message and saw the miracles and refused to accept the truth. Their rejection stated that Jesus Christ should have been crucified as an impostor.

VII. The Warning Regarding Refusing to Listen to God, Hebrews 12:25.

See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh

Observation: This statement summarize all the warnings in this book of Hebrews. We may not turn a deaf ear to God. This is essentially what we are doing we neglect the Word, etc.