

Divine Warnings Related to the Bible

Introduction

A. It is of major importance that we recognize that God has graciously revealed Himself to us. The Bible is the inspired record of that revelation. It staggers our imagination to realize that we have the privilege of hearing and reading the very Word of God. The Bible itself often warns us concerning having the right attitude and to initiate the right action regarding this revelation.

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 mine eyes and chose that in which I delighted not.
Isaiah 66:4

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Ezra 7:10

B. All believers must face the principles that God is worthy of obedience and that we receive the grace of God for the daily life only as we choose to obey God in the decisions of faith and love. (Exodus 20:2; Phil. 2:12,13)

I. The Warning Regarding Being Offended, Matthew 13:20,21.

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.

Observation: This is a sad commentary on human nature. When we are persecuted or when things go poorly with us because we have obeyed the Bible - we have the tendency to reject the Biblical message and change our life style so that we will be accepted in our culture. This approach to life we must avoid. No matter the cost we must obey God.

II. The Warning Regarding Wrong Priorities, Matthew 13:22.

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.

Observation: This is a most serious warning for the day in which we live. The cares of the world and money are far too important to us. When we place these too high in our priorities it leads us into a life of disobedience to God and we become unfruitful.

III. The Warning Regarding Traditionalism, Mark 7:6-9,13.

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 ... And He said unto them, Full well 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 and many such like things do ye.

Observation: When we go beyond the Bible in formulating religious rules and actions -- we are in danger of making the Word of none effect.

IV. The Warning Regarding Being Ashamed, Mark 8:38.

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.

Observation: What does it mean to be ashamed of Jesus Christ and His Word? It means to be embarrassed of our relationship to Him and of 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. God's promise to the true believer is that he will have nothing to be ashamed of in his relationship to the Lord Jesus, Romans 9:33.

V. The Warning Regarding Unbelief, John 12:47,48.

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.

Observation: These verses plainly teach that unbelief will lead one to reject the Word of God. None of us realize how serious this is. When we fail to believe God and to act on His Word we are saying that God is not worthy of being trusted. We must distinguish between our choice of doubt and unbelief and the feeling of unbelief. When we have chosen to believe and obey God and then "feel" doubtful - we can reject that doubt and unbelief because it has not come from us.

VI. The Warning Regarding A Perverted Testimony, Titus 2:4,5.

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed.

Observation: What the non-Christian will believe and say about the Bible and the Christian life is what they observe in Christians. When we live so that non-Christians get a wrong impression of Christianity and misunderstand the Bible then the truth is ridiculed. In this same passage (Vs 9-14) Paul exhorted slaves to obey God so that the truths of Christianity would be seen as worthy of acceptance.

VII. The Warning Regarding Merely Hearing the Word, James 1:22-24.

Put 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.

Observation: No one would choose to be deceived. This, however, is what happens when we merely hear and agree with the Bible but do not put it into practice. There is no substitute for simple daily obedience.

Conclusion: When we obey God, through His Word, then He can work in our lives and enable us to live a successful life for His glory.

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the Word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

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