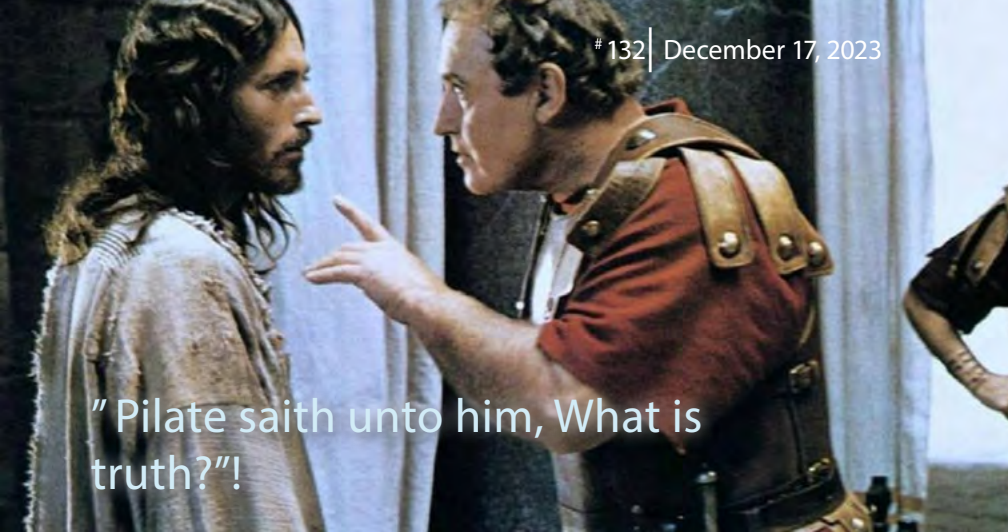




"Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?"!



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

Sensitive to the Truth?

Over the last five years these verses below have come to mean a great deal to me. I read them regularly and pray and think what else they can mean for me. I feel God has given them to me as a source of comfort in a way, living back in the western world again.

I have found myself and also in others, that we are not very sensitive to the importance of heeding and obeying the Word of God and taking some action soon! And action sooner rather than later is very necessary. Have a look at these verses from the Gospel of Luke 19 and I will explain more below. (I am using the Amplified Translation)

41 As He (Jesus) approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it [and the spiritual ignorance of its people], 42 saying, "If [only] you had known on this day [of salvation], even you, the things which make for peace [and on which peace depends]! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

43 For a time [of siege] is coming when your enemies

will put up a barricade [with pointed stakes] against you, and surround you [with armies] and hem you in on every side, 44 and they will level you to the ground, you [Jerusalem] and your children within you. They will not leave in you one stone on another, all because you did not [come progressively to] recognize [from observation and personal experience] the time of your visitation [when God was gracious toward you and offered you salvation]."

Here, Jesus arrives for his last few days of human life at the city of Jerusalem. To make this very long truth as short as we can, Jesus tells them so directly that their city would one day be destroyed. The place they loved so much and worshipped God in and were so proud of, would be levelled to the ground and all their children would die. Gruesome stuff. This is exactly what happened in history as we can see in the links at the end of this article. And why did God Almighty permit this utter destruction of Jerusalem, and the scattering of the Jews into all nations for almost 2,000 years? An event from which they have never fully recovered

until the last century, and even then still only partially.

It was all because they could not or would not or did not wish to know the time when their own God would VISIT them, be gracious to them and offer them Salvation! Imagine! God visited them and offered them Salvation, eternal life and a new beginning to truly become His People in a far deeper way. But they not only refused it, they killed God in the form of Jesus Christ.

God places great stock in our sensitivity to the Truth.



Our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and manifesting the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. In the case above, they failed in the worst possible way and the judgement that came upon them was also the very worst imaginable. Yet God did not hold back from telling them through Jesus what would

happen to them for rejecting their own Messiah.

You will notice also that Jesus wept over the city. God is so righteous, He really does not want to bring destruction to people or nations. It really is in the Bible as a 'Last Resort'. The example of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis is a prime example of that. Nineveh is another, in fact there are dozens. Sometimes we even feel like God, we yearn and grieve for others to change yet they don't. We are stymied and frustrated then. But God has time for all of us to repent, change from these behaviours and become better. If we do not take action within the time that God has set for us, we WILL experience some form of punishment, judgment or loss of earlier blessings and privileges. We bring all that upon ourselves, it is certainly not God's fault.

We actually usually do not know how long a time God has appointed for us to make these changes. But if we had more of a fear of the Lord, and I am speaking as much or more to myself as to anyone here reading, then we would look around and search our hearts and ask God to purge us and change us. That way we would stay out of a lot of trouble.



As Jesus said in the Gospel.
'Go and sin no more'
John 8: 10 When Jesus had

lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

And again:

John 5:14

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, **lest a worse thing** come unto thee.

So we have to 'sin no more' and start on that immediately otherwise 'a worse thing' will come upon us! This is entirely Scriptural. We have to make the action.



Well, what am I trying to say? I am trying to say two things today by the grace of God. The first is this: we must ask God to help us be or make us be more sensitive to the Loving Holy Spirit. God is waiting on us to stop doing things we know we shouldn't be doing. We could be a critical person and criticise and speak negatively of others. The Lord has warned

us, pastors have spoken to you, you have not changed (sufficiently). You could be a person who is jealous, you could be someone who has some hidden sins that almost no one knows about like watching porn, drinking, smoking cursing, being selfish with your money and material things. Disrespecting your husband and making life so difficult for him and vice versa. The list could truly go on. As believers who are trying to walk in 'newness of life', God wishes us to put on the new man or woman made in the Image of Jesus Christ, so that we are transformed from Glory to a greater Glory, like Him! It's a process.



Are we guilty like the Jews of not being sensitive to the Truth of the Word and the still small voice of the Holy Spirit? If not we should pray to be more sensitive and we should be aware, very much more than we are, of the coming chastisement God is going to bring us as much as He loves us. This is not a popular thing to say in today's namby pamby materialised, lovey-dovey, cozy-rosy relationship we all think we have with 'The Lord'.

But if we love Him and He loves us, then at some point He will chastise us. As we see below in the King James Version

Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

The Lord wants our spirits to be healed. I have experienced painful chastisements from the Lord many times in my life, and they hurt, (verse 11) but they are also over with fairly soon and the result is or should be a better me!

King David said 'wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.' Psalm 51 the whole chapter is a wonderful example.

I encourage all of us to search our own hearts and ask the Lord to keep us growing closer to him, forsake our sins and the beams in our own eyes.

Let's close the first point with this verse:

Revelation 2:-21

19 'I know your deeds, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your last deeds are more numerous and greater

it's very similar to the first, except it is another way around.

Let me explain.

We should be sure, as I shared above, that we have clean hearts, are seeking the Lord, and wishing to be close to Him in all aspects of our lives, and sometimes we do need help from others to get there.

If we are doing that, we also come to other problems, which are the behaviour and attitudes of others towards ourselves. In this case, and this is the second point, I am



than the first. 20 But I have this [charge] against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess [claiming to be inspired], and she teaches and misleads My bond-servants so that they commit [acts of sexual] immorality and eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent [to change her inner self and her sinful way of thinking], but she has no desire to repent of her immorality and refuses to do so.

So what is the second point I wish to make:

talking exclusively about other Christians.

Let me give you some examples. Since returning to the UK, I have found unfailingly with very few exceptions, that my countrymen and women have little or no respect for me as a Christian.

I have been blessed in my life along with my family to be a missionary in various countries, and with that came something called 'Respect' from the dear people of that country. Because they were and are in many cases, hungry for the Word of God

and friendship, it was easy to be accepted and loved by them and for us to love them. It was a lovely mutual friendship and brotherhood in the Lord.

I am sure that this is possible here in the UK, however it is very different.

I bring my son to a school each working day. He enjoys this predominantly Christian based school.

Yet I often feel some spiritual resistance from a number of people there in the staff. I am still praying about this and have searched my own heart, yet this still remains a trial for me.

Why is it that I am not received in this situation as a person who had served God for so many years? I have come to live with it. But now at the same time I have also

begun to realise that there is some form of spiritual problem with a few of the people.

These people call themselves Christians, attend church and act and behave in a confident manner. Yet some of them are not respectful and warm and loving. I pray God will give me grace to keep living and experiencing this. The point I am making is this and what I have found to be very true and it may perhaps be true where you are.

Ask yourself: who do I get on well with in the Lord? If YOU

love the Lord and are trying your best to keep loving Him, then other people who truly love the Lord, will love you! It is as simple as that. Now you may find that cuts the field down to a tiny amount of people or even zero! Hopefully not zero, I must say! But I believe that is the truth of it and although it grieves me to experience this, I have now come to that conclusion.

Is there anything I can do about it? Yes, a few things. I must pray for grace, also for

not receive you spiritually (for whatever reason).

If you find yourself in a similar position, remember that God knows it all. You should ask the Lord to intervene and change things around and if not, then ask Him for the grace to continue to be loving and kind regardless of others. We can pray that the Lord will 'cast down' those imaginations (thoughts, mind-sets, stubbornnesses, etc) that some people have. God is able. And I have found it is primarily in the mind, because the mind

is where the devil can come in and build his thinking and imaginations.

So you see, in a way, such people even though believers, can be obstructing the Lord's blessings coming down on them due to their

behaviours as

we spoke of further above. Psalm 68:6 but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

Finally, you will meet people who are true brethren, who radiate the Lord's Love and are humble. I always connect well with such people. Recently, my son was going through and finally recovering from some severe illness and other difficulties. I felt quite discouraged one day about him, and was wondering if I should pull him out of this



the people and believe that if I am right about this point, then God also knows about their spiritual resistance, and over time and eventually He will do something about it and about them. That is also a lesson for pastors in general or any devoted follower of Jesus, who wants to help others. God is in control, He knows how to get through to such people who look like they are in control, have a sometimes arrogant attitude or simply do

school. At pick up time, his history teacher came out of the gate, I had not met her before. An elderly lady, her face was shining with joy and happiness. She said, 'oh ----- your son is such a lovely boy, he is absolutely brilliant!' well, that was just what the Lord knew I needed to hear! I intend to write her and thank her. This taught me that when we feel discouraged sometimes about others, God will send someone along to show us what is the true way to look and think!

An old Christian lady was once asked: 'Do you know what 'Unction' is?*' To which she wisely replied 'I don't know what Unction is, but I sure knows when it ain't!'

We may not know when something is the right standard or way to be for the Lord, but when we come across someone who is the real deal (The Unction) everything then becomes clear! Praise the Lord! What a victory!

I pray for you over this last month of the year, that you will have the Unction, be the Unction and find others who also have the Unction, so that together you can love our wonderful Jesus!
God bless you!
Until Next week,
Jerry for the WCF Team

**What is the biblical meaning of unction?
Unction means the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon a sermon so that something holy and powerful is added to the message that no preacher can generate, no matter how great his skills

Their inward thought is that their houses will continue forever.

Psalm 49:11



TRUTH RESISTED
LOSES ITS POWER
OVER THE MIND.



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