

Hope in the Midst of a Wicked Generation

Because of the unwillingness of God's people to drive out the wicked inhabitants of the land, God did not drive out the people from before them any longer. What arose from that tragic mistake was an even more wicked generation.

"When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from [among] the gods of the people who [were] all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger." (Judges 2:10-12 NKJV)

One can easily see the devastation worldly influence can have on a generation. How could one generation not leave any remembrance of the former? Spiritual life gives way to an occasional emphasis then an occasional emphasis loses its meaning. After that, the soul of worship is gone, and it is no longer important to the people. When that happens, they no longer teach it to their children.

This is a very real situation in this country. Young people are growing up without any sound Biblical understanding. Their parents were lost and did not attend church, and they have never been in a church except for a funeral or wedding. Is it any wonder that society is given to lasciviousness and all manner of wickedness?

"They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed." (Judges 2:13-15 NKJV)

Now I want you to consider something about the heart of God. We have read how God's righteous anger was directed at the people. However, even though God is willing to be wrathful He does not desire to be so. Notice the pattern.

"Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them." (Judges 2:16 NKJV) "And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them." (Judges 2:18 NKJV)

While dealing with a stubborn, wayward people the Lord's ear is always tuned to hear their cry for mercy. Repeatedly, God turns from His fierce wrath for pity's sake. If God is willing to turn from His wrath for pity, will He not be moved by your repentance. I tell you He longs to be merciful.

The believer is not appointed unto wrath (1 Thess. 5:8). However, the believer will be chastened near unto death if need be to save his soul (Ps 118:18; 2 Cor. 6:9; Heb 12:8).

Are you in the midst of chastening now? Discern the heart of God and know He desires to show you mercy. What a great, loving Savior we serve. He is quick to turn from the rod to a warm embrace. Therefore, give Him the one thing He desires more than anything else, your love and repentance. "The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise." (Psalms 51:17 NKJV)

Lord, hear the cries of your people today, amen.