## 3.8 Warn the Wicked!



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John 3: 17-21

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into

the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

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For the last couple of years, I have heard it said, and believed it myself, that God is going to "rescue His eagle"—that is, to save America and the rest of the world from corrupt and illegitimate governments that consistently oppose Godly values. I believe revival and prosperity is in the future for those who have trusted and served the Lord, as the wickedness currently being advocated by "liberal" politicians and broadcast by the major media outlets is overturned. As a nation, we are more than ready for JUSTICE in America, wondering if indeed it is coming and why it is taking SO long!

Then last week, I began to hear three words: "Warn the Wicked!" What I have been hearing before was certainly GOOD NEWS to believers, but BAD NEWS to the wicked people who hijacked our 2020 election, who support the abortion industry, who have abandoned Constitutional and Biblical values in favor of Socialist and Marxist ideologies. It will certainly be bad news for those in the Deep State who seem to be in complete control, taking bribes and accumulating personal wealth while their actions are actually leading to the destruction of the land we love. We have been told that we are NOT to gloat when the truth is revealed to us, nor to celebrate when the wicked are removed and punished. We are to remember that God loves the wicked just as much as He loves those who faithfully serve Him. God takes no pleasure in seeing anyone banished to Hell or punished for wickedness, so neither should we! In fact, it is a GREAT victory for God and a GREAT defeat to satan when a wicked person turns to the Lord, is forgiven for EVERY sin, and spends the rest of his/her life (and all eternity in Heaven!) in victory over sin and in fellowship with God.

So, we are to WARN the wicked, not celebrate thoughts of their demise! Who are the wicked that we are supposed to be warning? Do I know any wicked people? Do YOU know any wicked people? When I was a young man, my

childhood pastor and one of my favorite men of God, the Rev Paul M. Stewart returned in his retirement to preach a series of messages in our Methodist Church. One of his messages was entitled "What must I do to be LOST?" The answer is very simple: "Nothing"! You don't have to be a bank robber or kill someone or commit some heinous act. To be lost, all you have to do is spend your life in selfish pursuits, denying or ignoring the fact that you have sinned, and ignoring the fact that Jesus actually DIED on a cross to forgive you for all you have On the other hand, if you HAVE robbed a bank, or killed someone, or committed some other horrible acts, no matter how wicked you have been, Jesus really DIED on a cross, a blood sacrifice to pay for ALL of our sin and to forgive us for all we have done. Your wickedness and my own, no matter how bad we have been, can be forgiven, and our lives can be changed as if we had never sinned! There are two steps: 1. Confess our sin, 2. Believe that Jesus died for our sins and accept his forgiveness. When you accept Jesus, you are a NEW person! Your sins were washed away! You are starting a NEW life! Then, read the Bible, and ask the Lord to show you how this "new person" should be living!

Then I began to think about these people we are supposed to be warning. There are a lot of very nice people that I know who just don't spend their time thinking about the Lord or acknowledging what Jesus did for us at Calvary. Then again, there are some people who are NOT very nice. These people probably don't like me very much. In fact, they probably don't like me AT ALL! What is even worse, I probably don't like them very much either! One thing for sure: They aren't going to be reading THIS website about Bible verses, so I probably don't need to worry about them anyway!

OOPS! Now I'm beginning to sound like Jonah, the prophet in the Old Testament. God saw the terrible wickedness in Ninevah, He pronounced judgment and destruction on that city, and He called Jonah to go to Ninevah and preach repentance to the people there. Remember that the people of Ninevah were Assyrians, who were mortal enemies of the children of Israel. Jonah knew that if he went to Ninevah and preached to them, that the people would probably repent, that God would be merciful, and He would NOT destroy the city. Jonah certainly didn't want THAT to happen. The Ninevites were wicked, and they deserved to be punished and their city destroyed. So Jonah went in the OPPOSITE direction, running away from Ninevah and away from God! Running away from

God NEVER ends well! Jonah boarded a ship, a storm arose, Jonah found himself thrown overboard, and swallowed by a LARGE fish. After three days in the belly of this fish, the Lord finally got through to him, and Jonah reluctantly went and preached a message of repentance to the Ninevites. Sure enough, just as Jonah predicted, the people repented by the hundreds of thousands, and God canceled the destruction of the city. Jonah was MAD and UNHAPPY! What kind of prophet would leave an extremely successful revival like this and go away MAD?? To see the rest of this story, please see the story on this website about Jonah!

Now, here is the hard part! If I am completely honest about this, I find myself thinking a lot like Jonah. Am I willing to go to those people who don't like me anyway and preach Jesus to them? I say, "There is no need for me to do that! They wouldn't listen to me anyway!!" Then the Lord reminds me that I am NOT responsible for their RESPONSE to me! My responsibility is to present the Gospel to them and tell them that God loves them. The Holy Spirit does the rest.

In conclusion, indeed, we are to "Warn the Wicked." Everyone, especially the wicked, needs to know Jesus, who He was, who He is, and what He did for us! There is logical and historical evidence for the validity of the Bible and for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus! Have you read about the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus? Our mission is to preach the Gospel to EVERYONE, especially the wicked! Consider the New Testament story of Saul, a truly wicked man, whose life goal was to arrest Christians of the early Church, bring them to trial, and execute them. God got Saul's attention, radically changed his life and changed his name to Paul! Look what the Apostle Paul accomplished for God's Kingdom! Consider Paul's ministry to the Gentiles, the churches he established, and the letters to these churches that are canonized as books of our Bible. Are there any Sauls in my life or your life that need to change their lifestyles? A "Saul" converted to "Paul" is a GREAT and ETERNAL victory for the Kingdom of God, a much GREATER loss to the forces of darkness. We must take inventory of our lives, make sure we are on the right side! Make sure that Jesus is the Lord of our life! If you know a "Saul," tell him/her about Jes

There is a saying "A leopard can't change his spots!" But God can change the leopard!

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