

Oh Wretched Man that I Am!

As Christians we will find ourselves in circumstances that can bring these graphic words of Paul storming into our minds: Romans 7:24. While setting our hearts towards Jesus and being determined to set our minds in the direction of His path the inevitability of grave failure is almost certain. We see many examples of this displayed in the scriptures; as men and women of God there are times that we make the worst possible decisions: 2Samuel 12:9. 1Kings 11:1-2. Galatians 2:11-14; we sin against the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Some of these sins are apparent to those around us, while others go unnoticed not being obvious to others, or to even the ones committing them. Certainly God knows our hearts and will sooner or later take actions regarding our personal shortcomings with Him and also the church as a whole: Revelation 3:19. God has the ultimate plan for our lives in His Mind and the best interests for His Church are ever present in Him in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Often God can delay in giving us what we deserve in terms of discipline: Acts 13:18. Nehemiah 9:30-31. Hebrews 12:7-8. As new believers or even older believers we can fall under certain conditions of ignorance and blindness that will incapacitate our abilities to understand punishment from God. God in these cases must delay in providing correctional discipline, and these delays can often be prolonged in coming to us. If God were not to bring the correctional discipline in a timely way (in His timing), we could find ourselves blaspheming God without knowing we were doing so. We can be in a state of denial regarding things we are doing that are in fact displeasing to Him: Jeremiah 6:19-20. 14:10. When God's discipline comes to us He prefers that we are in a state and reality of mind enabling us to endure and not reject it: Romans 2:4; 12:3. Proverbs 3:11-12. God provides an interim period of time to enable us to ingest His Word therefore providing the time we need to discover our weaknesses, faults and sins. Often there are things we are pursuing in our lives that are not God's will. In these cases sin is inevitable because we are off the path that He has chosen for us. The scripture says to judge ourselves with righteous judgment or God will eventually intercede with discipline whether we have the capacities to understand it or not: 1Corinthians 11:28, 32. Colossians 3:25. This comes not to harm us, but is provided for intervention because we're advancing in the wrong direction. God prefers that we understand these correctional measures that we might profit from them: Numbers 22:21-34.

God's ways are always better than our ways, and His thinking and plan for our lives are always better than the methods that we tend to choose: Isaiah 55:8-9. Because Christ is the Head of the Church, it will be God's way or no way: Ephesians 1:22. Often we want what God wants but we are seeking to do it in our own ways or timing and not His. The famous Quote of many pastors is: "We try to run ahead of God". God wants us to be in the right state of mind and place to do the things he wants us to do for Him; beyond these things it's a matter of His timing. There are always preparation issues that God is considering for us and the ones around us also. The question is: Are we ready and adequately prepared to do what He wants done? Are we looking in the right direction? Are we in the right field, or are we seeking to sow in a field that's not of God's choosing? If we are, then we are wasting seed sowing in a field that has already been planted with seed, trampling under our feet seed that

has already been planted. A good seed can remain in the Ground for a prolonged period of time waiting for the rain (water) to come: Rom 12:2. 2Co 10:15-16. Isa 28:28-29. We often can be fooling ourselves thinking that we're doing God's will when, in fact, we are not: Ephesians 5:17.

Certainly if we are going in the right direction, the direction of God's choosing, this progression will not go unchallenged by Satan; and in fact it's Satan's prerogative to challenge our advance at almost every point. This is the point in which many believers are tripped up and seek an alternative route to do God's will; this is the point of departure that Satan seeks for us: Job 1:7-12. 1Peter 5:8. Satan seeks to pervert our way therefore subverting the true direction God wants us to go. At this point we can start feeling a sense of frustration. If we ignore this frustration, then we are hardening our hearts to God's will.

We see in Revelations that God had major issues with all but two of the seven Churches: Revelation 2:8-9; 3:7-8. Satan was successful in subverting a major portion of these believers' walk they were having with God. God knows that Satan is often successful in perverting the way of Christians; therefore He is always willing to provide us the time to set things in the right direction. These same strategies and tactics deployed by Satan in the time of John and the Seven Churches are deployed today. Our Lord indicated that these latter days will accompany a greater extent of departure than in the early Church area: Matthew 24:11. 1Timothy 4:1. It's easy to see that Satan has had 2000 years to refine his skills of deception. Many Pastors are now feeling a sense of frustration and are willing to admit that things are not looking like they should look, just as John the Apostle had perceived through the Holy Spirit regarding the Seven Churches of Revelation: Rev chapters 2 and 3.

Only two or three centuries after the writings of John and the other Apostles, History goes into a state of irony recorded as being the dark ages; a time when darkness and shadow of death had come just as did to Israel in the times before John the Baptist and our Lord's appearing to Israel: Matthew 4:15-16. These times are spoken of in prophesy as a land whose Ground is dried and cracked: Jeremiah 14:4. The idea regarding the phrase The Ground being "dried and cracked" refers to the fact that the true bread and true drink had been ignored; people preferring to ignore the true authority of the Word of God and replacing it with leavened bread. These times can be compared to Paul's admonishment to Timothy that the time would come that people will turn away from sound doctrine in preference to wanting their ears tickled with the doctrines of Demons: 2Timothy 4:3-4. This is people wanting the Pastor to assuage them in the scriptures rather than guide them with teachings that are authoritative and corrective. Paul said that he was not to teach as a boxer beating the air; Paul referring to the fact that only a direct hit was acceptable to God for any given situation or condition that was at hand: 1Corinthians 9:26. During times such as these we find ourselves living in a condition that can only be described by another statement of Paul: "They hold to a form of Godliness but are refusing its power": 2Timothy 3:5. People can be sincere about wanting to do God's will but as Paul said: "A little leaven leavens the whole lump", and as Jesus said: "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees": 1Corinthians 5:6. Matthew 12:1. Jesus taught as one having authority and not as their scribes were doing: Mark 1:22. The teachers at the times of Jesus were assuaging their flocks rather than directing them: Matthew 23:13-15.

While directing sheep, it is often necessary to poke them with a stick to get them to go in the right direction. This is corrective discipline that commands the people to live up to the standards they have been taught: Psalms 23:4(b). Proverbs 29:15. Pastors who do this will be rejected by some of the flock because some are sheep that have turned to their own way: Isaiah 53:6, and others are actually goats and not sheep. There are deeper truths to know from the Word of God that are never taught because Pastors can have a fear of being rejected by the goats, and the true sheep are left hungry and thirsty and not knowing why or for what reason. Sound doctrine separates the sheep from the goats, therefore, providing the environment enabling further growth in God's plan for their lives: 1Corinthians 11:18-19. They will begin to discover the manifold wisdom of God, the length, width, and height of God's majesty growing in their love and appreciation for Him: Ephesians 3:10-19; willing on their own part to take this love to their neighbor across the street with the full confidence of Christ, being willing to share in His sufferings also. Certainly a confidence of Christ and a proactive role in His plan will bring suffering because of persecution, as we see is promised by the scriptures: 1Peter 4:12-13. When we press into enemy territory where sheep are being held captive, our adversary the devil will not like it; Satan will stir his forces to oppose such an advance whether it be our personal and preparatory advance with God or the resultant assault on enemy positions with the sword of the word of God: Ephesians 6:17-18. Paul said He stood ready and prepared to destroy every high thing and every speculative thought that sets itself against the true knowledge of God: 2Corinthians 10:4-5.

We live in times right now that the church has never been more divided because there are so many different interpretations of the scriptures. The scriptures can not be interpreted in many different ways and bring us into a unity and like-thinking that the very scriptures demand of us: 1 Corinthians 1:10; Romans 15:5-6. Paul said that people will give preference to their emotions; following them, making them their God rather than wanting to submit to sound teaching: Philippians 3:18-19. Romans 16:17-18. 1 Peter 2:1-3. The Church can only be united in unity of truth because God is truth. We are to be and live in truth to the measure and stature of that which was in Christ: Ephesians 4:13-16. Paul said, "Have this thinking in you who was also in Christ Jesus": Philippians 2:2,5. James said if we fail in any of these things that we are guilty of all: James 2:10.

God is merciful and is passing over this time of ignorance just as he was in the times of our Lord incarnation on the earth and there and beyond: Acts 17:30. Martin Luther provided much for us to start our way out of the Dark Ages; but it is becoming more and more apparent to more and more Pastors and Church leaders that there is much farther to go. We can point fingers and say that this or that denomination holds traditions that are contrary to the scriptures; yet we can also be found holding to traditions that the Bible does not support or confirm, at least not when examining things closely from the Greek and Hebrew. In even the best Bible translations of our times scholars are willing to admit that there are over one hundred and twenty words mistranslated in the most defining areas of scriptures; it is as though some of the translators were intentionally trying to cover up the truth. It is important to note that these 120 are in the New Testament by itself not including the Old. Once again, most of these mistranslations are found in the most Key areas.

A large portion of the pastors graduating from highly accredited seminaries are aware of these facts; yet they still feel the pressure to teach these things just as they are found in the Bibles that most of us carry with us to Church. How can those knowing of these things remain silent regarding them and expect a greater unity in the body of Christ? Should not we expect just the opposite? If God is revealing this —and He is—, then why maintain silence about it? Would not Pastors be mute dogs providing not any warning from God regarding the true essence of His will: Isaiah 56:10-11? These spurious passages, as they are being called by those not willing to take a stand on them, are issues of the Word of God not yet resolved in the body of Christ; issues that would provide for a greater unity in truth, rather than the lingering passive compromise that will never bring us to the point where some would like to go: Ephesians 4:13-15. Some have agreed that for these things to remain hidden is best that the unity that has been attained is not compromised; yet others say that any form of compromise is not the will of God. Since some pastors know these things, Are they not responsible to reveal them even at the expense of a division occurring because of their revelation? Paul said that there must be divisions so that we know who is in charge: 1 Corinthians 11:18-19. Certainly, those willing to reveal the truth regarding these things are in charge of the word of God, and those rejecting these things are those who cause divisions; these are the pastors that are scattering the sheep spoken of in the Old Testament: Ezekiel 34:1-10. When true teaching is involved, the goats will divide out from the sheep, just as will the sheep from the goats. With this we could enjoy the Light as noon in the day; otherwise things remain hidden in the darkness, things that, actually, God intended for us to know.

Is there to be any true forward motion in God's plan for our lives and the lives of others if we fail to reveal even one of these spurious passages in the scriptures? Well, the scriptures say that a little leaven leavens the whole lump: 1Corinthians 5:6. We are living at a time where more pastors now than ever are seeing that it is in fact leavened. If there was not any awareness of these things then we can sleep easy; but if we do know these things we are obligated to communicate them to those within our own households, and also in the company of other believers. Certainly there will be some rejection: Christ said: "he that rejects me rejects you also": Luke 10:16; He also said that if they receive us they will receive Him also, along with the Father too: Matthew 10:40. The Apostle Paul was willing to stand for the truth regardless of the consequences. We see that he was regarded by many as a deceiver and was rejected for a time by even his own converts to the faith: 2Corinthians 6:8. 2Timothy 1:15. Paul was willing at all times to step over lines to take the truth to any and all who were not receiving it: Romans 1:13-15. Ephesians 6:19-20. 1Thesalonians 2:1-2. He stepped over the line of fear not counting his own life as being in constant danger; the Lord delivered him through all of these things despite the almost constant antagonism of those who were actively opposed to his teachings: Acts 23:10-11; 26:15-18. 2Timothy 3:11-12. These are the same things that surround anyone of us willing to make right with God in teaching sound doctrine that is being exposed by those thoroughly trained in the Greek.

In the latter 1980's something happened in a major portion of the seminaries throughout the United States of America that is little known about. I was in my early studies of the word of God along with many other young men at that time. I can only describe what I was to see as being the sound of many waters: At many schools all at the same time a great deal of the Greek students were caused to see many of the errors in what was considered

even the best of the English translations, when comparing them to what the Greek was saying. This created a stir such to the extent that many of the leading faculty from these schools met together on more than one occasion and at various places throughout the country. This all happened fairly quickly. The consensus of all of this was to calm the stirring that was going on by saying to this effect: “God has been successful in delivering us and others with these long-recognized translations of the Bible; we would not want to cast any doubts upon the masses regarding these things. Many things are going well for us because of the Lord and the fields are white for harvest; so, let us continue on with God’s work”. I was willing without reservation to accept this explanation to move on as before; but I never did forget that it did happen and very few people know anything of this. The years have passed now and myself and a few others have not been able to get this out of our minds. Even though almost all of those who are to read this in the future will never know who I am, that is not to be any concern of mine; others will become known as passing on this information to others, and so on as the Lord wills. I have had my glory in just being able to see and to know these things to be true from the unadulterated word of God. Although I have no regrets, I can only say that I wish I would have listened to the Lord and expressed these things sooner. The “Johnny come lately” can speak now; but before I was willing to do this, I was a mute dog. I have been asked by the few people who know of this writing why I insist to remain anonymous. The answer to this Question, so there are no misgivings, it is God’s will I do so; it was his idea to do this when there was the sound of many waters. This forth coming information was given to many at the same time; so, it is plain for me to see that this is from God and not from myself. There are others that will come to be known but as for me, unknown is the best way. I was not willing to accept this for quite some time causing delays in the project’s completion.

You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.
(John 8:32)

Things which the eye has not seen neither has the ear heard are the things the Lord has prepared for those who love Him.
(1Corinthians 2:9)