

AMERICA

“FLEE FROM THE WRATH TO COME”

“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to **flee from the wrath to come**?” Matt. 3:7

“Who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us?”
Hebrews 6:18

By Del Wray, Pastor

We who believe God’s Word and seek to be approved by Him are most often blessed when we execute the office of a faithful messenger. Our message to the lost is urgent: it is a life-and-death message. It is not “God loves you and so do I.” This present world is beginning to stagger like a drunkard about to fall in the gutter. America is drunk on love! The message it needs to hear today is: “**flee from the wrath to come**” Luke 3:7; Matt. 3:7.

Who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? The Age of Grace is almost over, the Church is leaving and Judgment is here. If no one has told you to let me be the second because the first to tell us all is God Himself as stated in the Bible. There will be no second chances! If the rapture takes place and you are left behind there will be no second chance for you.

Hell is a place of everlasting punishment. Hell is the place where its victims are tormented in both their bodies and minds in accordance with their sinful natures, the actual sins committed, and the amount of light that they reject. Hell is a place from which God’s wrath is revealed as a terrifying consuming fire. And men live with unfulfilled lusts and desires in torment forever and ever.

Perhaps, you’re sitting there under the gracious influence of God, God is putting conviction in your heart. This is the goodness of God seeking to lead you to repentance and here is what God says you must do to flee from the wrath to come.

Be afraid, first of all, because the wrath of God abides on you. Listen to the Word of God, John 3:36, “*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life but the wrath,*” the word there means the fierce anger, “*of God abideth on him.*” Know every lost sinner that lives outside of divine protection, as only given through Christ today, has an abiding, resting upon them the wrath of God. But it’s only a small part of a small measure compared to what it’s going to culminate in when they stand before God and they’re cast into everlasting fire.

Everlasting fire! At this very moment in this very place some are on the threshold of eternity. How do you know? Because you are reading the writing of a Baptist preacher that once had no reality in his life. And God had mercy on him and saved me. I know a preacher that preached the Bible and served as a Baptist pastor for over twenty years, and he was still lost. There was no reality in his life. He told the church he had tried to make things work in his life. He told them of his consistent devotional life. How he tried to encounter the presence of God in his life. He even told us how he had his own secret prayer closet. He said I was just going through the normal disciplines of the Christian life and yet there was no reality. There was no power. He told us how he was trusting in his Bible school theological training and years of

service. With tears in his eyes, he said I realized I was lost and in need of Jesus Christ. And in front of four hundred people I had the privilege to introduce him to Jesus Christ and that evening baptized that dear preacher. And here's probably the greatest evidence that many of you are outside of Christ. It is the fact that you have no power to overcome sin in your life. I'm not talking about perfection. Can you overcome sin in your life? Or are you still living in the muck and mire of a filthy mind? If you are, then flee to Christ now! Don't harden your heart. Let it tender to the Words of Jesus:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" Matt. 11:28-29.

Secondly, I would encourage you to seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near. Isaiah 55, listen, friend, that admonition presupposes that there can come a time where you will seek the Lord but He will not be found. If God's dealing with you, if there's conviction, if there's brokenness, if there's and understanding of your sin, fly to Christ! Look to Christ!

Dr. Ruckman said, "The real horror of being outside of Christ is that there is no shelter from the wrath of God." No shelter.

Lastly, abandon all hope of saving yourself. Abandon all hope! Attempting to be moral and live up to the standards that you've heard without the power of grace resting in your heart will only aggravate sin and increase your apostasy.

Animal rights people were real concerned recently when many of our national birds were washing up on shore on our Great Lakes, the Bald Eagle for one. So they began to closely investigate why these birds were dying the way they were. They found out it was because of so much environmental pollution the birds were not able to find sufficient food, and sustenance to sustain themselves. And so these birds would fly across these lakes, those "monarchs of the sky" would have those wings spread out and flying just above the surface where they could see a "pickerel or pike", type of fish, and suddenly they would draw those massive wings as they would soar upward and then they would draw them to their side and they would dive toward the water and penetrating the surface like a bullet and would spread those big talons out and they would grab that large fish and make their way in a struggle to the surface of the water and then spread out those wings, and take their flight with that fish in their clutches. The only problem was, many times the fish was so large and the eagle was so weakened and so far from shore that it would not turn lose of the fish before the weight of that fish drug that eagle back down in the water to its death, drowning. It did not have enough strength to get back to the shore. Friend that is a picture of many people in our churches today, they are struggling hopelessly in their own strength. They're embracing their own works, those are idols! And before they'll turn lose of those idols, those things, and abandon all hope of saving themselves, those very idols, will drag them to their eternal deaths.

Believe on Christ once. Believe on Christ! you say that's too simple. Do You want to know why it's so simple? Spurgeon said, "The reason God has made it so simple." *"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest"* Matt 11:28. "All that will come unto me I will in no wise cast out. Why has God made it so simple? TO ANNIHILATE THE PRIDE OF MAN! Because man always wants to take a little credit, a little glory, in what he's done. "I prayed the prayer." "I walked the aisle." "I made a decision." No friend it's all of grace, it's all of God's grace alone, you believe on Christ only once! Listen to the words of the greatest Scottish preacher of all time who only lived to be twenty-nine years old before he died, Robert Murray McCheyne. He said, "The present is your only time to be saved." "There's no believing, no repenting, nor conversion in the grave. No minister will speak for you there. This is the time of your conversion." Indeed it is the time of your conversion.

So once again, perhaps the words of Leonard Ravenhill are fitting. He said “If they sing worthy is the Lamb in Heaven, in Hell they will sing ““The harvest is passed, the summer has ended and we are not saved.”” Isn’t it a good thing that God remembers mercy in wrath? Isn’t it good news that in spite of all of this exposition on wrath and judgment God remembers mercy. You say “Well I just don’t feel it right now, I don’t feel very contrite and remorseful over my sin.” Listen friend. If God has given you understanding, I want to use a term that Spurgeon coined, “Duty faith.” You leave whatever is keeping you from Christ and you come to Him. And I can assure you, He will show Himself strong on your behalf and save you to the uttermost. And save you to the uttermost.

**PRAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL USE THIS SERMON TO BRING MANY TO A SAVING
KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST.**