

8-21-22 Message
Part I
Evidence That Our Nation Is Under The Wrath of God..

And Part II
HOW TO LIVE IN A NATION UNDER JUDGMENT

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed [it] unto them.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

INTRO

There is no doubt that we are a nation under Judgment of God. We read in

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

God promises to bring down his wrath on a people who hold the truth in unrighteousness. There is no doubt about it in America we have more churches, more Bibles, more preaching of the truth than any other nation in the world. We also have more freedom. Yet all that truth and freedom is being held in unrighteousness.

The truth is that with so many professing Christians in our nation it should be nearly impossible for any godless politician to ever make it into office. Yet corrupt and immoral politicians abound. After seeing where our country has gone the last two years there should be a landslide change in our mid term elections, yet it is totally baffling how that the radical left and democrats seem to be in the lead in the polls. Even Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader in the Senate, is predicting conservatives will loose the Senate.

I was reading an article that asked the question: Can democracy be a hinderance to Christianity? The reason that question was asked was because it seems that the churches that are suffering persecution in countries where Christianity is forbidden seem to be flourishing, while in countries where there is freedom the churches are dying. How is this?

Here is a testimony of a Christian who came to our nation from a former soviet country:

I lived in Romania, being exposed daily to the persecution, mockeries, insults, etc.

I come in this country considered by me with a high spirituality, with so many Christian churches, activities, radio, TV, etc., to find what I call "Easy Christianity." I understood if I speak up, people in the church do not like to hear and I was accused about being divisive. To me it is no wonder, because we really are living the last days.

It is sad when you see what is happening here in the United States, while in those opposed countries the spiritual life is taking really off the ground. In this way, if the Lord will not return in the next ten years, I would not be surprised if Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will send their missionaries here in the States.

I am also writing expressing my frustration too. I am in a church that for the last three and a half years has met in a rented building. All of a sudden the building was put for sale. What was the decision of the elders of this church, after "consulting" through surveys, personal discussions, collective discussion with about seventy people (the size of the church)? The Church decided to disband... because they said thirty-three percent of the above number wanted to move to different churches because ours did not deal with "their problems, their needs, their hurts, their disappointments"....

I look back to Romania, amazed to hear that 200,000 people kneeled in the downtown city of Timisoara (the city where an uprising for liberty started) they cried out, "God is with us" and repeated after a Christian man a prayer "Our Father," which was not publicly said since the Communists took over that country.

Just an example: in the capital of Bucharest my former church has almost 1000 members in a small building where only 300 people can be be seated... crowded, many of them standing up Sunday mornings three hours, Sunday night two hours, Thursday night two hours, etc. And here in the United

***States people decided to disband a Bible-believing church for stupid reasons.
I almost cannot believe it..***

Notice how the wrath is promised against those who know the truth and hold the truth in unrighteousness. The problem is a lukewarm church. No fire.. no zeal.. To whom much is given much is required. We are looking to salvage this nation through politics. It will never happen. Who knows but maybe God is going to let the radical left win over the country to bring persecution and wake up the true church of Christ.

First we are going to look at the evidence that we are under the wrath of God mentioned in Romans chapter one.. Then part two of the message is how we should live such a world where the wrath of God is being manifest.

Now this wrath is not necessarily cataclysmic wrath.. or apocalyptic.. with signs in the heavens, and fire coming down from the sky.. This wrath is the wrath of abandonment. People don't think of this as wrath, yet it is. It is a punishment in that God gives them up... hardens their heart... Takes away the guilt and shame of what they are doing.

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Romans 1:24 **Wherefore God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

What has happened is that we are a people who have been given the truth more so than any other country in the world yet when we knew God, we have not glorified him and the hearts of the people have been darkened.

Therefore it says God gives up on such a people ...

This giving.. up is the process of letting them go their own way..

Letting this people do what they want to do.

Letting this people suffer the consequences of their actions.

As a judgment against a people that at one time had the truth and rejected it, here is what God does to judge that nation.

God abandons them to do what they want to do and lets them do it. It is just incomprehensible how there is no outrage in our nation for what we are seeing. It makes no sense at all except to say, what we read about in Romans chapter 1 is descriptive of our nation today. Romans 1 is the proof that our nation is under judgment!

I. CONSIDER THE PROCESS OF GOD'S ABANDONMENT OF OUR NATION:

They think they are wise.. yet they are fools.

1. SUCH A PEOPLE'S EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WILL BE GIVEN OVER TO FOOLISHNESS

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,
We have been given over to foolishness.

Our schools have embraced not science but foolishness.. You have these highly educated people who can't even define a male or female.. When asked what is a woman .. they give foolish answers. People actually teach that the flatulence of cows is dangerous to the environment in the name of science. We have a president that is half asleep whose mantra is "Believe the science..." While the CDC, the greatest medical scientists in the world, came right out and said they got it wrong with Covid in so many ways.

Professing themselves to be wise they have become fools.

Our leaders will not drill for oil in our own land, but they are buying oil from our enemies at higher prices, which is destroying our economy, while they laugh at us. Why? All because of radical environmental concerns which demand faith and not tangible proven facts. Faith is religious. You need no faith in science, science just works. Science is: "seeing is believing." Faith believes what it can't see by the fidelity and authority of the one saying it. This may just be the crux of the matter. Does the state want to take the place of God by demanding you trust them and have faith in them like you would in God?

Our military is being hurt because of our crazy view on the equality of sexes. Men are punished for being men. We are a nation in crisis for leadership. These are the ones that profess themselves to be the wise ones.

2. SUCH PEOPLE WILL BE GIVEN UP TO DISHONOR THEIR BODIES THROUGH HOMOSEXUALITY

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Romans 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Here is the interesting thing about homosexuals, the Bible says, that they profess themselves to be wise and become fools. Who are the ones that profess themselves to be wise? Who are the wise ones? They are those with degrees and higher learning. The truth is, someone who has been embedded in our institutions of higher learning are more likely to embrace and accept a homosexual lifestyle more so than those who do not have college degrees.. etc..

So foolish are our public schools that today they just let students identify as anything. Male, female, doesn't matter what they are biologically.. In fact rumors are spreading that some kids are trying to identify as animals. Not sure that has wholesale been accepted yet, but it wouldn't surprise me. Why not?

According to the Bible this is the first step to God's judgment. It is not a blessing to enjoy what is unhealthy.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, **to do those things which are not convenient;**

Is it a blessing when a person tries to hurt themselves?
Is it a blessing when they gain an appetite for things that would kill them?

Consider the harmful drugs that have to be taken to change your sex.. consider the mutilation of the body. These operations are being done on children! It is really child abuse on a grand scheme.

This is actually a judgment from God.. such people are in self destruct mode and the Judgment of God is already on them. God gives them over and they are punishing themselves.

Our conscience is that part of our inner being that makes us feel uncomfortable about wrong doing. It produces a sense of emotional pain when you do wrong. Many people have lost a sense of pain in their feet and have stepped on hot pavement and burnt their feet. Healthy pain is a blessing, it is there to protect us, so is our conscience. When our conscience becomes seared, we are in trouble. It is healthy to have your conscience convict you when you're doing wrong. It is healthy to feel uncomfortable about yourself when you are in sin.

We are living in a society where some people actually teach that guilt is bad.

They say, "We don't want God in our society, except as a skyhook, or a parachute." And we certainly don't want guilt in our society. Where do we get our theology about God from? Most people get it from Dear Abby or people like Ann Landers who once wrote, I quote:

"Guilt is a pollutant and we don't need any more of it in the world".. That's what modern Psychology says ?

A fellow by the name of Wayne Dyer wrote in a top selling self help book called *Erroneous Zones*, said, quote:

"Guilt must be exterminated, spray-cleaned, and sterilized forever."

MTV said, "No sin is as evil as the killjoy attitude of those who think someone's behavior is an offense to some holy God."

We want self-esteem, not guilt. Guilt's intolerable. The psychologies of self-esteem and victimization are designed to silence the voice of conscience, to remove guilt.

When asked if what the two boys did was evil, when they shot all those students at Columbine, an expert Former FBI agent Ellen O'Toole, one of the worlds leading profilers of the criminal brain.. says evil is a spiritual term, and it doesn't have any legal or behavioral meaning.. so I stay away from it..

So the beat goes on and hell is ever enlarging itself. Without guilt there can be no repentance and without repentance there can be no salvation.. Without a sense of guilt there will be no revival in our nation. So something radical would have to take place in our nation for national revival to break out.

3. God gives them over to a reprobate mind... A people that are experiencing the Judgment of God on them do not think straight

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

A people who are under then Judgment of God will be given a reprobate mind.

The greek word for reprobate: is the idea of a worthless, dysfunctional.. broken, rejected, cast away..

adokimos, ad-ok'-ee-mos; from 1 (as a neg. particle) and 1384; unapproved, i.e. rejected; by impl. worthless (lit. or mor.): -castaway, rejected, reprobate.

In other words, we are experiencing people and a nation who just don't think right. In fact they think that anyone who believes the Bible does not think right.

So it is that people are not thinking right in our nation.

I was shocked to find out that it looks like around the country the Democrats are leading in many of the state elections. If people were thinking straight their would be a landslide to turn the house and senate around.

Our nation is in crisis, and a symptom of our immorality, and ungodliness is the inflation, shortages, crisis after crisis, and everyone is mad at Trump so they are going to vote more Democrats in.

Look the platform of the Democratic Party, it is wholesale acceptance of immorality, transgenders, radical environmentalism, wholesale abortion, and intellectual raping of the minds of young people across the nation with political correctness, systemic racism, and other radical ideas. This is what is leading our nation into a downward spiral, and inflation and high gas prices is just a symptom. It is not the main problem.

Now anyone supports this and wants more of this just is not thinking straight.

All I can say is that this is evidence of the Judgment of God on people who have reprobate minds. And the ones who are responsible, are the ones who having known better have wholesale rejected the knowledge of God. That knowledge comes from the Bible.

4. Evidence of the Judgment of God on our nation is the wholesale dis-functionality of our society

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Romans 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Romans 1:31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Notice this long list of sins, that will cause any society to short circuit. A nation filled with these vices will self destruct.

The word unrighteousness means can mean injustice. Never before in the history of our nation have we seen so much injustice when it comes to our courts. Just look at some of the crazy rulings judges are making.

We are a nation that just does not know right from wrong. It is so bad that it is in your face injustice. Crime is up in all our major cities. It will only get worse. It is a fact that Obama, weaponized the IRS against political opponents, and don't be surprised if this is the reason Biden is hiring 87,000 more IRS agents.

Is it just a coincidence that the FBI raided Trumps home 2 months before the mid term elections, and I will guarantee you that something will come out strategically just before the elections. Our government has become so unrighteous, and no one seems to care.

adikia, ad-ee-kee'-ah; from 94; (legal) injustice (prop. the quality, by impl. the act); mor. wrongfulness (of character, life or act):-iniquity, unjust, unrighteousness, wrong.

It is in your face corruption. They do not even care what you think about it. How is it that everyone that is close to President Trump has been arrested or facing criminal charges. Injustice, unrighteousness, abounds.

We are a nation given to fornication.

The is the greek word.. for fornication is the word “porneia..” from which we get the word pornography..

porneia, por-ni'-ah; from 4203; harlotry (includ. adultery and incest); fig. idolatry:-fornication. Unlawful lust ..

porneuo, porn-yoo'-o; from 4204; to act the harlot, i.e. (lit.) indulge unlawful lust (of either sex), or (fig.) practice idolatry:-commit (fornication).

The courts have deemed under the guise of the first amendment, and free speech that pornography cannot be outlawed, except for child pornography.. But what is ironic, that the same courts do nothing about social media and big tech censoring people who share certain political views and share opposing views about treatments for Covid and vaccines and other views. There is no freedom of speech in these areas.

I believe that the wholesale exploitation and proliferation of pornography in our nation has caused us to digress morally.. In fact God told Israel that when they went into the Land he said,

Numbers 33:51 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan;

Numbers 33:52 Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:

In fact the Lord said clearly that one of the reasons that he drove out the inhabitants of the land was because of the fornications:

Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination.

Leviticus 18:23 Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it [is] confusion.
Leviticus 18:24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:
Leviticus 18:25 And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, **wickedness**, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Romans 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Romans 1:31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Notice the long list of vile sins that are part of the giving up process. And they do these things without guilt or remorse.

Wickedness... That is exactly what we see happening in our nation..

poneria, pon-ay-ree'-ah; from 4190; depravity, i.e. (spec.) malice; plur. (concr.) plots, sins:-iniquity, wickedness.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

poneros, pon-ay-ros'; from a der. of 4192; hurtful, i.e. evil (prop. in effect or influence, and thus differing from 2556, which refers rather to and thus differing from 2556, which refers rather to essential character, as well as from 4550, which indicates degeneracy from original virtue); fig. calamitous; also (pass.) ill, i.e. diseased; but espec. (mor.) culpable, i.e. derelict, vicious, facinorous; neut. (sing.) mischief, malice, or (plur.) guilt; masc. (sing.) the devil, or (plur.) sinners:-bad, evil, grievous, harm, lewd, malicious, wicked (-ness). See also 4191.

Again here is the list of vices that will characterize a people under the judgment and wrath of God. This judgment again is that these people will be given up to these vile affections. There is no guilt. God lets them go ahead and do these things.

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness,

fornication,

wickedness,

covetousness,

maliciousness; Means to be depraved, mischievous,

full of envy,

Murder, Murders are on the rise in our nation like never before.

Debate, people think that they can debate what God's word says,

Deceit, Liars, so bad is it that people do not even care if you catch them

Malignity; Worthless, harmful,

Whisperers, People who will slander you and spread these slanders ...

Romans 1:30

Backbiters, People who malign you behind your back

Haters of God, There are people who just plain hate God and those who serve him..

Despiteful, seeks hurt and violence against you..

Proud, People who have an inflated opinion about their own worth..

Boasters, People who are braggarts

Inventors of evil things, Willing to make up lies and evil things..

Disobedient to parents, people who will not honor their own parents..

Romans 1:31

Without understanding, A natural carnal men has not understanding of the truth.. God's word is truth...

Covenant breakers, Will not keep their word..

Without natural affection, Have no loyalty to family, parents to children, husband to wife.. wife to husband..

Implacable, Having no fidelity, cannot be trusted..

Unmerciful: Showing no mercy or compassion on others

5. Evidence of the Judgment on our nation is that people find these reprobate people admirable and find pleasure in them

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, **not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.**

Birds of the feature flock together.

You know that before I was saved I started noticing in the entertainment world, which I was involved in, there was a morbid pleasure people got when we did bizarre things on stage. The more depraved our music, the more people liked it. And so the beat goes on. It was not how good the music was.. it was how bizarre we could be onstage.

So you will notice that more and more Hollywood tries to push the envelope of what they do in movies and on TV. They have to put their token homosexual in wherever they can. Go along with the agenda.

People find depraved behavior entertaining. They have pleasure in people who do what God forbids.

Instead of being lovers of good men, when God gives up on a people they become perverted in their affections.

Now I won't belabor the facts. It is evident that our nation is wholesale given over. God us given us up. The conscience of our nation has been seared with a red hot iron.

I Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
I Timothy 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Knowing this fact, what do we need to do, what is our hope?

Seeing the insane direction this world was headed was what opened my eyes to the need to come to Christ. This giving up judgment was one of the things that God used to bring me to Himself. I realized that to be successful in what I was doing .. I had to purposely go along with this trend and give myself to the world system which was plain evil. PLAIN EVIL.. I would have been in that crowd that would have been given up and given over to a reprobate mind..

So God opened my eyes and I decided to cash in whatever pleasures and benefits the world had to offer for eternal life and Jesus Christ. This is the solution. It is that people come out! The evil system needs to repulse the heart of those who are called unto salvation. Those he is drawing to himself. It doesn't matter how many people vote that

what is going on is ok. Public opinion does not matter. New creatures in Christ is all that matters. There is no salvaging of this world. There is only the salvaging of souls for Christ. People need to come to Christ.

In the days of Noah the whole world was wrong and one family was right. God destroyed the whole world.

By the way this is the solution for a nation under judgment. It is that people get saved like me. People who were in the system .. part of the system.. people whose eyes were opened and genuinely are saved by the grace of God. This is our hope! No reformation will help.

How can you explain that in countries where the gospel is forbidden and the church is persecuted.. in these countries the churches are thriving and blossoming? So is the answer in Washington D.C. I don't think so! The problem is that we do not have a thriving committed church.

Our nation and in fact the whole world is under Judgment. God is letting them do what they want to do. God is giving them over to do these things. They think they are getting away with it. They think they are winning. No, God is letting loose the reign he has on them and their deeds will bring them to destruction. The world will suffer the consequences of their actions.

Even though this will happen how bad can things get. In the end times we read:

Revelation 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

We read that men will become so hardened that they would rather commit suicide than to repent and get right with God. This is how hardened men can be in their sin.

Yet, I thank God there are some who will come to their senses.

I thank God, my eyes were opened, and I can't help but believe there are others who God is speaking to and opening their hearts and minds to salvation and repentance. I thank God my conscience was pricked, my mind was illuminated and God's light shined in. How about you? Will you receive him..

ISA 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

EVENING MESSAGE

How to live in a nation that is under the wrath and Judgment of God..

II. Now in light of the fact that this is the case what should we do?

1. PRAY GOD WOULD KEEP YOU FROM FALLING AND BEING CORRUPTED

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Jude 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

I am thinking of a fellow who worked in a camp ministry and then there was a change in that ministry, they went from working with children and changed the camp over a rescue and recovery ministry for men who had addiction problems.

He lived at the camp with his family and a lot of the men that came there were deep into sin, drugs, alcohol and immorality. The problem was that his wife had come from a background of immorality and drinking and drugs. The two usually go together. As they opened their home to help these men, this missionary would often involve his wife in the ministry trying to help these men. In the process of trying to help others in time he lost his wife and she fell into sin with one of the men who fell back into drinking and doing drugs.

What good is it to minister to others when you yourself need to be pulled out of the fire.

Jude 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

What is the fear that we should have when we try to pull someone out of the fire? We need to hate the garment of sin that is spotted by the sins of the flesh.

God wants to keep you..

God wants to sanctify you..

Now whatever you need for this purpose God will give it to you..

I remember when my kids were teenagers, a lot of young people would show up at the church. It was hard to separate my kids from these when we lived in the back yard of the church.

One of the reasons I bought a double wide house and put it in the back of the church is because having four little children it became hard for us to all get to church on time. So being in the backyard of the church made it easier, but when they got to be teenagers there were liabilities to living in the backyard of the church. So I prayed about it and God gave us a house that was a little distance from the church. This is what we needed. Some of those same kids that used to come around fell into drugs and all kinds of problems. That could have been my kids. The Bible says we should hate the garment stained with sin.

We need to be separated from the world.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Notice Jesus prayed that we could be in the world and be a testimony for him in this world.. but we are to be kept from the evil of this world.

This is why I thank God that the Lord has placed me in this country church. I can minister in this world but I am delivered from many of the temptations that could easily beset a preacher in some of the larger city churches.

I was tuning a piano at a large church in the area. They were under a multi-million dollar construction project. The preacher came out while I was tuning.. He just came out of a special board meeting for their building project. He looked at me.. he was sweating and all flustered I could tell things did not go well for him in the meeting. He just looked at me and said, I wish I could do what you do you're fortunate.

I remember many years ago, all the seminary students were required to attend an special ordination service for one of the seminary students. He was an assistant pastor at the church where the seminary classes were held. This was supposed to be the premier ordination service. My preacher, Keith Rose was elected the moderator. He said, ordination was when a bunch of preachers take their empty hands and put it on someone's empty head and ordain him. True ordination is from God and the church just recognizes that call.

A few years passed and I came to the Elkdale Baptist Church to minister. After a few years, when we were having some financial straights the Lord allowed me to learn to tune and repair pianos as a bi-vocational ministry.

Sometimes it is a struggle to juggle everything. One day I had some tunings I had to do in the Halstead area. I stopped by McDonalds for lunch and that same preacher that

was the model student at seminary was there getting lunch. I waved and he recognized me. I said, "How you doing Brother.. " He said, I'm doing great. I'm doing the funeral for one of our members. He mentioned his name and asked if I knew him. I said, "No I don't.." He said, well he owned just about half of Halstead... Then he began to share how his church was doing.. He began to tell me about his Radio ministry, and his TV ministry and how his Christian school was growing.. The more he talked the smaller I felt..

I just wondered... then about 1 month later, a guest speaker came to the church and asked if I knew so and so .. and it was this same preacher. I said, "Yeah I know him, we went to seminary together..." He said, he was caught committing adultery with his secretary and had to resign his church.

Then I thanked God.. I was just a country preacher and didn't have a TV ministry and a Radio ministry and a lot of rich people coming to my church. Pride comes before destruction.

Jesus prayed for me..

He prayed, that I would be in the world but not part of the world and I believe when you humbly accept where God wants you to be and what God wants you to do, he will keep you from the garment of the flesh stained with sin. Don't be haughty.

2. Maintain A close and Intimate Walk With The Lord..

I have been saved now 48 years. Every year since I was saved I have read through the Bible at least once and some years more than once. Still when I read this book I am still learning and growing.

As a Christian you are either growing or dying.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

When trials come in your life .. **Read the word of God.. and pray**

When your frustrated and anxious about things .. **READ THE WORD OF GOD..**

When you have too much to get done in a day and wonder how you will ever accomplish what you need to accomplish.. **STOP EVERYTHING..**

READ THE WORD OF GOD.. AND PRAY..

The Key to your success in this life is wrapped up in getting close to God..

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

God's word is eternal.. God's word is the only stable thing that we can have in this world.

Psalms 119:105 {Nun.} Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Has God changed his formula? NO HE HAS NOT..

The man that gets close to God will get close to him through His word...

Psalms 119:159 Consider how I love thy precepts:

Psalms 19:10 More to be desired [are they] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Psalms 119:97 {Mem.} O how love I thy law! it [is] my meditation all the day.

Psalms 119:113 {Samech.} I hate [vain] thoughts: but thy law do I love.

Psalms 119:163 I hate and abhor lying: [but] thy law do I love.

Psalms 119:167 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.

Psalms 119:127 Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

3. Don't let World Conditions Cause You To Loose heart

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Faith believes God's promises.

Think about what those early disciples endure for Christ.. Have faith..

II Corinthians 4:8 [We are] troubled on every side, yet not distressed; [we are] perplexed, but not in despair;

II Corinthians 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Imagine the discouragement that Noah may have had.. yet he trusted in God.

Elijah, the Bible says, was a man like us yet he prayed and trusted in God..
He got discouraged.

4. Be Faithful To The End..

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

This is all he asks...

Don't look at others..

The Scripture Chorus we are singing.. says this:

We only have one life to give..

Like a talent from the masters hand I dedicate it all
One life invested for my King
I give my all and all..
Only one life for thee dear Lord
Only one Life for thee..
No greater thing can I now give..
I give my life for thee..

The song is referring back to the parable of the talent.

In that parable the Lord gives his servants talents to invest for him.

I believe that Talent represents our lives. This is our life. In another parallel passage each of the servants received a pound. They all received the same thing one pound. We all may have different talents and abilities, but we all have only one life. We need to invest that life for God.

We all have different abilities, but all of us only have one life.

It is not how much we achieve or what we do ..

Whether we are known or unknown. God just wants us to be faithful to the end.

This is what he wants of us. Noah did not have any converts except his own family, yet he was faithful.

This is all he asks. Be faithful...

Occupy till He comes.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.