



Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

FROM WARNING TO PROMISES

William Booth wrote the following statement in the late 1800's:
"I consider the chief dangers that confront the coming century will be: Religion without the Holy Spirit; Christianity without Christ; Forgiveness without repentance; Salvation without regeneration; Politics without God; Heaven without hell".

His prophecy has great merit.

So what happened over the last century? We could point to many things, but one problem has been that within the "Church" we find a drifting away from and ignoring the warnings and the meat of God.

It's good to encourage ourselves with the Word of God with Psalms, memorizing them and praying them over our lives, but, it's too easy to avoid discomfort by only taking the milk of the Word, which soothes, instead of the meat of the Word that provokes change.

The meat is that which releases righteousness and brings confrontation, correcting and purification in us. The best way to illustrate this is to have Jesus holding a sword with the tip of it touching your chest and He says, "Come to Me". Scary moment, yet his sword cuts deep into our heart and heals every wound.

God's meat penetrates and restores. Jesus invites us to the meat portion of scripture that really recalibrates our values. There is something about eternity that puts time in perspective. Everyone will stand before the Lord and give an account of our lives. That whole sense of eternity is one of the most valuable ingredients to remain in the hearts and conscience of each of us.

This is where the renewed mind takes place, this is the place of reference that keeps everything in perspective. Somehow the blessing of the Lord in our life is put in perspective, when we realize eternity is coming and we each will give an account of our life.

In a day of deep trials, it keeps everything in perspective and in a day of increase and prosperity, breakthrough and answers to prayer, eternity keeps everything in focus.

Let's now examine some real meat that we can sink our lives into.



The book of Jude starts with a concern and followed by 19 verses of warning and it ends with the most incredible promises you'll find in the Bible.

"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I was compelled to write to you [urgently] appealing that you fight strenuously for [the defense of] the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints". Jude Verse 3. Here in the last part of the verse is a concern to fight for faith, then we go all the way down to Verse 24:

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling or falling into sin, and to present you unblemished [blameless and faultless] in the presence of His glory with triumphant joy and unspeakable delight"

Above is a promise that is too good to be true: God keeps us from stumbling!

Oftentimes in Christianity many follow a prior generation or some social agenda, instead of following the original gospel given 2000 years ago. Many adopt a man-made standard that people become comfortable with i.e. we will be more socially active or we will integrate islam into our programs. The original Gospel standard has been watered-down or perverted.

Jude addresses believers saying, listen I feel like I am to tell you to contend and fight with extra effort to preserve the original Gospel that originally was given to you, don't add to it, don't take away from it. This is the warning that takes us to the incredible promise, but we must be true to the Gospel by facing subjects such as, hell and eternity, judgment and discipline.

The North American culture invented an art form to avoid these topics in order to escape pain.

A survey says that 90% of all mental illnesses are caused by people trying to avoid pain. We become accustomed in "the church" to expect things that edify and make us feel good, but we need to feed ourselves with the meat of the Word that goes into our system, changes us and helps us grow.

Jude warns us not to end up with a distorted gospel, that fits into this century, instead, have our lifestyles fit into the original purposes of God. We are not relevant when we mirror the world around us.

"Now I want to remind you, although you are fully informed once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe [who refused to trust and obey and rely on Him]. Verse 5

There are many Christians that study about and prefer to only hear about the love of God and His grace, but people will come up with their own definition of God's love and grace, to redefine what the Bible says, which is an absolute violation of scriptures. The Bible defines love, not some organization or some leader or ourselves with some "feel-good definition". Jude reminds us that there are judgments for rebellious decisions against Christ. We can't distort a Gospel that fits a lifestyle that makes us feel good.

There are numerous denominations (unfortunately) in the body of Christ where each has doctrines that says, depending on God's standard, "Oh no, we don't do that in our church"! This position is wrong! The Bible says: I am a believer contending for the original Gospel and I do what God is doing. Period! We are not trying to uphold a standard set by a previous generation. We are not trying to be politically or socially correct to appease the world's sensibilities. Christianity is not a country club where everybody's self esteem gets massaged.

BE WARNED

We must not abandon our proper dwelling place.

"And angels who did not keep their own designated place of power, but abandoned their proper dwelling place, [these] He has kept in eternal chains under [the thick gloom of utter] darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the adjacent cities, since they in the same way as these angels indulged in gross immoral freedom and unnatural vice and sensual perversity. They are exhibited [in plain sight] as an example in undergoing the punishment of everlasting fire." Verse 6-7

"Nevertheless in the same way, these dreamers [who are dreaming that God will not punish them] also defile the body, and reject [legitimate] authority, and revile and mock angelic majesties. But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil (Satan), and arguing about the body of Moses, did not dare bring an abusive condemnation against him, but [simply] said, "The Lord rebuke you!" But these men sneer at anything which they do not understand; and whatever they do know by [mere] instinct, like unreasoning and irrational beasts—by these things they are destroyed." Verse 8-10

The Gospel is, that we live according to God's standard. We don't invent and manipulate a gospel to fit our habitual, personal, lustful, sinful lifestyle, that is so prevalent in today's culture and society. Even if our own version of the gospel is to operate a church or ministry which looks good and sounds good, it is still a personal, flesh-directed thing, not a ministry of God! Each of us must be directed by the Holy Spirit, as the Gospel teaches us. **"On earth, as it is in heaven!"** A human gospel isn't acceptable in heaven or on earth.

A lot of people say, "God understands" ... no He doesn't understand, that's why He says repent, change your mind and evil ways. It's not freedom to do what you want. Freedom is to willingly follow God's direction in the spirit, not blindly following a flesh-directed religion or denomination or organization or person.

"Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them. Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion". Verse 10-11. Balaam was a prophet who prophesied for money. God's gifting will bring blessing to you, but if you use your gifting (i.e. prophecy, healing) for personal increase, it's a perversion for the purpose of the gift. How many leaders and ministry's charge for their gifts? God says, **"Woe to them!"**

"Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage". Verse 14-16

"But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit." Verse 17-19

The above verses speak for themselves about what is coming for sinners and those who **"follow their own evil desires, their own ungodly lusts"**. Pretenders, **"not having the Holy Spirit"**.

"And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh." Verse 22-23

Make a difference between the weak and ignorant and those who are proud and arrogant of heart who are unwilling to obey God's Truth. Save/evangelize/teach the willing away from eternal fire. Hating even the garment defiled by flesh can mean, in approaching and associating with sinners there is need to take great care to avoid being defiled yourself by their sins. Many have been deeply corrupted in their attempts to reform the polluted (i.e. counsellors of the sexually immoral falling into the same sin) or by having sinful associates in their lives. God warns us to remove unrepentant sinners from our lives, which includes family and friends, to avoid becoming lured and lulled into sin ourselves (**1 Corinthians 5: 11; 2 Thessalonians 3: 14**). Leaders should definitely be doing this to protect the group from false doctrines, lies, sin, and especially from evil spirit intrusion. If your leader/mentors aren't doing this, you can institute **Matthew 18: 15-17**, as they aren't following God's Word. Your goal is to bring them back to God and to help save others that their actions are infecting. If they refuse to repent and change, then leave, as you are putting yourself in danger!

Here's a good litmus test to take on yourself. If your spiritual life is dead or gloomy, it may be because you are following your own lusts/will (or someone else's), following a false gospel, connected with sinners and/or profiting on your gifts from God! You can't fool God! Is all that worth chancing on your eternal life?

"But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life." Verse 20-21 These are the two absolutes of the Christian life to bring us to our promises: faith and love. Without faith it's impossible to please God. Faith exists when we follow ALL of His Gospel and surrender to and follow His will. Only this demonstrates our love for God. Then His promises are ours!

"To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy". Verse 24

There is much meat in Jude for our well being and for our survival. These warnings in Jude will keep us from falling short of His promises. Keep yourself in the love of God, by having direct fellowship with Him. Rest and have faith in Jesus that He has redeemed all sincere believers from our sins.