

They Need to Repent Also

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to REPENT" (Acts 17:30).

This statement by the apostle Paul is as wide in scope as the whole world. Included in it is every accountable person that has set foot upon earth since that time. There is no way that we can escape it.

Some people do not think they need to repent. They are religious people who are in error, but the very people to whom the apostle addressed these words were religious people. In fact, they were more religious than the average person today; but it was in ignorance, and as a result, they needed to learn the truth and repent of their idolatry and serve the one true God.

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9). The words of Jesus describe the condition of many today. Their desire to satisfy "self" rather than God has placed them in rebellion against Him, as they make their own religious laws. Of this THEY need to repent.

- by Arthur M. Ogden

The Average

"If a man stand with one foot on a hot stove and one foot in a freezer, some statisticians would assert that, on the average, he's comfortable."

Which reminds me of some who seem to feel that they can come to church on Sunday and yet live like the devil during the week. They say that they are, on the average, pretty good people. Yet he cannot be "comfortable" any more than the man with his foot on the stove and the other in a freezer. He is the double-minded man who is unstable in all his ways. He has only enough religion to be miserable, but not enough to go to heaven.

Our Lord does not prefer an "average." He wants His people to be either "cold or hot." The "average" (in this case, lukewarmness) nauseates Him, and He will spew out of His mouth those who are lukewarm (Rev. 3:15,16). Brother, you had better get all the way on the Lord's side now lest you spend eternity with the Devil.

- by Forrest Moyer

What If Everyone Was Like Me?

Once there was a congregation in which every member was just like you. Each one cooperated and supported the church just the way you have been doing. Everyone worked as hard and attended the same services and Gospel Meetings just as you do. The elders, deacons and preaches were all interested in the church to the same degree that you are. They put the same emphasis on their recreation, business and other material affairs that you do. Each member contributed financially to the church as you do.

If everyone were like you, how many would there be at Bible Study this Sunday morning? Would there be a Sunday evening or Wednesday evening service? Would the contribution go up or down?

Remember, each member of the body of Christ has work to do, a place to fill and a responsibility to God. (Hebrews 10:24-25) "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching."

- by Steve Hardin

How Is Your Faith?

Is your faith as strong as it used to be? Do you pray as often and with as much fervor as you once did? Do you enjoy the peace that passes understanding? When making choices for the use of your time, energy or money are you able to put the Lord first? Are you courageous in declaring your faith?

These are important questions because faith is an absolute essential to our spiritual survival. "We walk by faith." We "live by faith!" The Hebrews writer warns that unbelief can cause us to depart from God, Heb. 3:12. If you see within you signs of a weakening faith, you would do well to identify the danger.

Here are some threats to our faith: It is a sign of possible danger when a Christian becomes lax in studying the Word. (Remember, "faith comes by hearing the word of God," Rom. 10:17.) Have you placed yourself in faith situations? Hebrews 3:13 tells us we can become hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. The company we keep, the material we read, the television we watch can gradually change our appetites, aspirations and convictions. We may have even deceived ourselves into thinking that we have not weakened, but when in reality we have become blind to our great danger. If you see that your faith is threatened, meet the danger. "Abstain from every form of evil." Schedule some time for daily study and meditation of the Word. Seek out companions who encourage growth in faith. Exercise and perfect your faith by use--with all your might practice what you believe. Eternity hangs in the balance. What will you do about it?

- by Marvin Noble

Be Positive About Your Evangelism

When it comes to sharing the gospel with others, many Christians are like the fella who attended a seminar on 'The Power of Positive Thinking'. He told his friend as they were leaving the meeting: "I'm going to try it, but I don't think it will do any good!"

Too many Christians fail to do their duty to God, not because they have been discouraged by previous bad experiences, but because they don't think their efforts will do any good. For these folks we would offer these two simple suggestions:

- 1) You may truly be surprised at the results that are possible if you would just try to share the truth with some other person. The New Testament is full of examples of people who were converted to Christ who would not have been considered as likely prospects. The 3000 believers on Pentecost included folks who had cried out for Jesus' death. Simon (Acts 8) was a religious false teacher, yet he obeyed the gospel. The apostle Paul had been a rabid persecutor against the church, yet he was converted. You say that your efforts won't do any good? You just might be surprised if you'd try.
- 2) Always remember that our labors are not measured by the harvest gathered, but rather by the seed sown. Note in the parable of the sower (Luke 8:5-15) that the sower sowed the seed in places where it was likely to grow, and also in places where it likely wouldn't - he simply sowed the seed. That's our job, too. "The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11).

Think positively Christian! You can share the good news with others!!

- by Greg Gwin