

Howards Corner

Title --Blank page

I sit down to write today with a blank page and I am not sure what I am going to say and I am having software problems so I guess the enemy is not wanting me to say what is on my heart and mind today but I have been silent for a few days and my spirit is stirred with the thoughts of the kingdom and where we are today and I am not sure that the people of the church understand what is going on in today's world. Do we really understand that all this Covid pandemic is not relenting but is continuing to escalate and to change its face! Are we seeing the big picture and the hand of God in the world? God does send us messages through circumstances in our life and our nations. Sometimes He sends pestilence and sometimes wars and sometimes natural disasters. I can assure you that His hand is always moving. Setting up nations and tearing down nations.

Jesus has said "There will be "birth pangs" which will not be the end of the age. But He did not say that it will not be a wake-up call for the people of the kingdom. These birth pangs are to increase in frequency and in intensity. Today we are seeing not only the increase in these pestilences, but we are seeing increases and intensity of weather phenomenon and turbulence of our society and world troubles.

Even the president of our country has said that the global warming is growing in severity and intensity. I am not sure he has read Matt 24 and knows about "birth pangs" but it was a good assessment of the situation. I have not been much of an environmentalist and have not worried much about global warming, but I can see the concern now, but the difference is that I don't think we can fix the problem because it is not only global warming but is multiple things going on at one time. The steps that are being taken I don't think will solve the problem.

Our society is rapidly changing and becoming more hostile toward Christianity because we are opposing the worlds ways and they don't want to be opposed. We are in their way of having a good time and doing what they want without regard to what God has said. Things that are acceptable in society now would not have been thinkable several years ago. Soon there will be no room for people that want to behave and be righteous. We will be shut out from the world and if you work you

will be forced to comply or be forced out. The world is saying we want to do it our way. Like the Frank Sinatra song of doing, it "My Way". This is however the major sin of man. We have tried it our way and it has been a disaster. God is asking us to go His way and subjecting ourselves to his will.

We are on a clock down to the end of our age. Maybe not soon but it is progressing toward the end, and I am not sure the people of the churches are awake and understand the need to insure they are in Christ Jesus so that whatever happens they have an eternal destiny. Jesus has said that you are to be ready at all times and we do not know the time or the hour of His return. There is to be an end of the "Church Age" and there is to be an end of the "Age of the Gentiles" which will occur shortly after the church's resurrection. The church is to be removed before the "tribulation" period because the church is not meant for the wrath of God which the tribulation is.

If you don't know what is meant by the "church age" and the "age of the gentile" and the "tribulation" then you need to get a different church or get a good bible teacher to help you or better yet start to diligently seek the Lord and study His word. You cannot continue in ignorance because that is not an excuse that will be accepted because of all generations this generation has had the most information and bible resources available in the history of mankind.

If you are complacent and just gone to sleep and trusting in your church membership to carry you through these coming difficult times, then you will not have the spiritual strength to make it through. It is imperative that you have a personal relationship with Jesus and that the Holy Spirit is alive and **active in your heart**. It is time for a real relationship with Jesus and not just churchism.

My local church alone had 31 persons to die this year and if I remember correctly, it was 36 last year and the year before was about 45. I have no way to know how many of these made it to heaven and how many were lost and found hell as their judgement. This next year of 2022 there will be more to add to the list. Are we warning them to get serious about their relationship with Jesus?

It is too serious a question to leave to chance or assumptions about salvation. Being a member of a church does not guarantee eternal life. Jesus said plainly that the

way to eternal life was a narrow way, and few would find it. But contrarily He said that the broad way leads to destruction, and many will find it.

There are only two paths, one path is the narrow path it is hard to find because we must surrender ourselves to Christ and Christ alone to receive eternal life. We must lose our life to find it. This means we cannot live like the world around us but must separate ourselves from the world's ways and have a higher standard but even in that we cannot live that life on our own, but it must be by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. When the Holy Spirit enters our hearts, He witnesses to us that we are in Christ, and he marks us for the coming resurrection which will happen at the rapture of the church.

The Methodist Church used to teach about the assurance of salvation that comes to a person when he is saved or at a later time, but I don't hear about this any longer, but it is implied that all who join the church are saved. But many show no change in their life. If you are in Christ, there will be a change—maybe not all at once but as we study the word and seek the Lord, we will be changed so that we can be a witness to others and we will mature in our walk and we will understand the word more deeply. Whether it happens suddenly or gradually there will be a “well spring of living water flowing up within you”. Have you received this living water within you or are you coming to church to receive this living water and trusting in the church to provide, or do you bring this living water with you for it should be in your hearts every day?

The second path leads to destruction. This destruction is the loss of eternal life and separation from God for eternity. The location is hell or hades or the pit. It is described as everlasting torment. Many today have ignored the teaching of hell because they have made up their own god, but the bible is very clear that there is a hell and people will go there. Jesus has said plainly that there is a hell and He told us to do drastic things to prevent going there. That is why He came to save us from that destruction and to instead offer us the gift of everlasting life. Today we are afraid we will offend someone when we talk about hell. Better to offend someone than to allow them to go there because we did not warn them. We are confused about being kind and loving. If we really are loving or kind, we must warn them **“the bridge is out ahead of them”** and they must change their path and go another way. That is the kind and loving way – not silence!

I hear that there is an epidemic of young people committing suicide although it is not just young people it is in all age groups. There appears to be a belief that when we die that we just cease to exist but that is not what the bible teaches. Life continues forever but the question is “Where we spend that eternity?” Do we spend it in the presence of God in eternal blessings, or do we spend it in hell? We are not doing a good job of spreading the gospel.

Evolution has captured the minds of people and if you believe that, then you do not believe in God and therefore there is no everlasting life. Then the assumptions are there is no value in life because it will end, and you will go to nothing. What a sad outlook on our existence! If you believe this then why do we do any good on this earth? The whole thing is not even logical. Man’s critical thinking has contaminated man’s mind into thinking man has the answers, but we do not and never will. It is beyond man’s pay grade. God laughs at our puny thoughts! He calls it arrogance and pride which are the root cause of our sin and separation from Him.

Critical thinking has been around for a very long time, but it has reared its head in the last couple of hundred years. The basic concept is that if man puts his mind to it, we will be able to create a world of utopia where everything is perfect. If that is the case, then we are way behind the curve because the world is getting worse – not better. With this concept we have to ignore God for He says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The bible tells us that we must surrender ourselves to His way to find Christ who is our source of life. Jesus says, “I am the way” – “no one comes to the Father except through Me”. So, this critical thinking is contrary to God’s word and contrary to Jesus’ teaching.

This “critical thinking” theory was brought into the Methodist church at the beginning of the last century when the church decided to change the gospel message to the “social gospel”. This basically says that we can fix the worlds problems through man’s efforts of feeding the world and educating the world and healing the world through medical endeavors, and etc. This however ignores the fact that man has a sin nature that we cannot fix. The reality is that we may temporarily fix and help some people and some problems. There is still the reality that mankind will cause more problems because of our sin. Wars are still a reality (and they are getting more severe) and there are new diseases and there are still family and social problems because the evil in us has not been eliminated nor can it ever be until God finishes His plan for mankind which is explained in the bible and

it is not the church that accomplishes that plan but is the last of the times of the gentiles when the world and Satan are judged by the “tribulation” period of 7 years and Israel is restored to their land at Jesus’ second coming.

It is time to get back to the real “Gospel” which is that all mankind are sinners with a sin contaminated heart and in need of a new heart. That is why Jesus came as the son of God to this earth and lived a sinless life and meeting all the requirements of the Law and died on the cross to save us and to give us a new heart if we will surrender ourselves to Him. The Holy Spirit is then given to us when we surrender our hearts to Him and the Holy Spirit guides us and empowers us to live the life, He has called us to. The fruits of the Holy Spirit will bring into our hearts such things a love, peace, and joy. We then will be able to do His righteous works and seek the lost of this world. When we feed them, we must make sure we do the greater good by giving them eternal food which is the word of God!

Don’t be fooled by mans thinking but be led by the Holy Spirit and the truth of His word.

Howard