



Open Water Ministries

~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing

www.chapel-flock.com



Vol. 31 Issue 590

Jan. 24, 2013

Worship Music

[The First Time-Mercy Me](#)

[You Don't Care At All-Mercy Me](#)

[Beautiful-Mercy Me](#)

Prayer

Lord, Your Word says nothing is impossible to those who believe, so I am releasing my faith in Your promises. I fully believe that what You did for those faithful believers, You will also do for me. Lead me and guide me in Your will for me and plans, I ask for Your will not my will. In Jesus' name. Amen.....

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Video's / New Information/ Prayer Requests

Matthew 24:36 (AMP)

36 But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

“ Revealations TV Series ”

Bob Coy

Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women-Cathe Laurie](#)

Chapel Flock.....text a prayer..... request telephone number.....

(316) 247-3623

Or----

If you have a prayer request...please e-mail it to us so we can pray for you...or a person.....

chapel-flock@sbcglobal.net

1 BUT KING Solomon [defiantly] loved many foreign women—the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites. 2 They were of the very nations of whom the Lord said to the Israelites, You shall not mingle with them, neither shall they mingle with you, for surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods. Yet Solomon clung to these in love. 3 He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines, and his wives turned away his heart from God. 4 For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not perfect (complete and whole) with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abominable idol of the Ammonites! 6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as David his father did. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abominable idol of Moab, on the hill opposite Jerusalem, and for Molech the abominable idol of the Ammonites. 8 And he did so for all of his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. 9 And the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned from the Lord, the God of Israel, Who had appeared to him twice, 10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods, but he did not do what the Lord commanded. 11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, Because you are doing this and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely rend the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant! 12 However, in your days I will not do it, for David your father's sake. But I will rend it out of the hand of your son! 13 However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but will give one tribe to your son for David My servant's sake and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen. 14 The Lord stirred up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he was of royal descent in Edom. 15 For when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of Israel's army went up to bury the slain, he slew every male in Edom. 16 For Joab and all Israel remained there for six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom. 17 But Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants, to Egypt, Hadad being yet a little child. 18 They set out from Midian and came to Paran, and took men with them out of Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave [young] Hadad a house and land and ordered provisions for him. 19 Hadad found great favor with Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife Tahpenes the queen. 20 The sister of Tahpenes bore Hadad Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house; and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh. 21 But when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers and that Joab the commander of Israel's army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to my own country. 22 Then Pharaoh said to him, But what have you lacked with me that now you want to go to your own country? He replied, Nothing. However, let me go anyhow. 23 God raised up for [Hadad] another adversary, Rezon son of Eliada, who had fled from his master, Hadadezer king of Zobah. 24 Rezon gathered men about him and became leader of a marauding band after the slaughter by David. They went to Damascus and dwelt and made [Rezon] king in Damascus. 25 And Rezon was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, besides the mischief that Hadad did. Rezon abhorred Israel and reigned over Syria. 26 Jeroboam son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, rebelled against the king— 27 And for this reason: Solomon built the Millo and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father. 28 The man Jeroboam was a mighty man of courage. Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, put him in charge over all the [forced] labor of the house of Joseph. 29 At that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way. Ahijah had clad himself with a new garment; and they were alone in the field. 30 Ahijah caught the new garment he wore and tore it into twelve pieces. 31 He said to Jeroboam, You take ten pieces, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, Behold, I will tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon and will give you ten tribes. 32 But he shall have one tribe, for My servant David's sake and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, 33 Because they have forsaken Me and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in My ways, to do what is right in My sight, keeping My statutes and My ordinances as did David his father. 34 However, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand; but I will make him ruler all the days of his life for David My servant's sake, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. 35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and give it to you, ten tribes. 36 Yet to his son I will give one tribe, that David My servant may always have a light before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put My Name. 37 And I will take you, and you shall reign according to all that your soul desires; and you shall be king over Israel. 38 And if you will hearken to all I command you and will walk in My ways and do right in My sight, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as David My servant did, I will be with you and build you a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. 39 And I will for this afflict the descendants of David, but not forever. 40 Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until Solomon died. 41 The rest of the acts of Solomon—and all that he did, and his wisdom (skill)—are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? 42 The time Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. 43 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

Chapter 11

Chapter eleven.

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughters of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites (1Ki 11:1);

Now turn back for a moment to Deuteronomy chapter seventeen, beginning with verse fourteen. Here under the law four hundred years before the time of David, before the time of Solomon, God foresaw that the day would come when the people would demand a king. And so even in the law, God gave certain commandments for the kings.

"When you are come unto the land which the LORD thy God gives you, thou shalt possess, and shalt possess it, and your dwelling there, and you will say, I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are about me; thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among your brothers shalt thou set as the king: that thou mayest not set a stranger over thee. But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to

himself, [Why?] that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. And it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write a copy of the law of the book which is before the priests of the Levites: and it shall be that he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn the fear of the LORD his God, to keep the words of the law and statutes" (Deuteronomy 17:14-19).

Now Solomon you know just disobeyed in all cases. First of all, he multiplied horses. He had forty thousand horses. He began to go down to Egypt, verse twenty-eight, had horses brought out of Egypt. And then chapter eleven, he loved many strange women. And we are told in that he had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. And we've been reading how he multiplied gold and silver around Jerusalem. He did exactly those things that God said he should not do.

Now the reason why the Lord said the king shouldn't do these things lest their hearts be turned away from the Lord. And what happened to Solomon? His heart was turned away from the Lord.

There is an old saying that declares, "The dice of the gods are loaded." By which they are saying you cannot go against God's word and win. God has established His word. And you cannot, you cannot violate the Word of God and win. Anytime you violate God's word, you are a loser.

And Solomon, with all of his wisdom, all of his blessings, disobeyed the commandment of the Lord and just as God said, it happened. His heart was turned away from the Lord, verse three. He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. And it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not completely towards Jehovah his God, as was the heart of David his father. Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. He did evil in the sight of the LORD, did not go fully after the LORD, as David his father. And then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all of his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods (1Ki 11:3-8).

So for each of his wives he built a little shrine, a worship shrine that they might worship the gods that were native to their own ethnic groups. And "his heart wasn't fully towards Jehovah his God." And in his wives turned him away from the Lord.

So the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD the God of Israel, which had appeared to him twice, and he commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and you have not kept the covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and give it to thy servant. However it will not happen in your days but it will happen in the days of your son. So the LORD stirred up began to stir up adversaries against Solomon, [the first adversary was] Hadad who was an Edomite (1Ki 11:9-12,14):

Now David had just about exterminated all of the males in Edom. In fact, Joab stayed down there for six months to make sure that they killed all of the men. But one of the princes of Edom whose name was Hadad escaped down to Egypt and there he married the daughter of the Pharaoh in Egypt and he became a very powerful man. When he heard that David and Joab were dead, then he requested the Pharaoh that he might be able to go back to Edom and the Pharaoh said, What's the matter? You've got everything here. Why would you want to go back there? But Hadad insisted and came back to Edom, gathered a company of men and he began to make excursions against the southern borders of Israel and harassment against Solomon. The other one who began to harass Solomon was up in the area of Damascus and he also began to harass Solomon in the northern borders of their land.

Now beginning with verse twenty-six, we find that Jeroboam lifted up his hand against the king. And Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and when Solomon saw that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all of the charge of the house of Joseph (1Ki 11:26,28).

Which would be the northern part.

And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah from Shiloh found him there in the way; and he had just bought him a new robe; and Ahijah grabbed hold of the robe and he ripped the thing. And then he ripped it into twelve pieces: And he gave unto Jeroboam ten pieces: and he said, Thus the Lord is going to tear the kingdom away from Solomon, [and from the house of David] and the Lord is going to give you ten tribes to rule over: (and He's going to just leave one tribe for the house of David:) (1Ki 11:29-32)

That is, one tribe outside of Judah. And so the Southern Kingdom was Judah and Benjamin. And the Northern Kingdom, of course, were the other ten tribes. They comprise the kingdom that became known as Israel and the southern two became known as Judah. So here is the prophecy of Ahijah to Jeroboam. The fact that he is going to become the ruler and the king over ten of the tribes of Israel.

And so the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon (1Ki 11:41)?

Now here is a book of the Bible that we do not have. There are many books that are mentioned that we do not have. They would add perhaps somewhat to the color and the life history of Solomon if we could only find one of these books, the acts of Solomon, the wisdom of this man. We do have the book of Proverbs; we do have the Song of Solomon. He wrote a thousand and five songs, we have one in the Bible, the Song of Solomon. I've never counted the number of proverbs that we have in the book of Proverbs but he actually wrote three thousand proverbs. We do have the book of the proverbs but there is also another book, the Acts of Solomon that we do

not have that record, much of his wisdom and all. It would be very interesting to have but we really don't need it for God's revelation to us of His purposes and all.

So Solomon slept with his fathers, was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead (1Ki 11:43).

(Through The Bible Series C-2000; Chuck Smith; 1979-1986; Commentaries Through The Bible)



A.W. Tozer; Jesus, Author of Our Faith

AND OTHER ESSAYS ON FAITH

COMPILED AND EDITED BY GERALD B. SMITH

Aiden Wilson Tozer (April 21, 1897 - May 12, 1963) was an American Protestant pastor, preacher, author, magazine editor, Bible conference speaker, and spiritual mentor. For his work, he received two honorary doctorates. Among the more than forty books that he authored, at least two are regarded as Christian classics: *The Pursuit of God* and *The Knowledge of the Holy*. His books impress on the reader the possibility and necessity for a deeper relationship with God. Living a simple and non-materialistic lifestyle, he and his wife, Ada Cecelia Pfautz, never owned a car, preferring bus and train travel. Even after becoming a well-known Christian author, Tozer signed away much of his royalties to those who were in need. Prayer was of vital personal importance for Tozer. "His preaching as well as his writings were but extensions of his prayer life", comments his biographer, James L. Snyder in the book, *In Pursuit of God: The Life Of A.W. Tozer*. "He had the ability to make his listeners face themselves in the light of what God was saying to them", writes Snyder.

Tozer himself produced the works: *Let My People Go*; *Man : the Dwelling Place of God*; *Paths to Power*; *The Divine Conquest*

The Knowledge of the Holy, (1961) New York: Harper & Row, ISBN 0-06-068412-7; *The Pursuit of God*, (1957) Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, ISBN 0-87509-522-4

The Root of the Righteous; There are also many compilations of sermons and other writings which were edited and published by Christian Publications, Inc., after Tozer's death. Although the books were published posthumously, authorship is attributed to A. W. Tozer.

Wikipedia

THERE IS A GREAT COMPANY of believers within the Christian church in our day willing to take God at His word when He says our world is headed for judgment. On the other hand, there are many who scoff at the idea of judgment and contend that everything around us will continue as it is forever and ever.

Some segments within the Christian church believe that God surely is a holy God and that it is possible for men and women of faith to live in a way pleasing to Him. Others presume God expects men and women to find happiness in their own devices. Thus they rule out the validity of the many scriptural warnings as well as the Bible's appeals for godly living.

These observations bring to mind the faith of one man—Enoch—who lived near the beginning of our race. We can only wonder how he would have measured Christianity as we know it in the twentieth century!

One of the greatest Bible commentaries on godly faith is the single sentence in Genesis telling us that "Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away" (Gen 5:24). The New Testament assessment of Enoch's faith is also brief—a single paragraph in the Letter to the Hebrews:

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. (Heb 11:5)

God has given us a faithful and trustworthy record. Any person who refuses to believe the overriding wisdom and illumination of God's Holy Spirit will never have or hold a clear and proper estimate of the human race. In Enoch God has given us an example of faith and a model of daily fellowship with God.

God tells us about His presence

Anyone making even a quick review of Genesis will discover that God has told us more about His presence in creation and in history than about the details of human civilization. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. We believe that! That is our starting place. We believe that eternity dwells in the person of God and that the material universe came into being through God's creation.

The first man and woman in the human race were created. They failed in their initial encounter with Satan, our arch enemy. Following that, the Genesis record becomes a narrative of human failure against the abiding backdrop of God's faithfulness. We are told of Cain and Abel, two sons of Adam and Eve, and of Cain's refusal to honor God's plan for the redemption and acceptance of lost humanity. On the very threshold of human culture and civilization, Cain murdered his brother, Abel. Later, as Cain's wife was giving birth to his first son—an earlier Enoch than the one referred to in Hebrews 11—Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son (Gen 4:17).

The civilization founded by Cain was as evil as he. It would ultimately terminate in the judgment of the Flood. But in giving us the brief record of Cain's oldest son, the Spirit of God, as Author of the Bible, binds in one bundle of life all the yesterdays of the race and reveals the organic oneness of all humans.

The information in Genesis is a revelation to our hearts. Through it we understand that all people born of Adam are of one blood. This means that we are bound up in a natural brotherhood throughout the earth. But that does not portray the full and final story.

God Himself, through the Holy Spirit, points out a universal human problem: the natural brotherhood of human beings is a sinful brotherhood. It is the brotherhood of all who are spiritually lost.

But the Bible has good news from the Holy Spirit concerning the human race. That good news is the revelation of a new brotherhood, the brotherhood of the redeemed. We know it in our time as the believing church of our Lord Jesus Christ in all nations.

It is plain that the natural brotherhood that dates back to Adam does not have a saving, redeeming bond. The record is clear for those who will pursue it. God in His love and concern prolonged the race after the Flood. Then in His own time, He called out of the race a chosen people, Israel, in order to ensure the coming of the Messiah-Savior with His gracious offer of salvation and renewal.

The new brotherhood among men is based on regeneration and restoration. Take away the coming of Jesus into the world, take away His redeeming death and His victorious resurrection, and there remains no basis for wholeness and oneness in the race. It is impossible to hold a proper view of mankind's brotherhood without recognizing all that God has done to assure that the eternal brotherhood is the fellowship of redeemed men and women comprising Jesus' church, His Body on earth.

Back to Enoch

But now we have met godly Enoch, seventh generation from Adam through Adam's third son, Seth. We are impressed that he could resist the devil and find fellowship with his Creator-God, even in a worldly society headed for destruction. Enoch recognized the failure of men and women trying to live their lives apart from God and His will. By faith he walked with God on this earth at a time when sin and corruption were wildly rampant all around him.

Enoch's daily walk was a walk of faith, a walk of fellowship with God. What the Scriptures are trying to say to us is this: If Enoch could live and walk with God by faith in the midst of his sinful generation, we likewise should be able to follow his example because the human race is the same and God is the same!

Space does not permit us to cover all the spiritual lessons we might learn from the life of godly Enoch. But I do want to make an important emphasis here for every Christian believer: Enoch reminds us that the quality and boldness of our faith will be the measure of our preparation for the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

We Christian believers, walking by faith nearly twentieth centuries after Christ's sojourn on earth, hold firmly to the New Testament promise that our risen Lord will return to earth again. Our ever-living High Priest in the heavens intends to return for His church—the brotherhood of the redeemed. We are neither ashamed nor afraid to confess our anticipation of Christ's return.

Jesus promised His disciples He would return:

So, if anyone tells you, "There he is, out in the desert," do not go out; or, "Here he is, in the inner rooms," do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Mat 24:26-27)

Jesus' two appearings are contrasted in this Letter to the Hebrews. First, the writer states the purpose of Jesus' first coming:

Now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. (Heb 9:27)

Then, the writer promises that Christ Jesus will return to bring ultimate salvation to the redeemed:

So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. (Heb 9:28)

Enoch is a type

I have taken time to point up the Bible promise of Jesus' return for a reason. It is my strong conviction that Enoch's experience of translation into the presence of God is a type, or preview, of the coming rapture of the church, the bride of Christ, described in the Scriptures.

I can assure you that I have never been a preacher of obscure or curious texts. My calling is to preach the entire Word of God and all of its basic doctrines as revealed by the Holy Spirit of God. I confess that I have been shy about leaning too hard on Bible types or "pictures" in the Word.

I think some teachers have overemphasized the importance of such analogies. Some teachers have mistakenly tried to build doctrines on the types they discerned. It is my advice that we continue to faithfully preach the plain Word of God. We can trust the Holy Spirit to guide us.

In this instance, however, the faith and deportment of the man Enoch do compose a vivid picture—powerful object lesson—to encourage every Christian believer in his or her faith. Enoch speaks to us of our own troubled times—and that is the purpose of the Word of God. It should be our concern that we hear—and that we obey!

There is only one conclusion to be drawn here. Enoch was translated into the presence of God because of his faith, and thus he escaped death. It is very evident that there was no funeral for Enoch. Those who knew him best surely had to answer many questions. "Where is Enoch?" "What happened to Enoch?" "Why don't we see Enoch around anymore?"

Perhaps members of his own family did not fully understand his walk with God, but they could answer with the facts: "He is gone! God has called him home. God has taken him." I wonder if his contemporaries ever made the obvious comparison: "Enoch always advised us to walk with God—to put our trust in God. We thought he was a fanatic. Now he is gone, he is at home with God, and we are still here in a troubled world!"

Our promised rapture is disparaged

In our own generation, many around us consider our hope in the promise of Christ's return an extreme belief. As the current chapter of church history is being written throughout the world, the teaching of the return of Jesus Christ for His church is not popular.

There probably is no way that we can arrive at the number of believers throughout the breadth and scope of Christianity who consider the prophetic Scriptures seriously. We do know that those who believe and proclaim that Jesus is coming again are in the minority.

Personally, I do not worry or fret about being in the minority where the will of God is concerned. I am firmly persuaded that our Lord Jesus Christ is coming again for His believing people. Throughout my years of ministry, I have held to this teaching found in the Bible. I have had no reason to change my mind concerning it.

This much we know and can say: The general outlines of prophetic events as foretold in the Scriptures are accepted by conservative, evangelical Christians. Evangelicals are regenerated Christian believers who have experienced a life changing relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. They are men and women who are committed to the Bible as the revealed, inspired Word of God.

That biblical record describes the ascension of our risen Jesus and preserves the words of the "two men dressed in white" who spoke to Jesus' wonder-struck disciples:

Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Act 1:11)

We have also the revelation given to the apostle Paul, and his inspired counsel to the Thessalonian church:

We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. (1Th 4:14-18)

Jesus could return soon

When it comes to the many details of Christian eschatology, we are not dogmatic and unbending. For instance, what I know about our promised heavenly home must be only a small and insignificant part of all that God has prepared for his children.

God has His own timing, and all of His plans are good plans for His children. There is an important point to make concerning God's timing in the case of Enoch. Enoch was a man of faith, a child of God. We could call him one of God's faithful few. God took him out of the earth and out of his race when the judgment of the Flood was not far away.

Jesus taught very clearly during His ministry that the flood came on earth as a judgment for sin and ungodliness. When he was asked about the signs of His coming and the events of the future, Jesus said:

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. (Mat 24:37-39)

All of us surely have moments when we wonder if we are seriously living in preparation for the coming of our Lord and for the eternity when we will be at home with Him. In our faith and trust, we know that God in His grace owns us and calls us His believing children, His saints. Yet, we do have times of discouragement concerning our shortcomings and failures.

The faith of Enoch continues to be an encouragement to walk with the King of heaven while we live down here. Then we know we will feel comfortable and at home when we get to heaven!

The facts are plainly spelled out. Enoch walked with God. He faced up to the devil and patiently bore the scoffing of those who lived like the devil. God honored his faith and took him into His divine presence forever.

I think we may draw the certain conclusion that when Enoch arrived in God's presence—raptured, translated, changed—he was completely at home, completely satisfied.

An important personal lesson

Now, here is one of the great personal lessons for us: Enoch was a spiritual rebuke to his own generation. He fought off the wiles and the temptations of the devil. He purposed within himself: "I will walk with God by faith even if that means that I must be detached from my generation."

Are you really detached from your generation because you resist the devil and walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit?

Am I?

That is a very personal question, and we dare not try to answer it for each other.

Our generation in this world system claims that there is no personal devil, no enemy of our souls. Yet, all the while, Satan is busy. He is using a successful, age-old tactic with many people. He is assuring them in a variety of ways that there is no urgency in the matters of faith.

"Put off your decisions until a more favorable time," Satan says. "Do not make a decision until your situation eases!" The devil gambles on the odds that men and women will never heed God's warning that "Now is the accepted time."

"Put off a decision until you feel you are ready." That is the devil's urging to those who are lost. As a result, millions have waited. And in waiting, they have never come to God in repentance and faith.

A closing warning-----

In closing, I must add a warning. Enoch could have written a book on human loneliness. We must make our choices even as Enoch did. Enoch refused to walk in agreement with the ungodly multitude of his generation.

There is nothing as meaningless as a shout from a crowd. The crowd may give a big cheer, but no one ever seems to quite know what the shout means.

Believing Christians with true faith in God know very well the meaning of loneliness. In most ways, they are already detached from their generation. Yet, in spite of the devil and the criticism of the crowd, they continue to serve their generation by doing the will of God.

I have heard stories of sheep in a flock blindly following leaders over the edge of a steep cliff. It seems that it is in the nature of sheep to follow the crowd. It is as though the word is passed along from one to another: "Don't be a dissenter! Don't try to be different! Just continue along with the crowd!" So they all go over the cliff, one after another—but they have stuck with the crowd!

Enoch determined that even if everyone in his generation was blindly moving toward the judgment of God, he would be the one man who refused to go over the cliff with the unbelievers. What did he do?

In faith Enoch detached himself from his generation. Then, by faith, he lived above all generations, pleasing to God.

The result? The life and testimony and victory of Enoch have become a benediction to all generations.

The warning? If we are satisfied to settle down and become weak victims amid the sins of our generation, we will die with our generation.

There is an alternative. If we will rise by faith above our generation, we, like Enoch, will prove to be a benediction to those who are yet to come!

Proverbs 1:1-33 (AMP)

1 THE PROVERBS (truths obscurely expressed, maxims, and parables) of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: **2** That people may know skillful and godly Wisdom and instruction, discern and comprehend the words of understanding and insight, **3** Receive instruction in wise dealing and the discipline of wise thoughtfulness, righteousness, justice, and integrity, **4** That prudence may be given to the simple, and knowledge, discretion, and discernment to the youth— **5** The wise also will hear and increase in learning, and the person of understanding will acquire skill and attain to sound counsel [so that he may be able to steer his course rightly]— **6** That people may understand a proverb and a figure of speech or an enigma with its interpretation, and the words of the wise and their dark sayings or riddles. **7** The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence]; but fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline. **8** My son, hear the instruction of your father; reject not nor forsake the teaching of your mother. **9** For they are a [victor's] chaplet (garland) of grace upon your head and chains and pendants [of gold worn by kings] for your neck. **10** My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. **11** If they say, Come with us; let us lie in wait [to shed] blood, let us ambush the innocent without cause [and show that his piety is in vain]; **12** Let us swallow them up alive as does Sheol (the place of the dead), and whole, as those who go down into the pit [of the dead]; **13** We shall find and take all kinds of precious goods [when our victims are put out of the way], we shall fill our houses with plunder; **14** Throw in your lot with us [they insist] and be a sworn brother and comrade; let us all have one purse in common— **15** My son, do not walk in the way with them; restrain your foot from their path; **16** For their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. **17** For in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird! **18** But [when these men set a trap for others] they are lying in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. **19** So are the ways of everyone who is greedy of gain; such [greed for plunder] takes away the lives of its possessors. **20** Wisdom cries aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the markets; **21** She cries at the head of the noisy intersections [in the chief gathering places]; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: **22** How long, O simple ones [open to evil], will you love being simple? And the scoffers delight in scoffing and [self-confident] fools hate knowledge? **23** If you will turn (repent) and give heed to my reproof, behold, I [Wisdom] will pour out my spirit upon you, I will make my words known to you. **24** Because I have called and you have refused [to answer], have stretched out my hand and no man has heeded it, **25** And you treated as nothing all my counsel and would accept none of my reproof, **26** I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when the thing comes that shall cause you terror and panic— **27** When your panic comes as a storm and desolation and your calamity comes on as a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. **28** Then will they call upon me [Wisdom] but I will not answer; they will seek me early and diligently but they will not find me. **29** Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord, **30** Would accept none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, **31** Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices. **32** For the backsliding of the simple shall slay them, and the careless ease of [self-confident] fools shall destroy them. **33** But whoso hearkens to me [Wisdom] shall dwell securely and in confident trust and shall be quiet, without fear or dread of evil.

(Amplified Bible; Joyce Meyers; 2006; Faith Words; Scripture; Commentaries; pages 514-517)

Chapel Flock ♦ PO Box 161102 ♦ Wichita, KS ♦ 67216 ♦ (316) 243-1438

(If you wish to be removed from the mailing list e-mail at: chapel-flock@sbcglobal.net)