

BLESSINGS AND CURSES

While this may not be a popular opinion, nevertheless I'll share it for the praise and glory of God. I'm speaking right now though to only the true Christians, the children of God who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, who have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them. I'm thankful to God for all that has happened to our nation of the U.S. of A in recent times. The wearing of the masks, the disintegration of our culture, the tearing down of our national pride, the increasing of lawlessness, the reversal of what is good now being called bad and what is bad is now considered good for it has all been a wake-up call to God's people. While I am not happy for any of the pains, torment or grief that anyone has suffered, I am thankful to God that in His infinite mercy He has spared our nation so far from complete destruction and has given us this time to turn from our ways that displease Him (to put it mildly). I was reminded this morning of the blessings and curses that God spoke over the national of Israel in Deuteronomy 28. The curses that God spoke of can be clearly seen in what is going on today in this country. I chose just a sample of those curses to illustrate the similarities to what we see today:

Deuteronomy 28:15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:...". From there God speaks of all the curses that will come upon them.

verse 20: "The Lord will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me."

Those curses included lack of production of crops, livestock, and family, and all types of diseases:

verse 22: "The Lord will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish."

verse 29: "...you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.

verse 34: "So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see.

verses 43-44: " "The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail."

Many people has become outraged and are blaming other people for what is going on (yes, even us Christians), ranting about this political party or that, this politician or that, this group of people or that. But, it seems to me that the real problem is that we have forsaken the Lord our God and we have fallen into His judgment. While all of that may not be a new thought to many of you and even though the following Word was spoken to Israel, there is the same God Almighty today as was then. God is the same yesterday as today (Hebrews 13:8). The Word for Israel then is just as pertinent to us today. It is found in II Chronicles 7:14:

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

I think we as Christians are tempted to just shrug our shoulders and say something like, "meh, God's Word foretold of these last days, and well, here we are." II Timothy 3:1-7 speaks of that.

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

But how do you know, child of God, whether or not there will be another Great Awakening and Revival or not? Is God still not on the throne? Is He still greater than all of our foes and abounding in mercy and goodness?

I know many of God's people have already recognized all of this and are doing what it says in II Chronicles 7:14. Let us all continue to seek God and His great mercy for the times of refreshing spoken of in Acts 3:19-21:

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

May God bless us all and let us pray that we all:

"Come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;" (Ephesians 4:13)

If you haven't accepted Christ into your life up until now, I hope and pray that today is that day. Are you ready to receive Jesus Christ into your life to allow Him to be your Lord and Savior? Romans 10:9-10 says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Congratulations to all who have received God's free gift of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord!