

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

February 8, 2020

I Tell You Before...!

To be called by God into the ministry is a great honor, but it brings with it a tremendous burden of responsibility. Many things will weigh heavily upon a man or woman of God as they seek to be a faithful steward of the gospel of Christ. It was no different with the Apostle Paul. One such thing which weighed so very heavy upon Paul was to see those he brought to Christ being led away to trust in fallacies. He spoke often of the consequences of being deceived by *“vain words.”* There was one particular warning Paul repeated over and over to the churches. He considered it to be of upmost importance that the believers understood this simple truth.

Paul gave this warning in his letter to the Galatians. He said, *“I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past...”* He had repeatedly told them something *“in time past,”* and he wants to be sure they have not forgotten it. Something is going to happen, and it is vitally important they know and understand it. This is why Paul says, *“I tell you before”* this happens. Let’s consider the following passage.

*“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: **of the***

which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21.

The passage above is an absolute statement. It is a truth which Paul repeats to church after church. In the same epistle that he wrote "*For by grace are ye saved through faith...*" Ephesians 2:8, Paul reminds us, "*For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*" Ephesians 5:5. Salvation by grace does not negate this truth! Salvation by grace transforms you, so you no longer have any of these things in your heart or life.

This same message is repeated to the Corinthians. Paul writes, "*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? **Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*" 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Time after time, in clearest of terms, Paul makes sure we know that no one who does such things will inherit the kingdom of God. NO ONE!!

In writing these words, Paul is not concerned about our doctrine. He is concerned about our soul. In fact, these words do not care if your doctrine says these things are covered by the blood of Christ and God cannot see them. They do not care if you believe the righteousness of Christ is imputed to you, and you will not be judged for such sins. These words do not even care if we believe our sins are forgiven "past, present, and

future.” Even our doctrines of justification and sanctification are made irrelevant by these words. Paul is adamant, clear, and absolute, “...*they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*”

The Apostle assures us that any doctrine which says someone who does these sort of things will enter the kingdom of God, is just “*vain (empty) words*” that serve to deceive you. He wrote, “**Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.**” Ephesians 5:6-7.

Paul’s words, “**I tell you before...**,” are saying this:

“**I tell you before** it’s too late to repent and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:15.

“**I tell you before** it’s too late to have sin washed from your heart by the blood of Christ. Hebrews 10:22.

“**I tell you before** you hear the words, *I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*” Matthew 7:23.

“**I tell you before** you stand before God to be judged according to your deeds!” Romans 2:5-11.

Jesus died to make you “*free from sin*” Romans 6:22; to wash it out of your heart, mind, and nature. Revelation 1:5. Yet you will never be free as long as you hold to “*vain words*” which promise Heaven to those who continue in sin. The reality of this truth is too important to ignore. Along with Jesus, the prophets, and the apostles, “**I tell you before...!**”