

November 22, 2021

You Have Not Mourned

Sometimes the truth is not a pleasant thing to hear. Such was the case when Paul penned his first epistle to the Corinthian church. The church was filled with carnality, contention, and strife. Some in the church were even living in fornication.

Paul's harshest rebuke, however, was not to those who committed such things, but was directed towards how the church reacted to it. He wrote, *"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And **ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned**, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you."* | Corinthians 5:1-2.

The believers at Corinth thought their ability to accommodate those involved in such things was a sign of spirituality. It was not! It was a sign of their carnality. Paul said they were *"puffed up."* They were proud and haughty. They should have been broken-hearted over the sin in the church. Instead, they acted like they were in the midst of great revival.

It was Jesus who told us, “*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*” Matthew 5:4.

This was a reference to Isaiah’s prophecy concerning “...*them that mourn in Zion.*” Isaiah 61:2-3. These were those who “*mourned*” over the depraved spiritual condition of Israel. Their “*comfort*” would be found in the salvation Christ brought into the world.

We must have compassion upon the lost. We must not condemn the sinner for being a sinner. But sin in the world is not the same as sin in the church. Rampant sin in the world reminds us the world still needs the Savior. Rampant sin in the church tells us the church has lost the reality of true salvation.

The American church has been so inundated with scandal, sexual promiscuity, and excess that most people are “numb” to it. Consider how many Christians have been caught up in profane chants against certain political leaders? Do we laugh about it? Or is our heart broken by it? Since when did Jesus tell us to curse our enemies?

Even in ministry we have traded the presence of God for carnality. True ministry has in large part been exchanged for an entertainment-based production. Prophets are lifted up in fame, not because they hear from God, but because they tell us what we want to hear. It is similar to the condition which brought God’s judgment upon Jerusalem in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. God said, “***The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people***

love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" Jeremiah 5:31.

The church finds itself in such a condition because it has believed its own lie. We are told constantly that we are all still sinners just like the world. Sadly, in many cases, the lie has become true. When you accept that sin is normal for a Christian it has a two-fold effect. First, it denies the work of Jesus Christ who died to *"take away our sin"* | John 3:5-6. When this happens the basis of saving faith is destroyed and the believer begins to fall back under sin's dominion. Secondly, it destroys the moral compass of the believer. That which was once unacceptable becomes accepted. It then becomes justifiable. First in others, then in ourselves. The prophets described the resulting condition, saying, *"Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush..."* Jeremiah 6:15.

Nothing will change until the church realizes how far it has fallen from the glorious salvation Christ purchased for all. Only then will our hearts be able to mourn over our own condition, the condition of the church, and of our nation. Only then will God be able to revive us from the darkness which has filled the land.