

# “IS IT NOTHING TO YOU?”

By Keith Greer

“Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see If there is any sorrow like my sorrow, Which has been brought on me, Which the Lord inflicted In the day of His fierce anger.”  
{Lamentations 1:12} Jeremiah, the "weeping prophet", was greatly troubled!

Jerusalem had been reduced to rubble by the invading Babylonian forces. Jeremiah laments her condition. How can those who pass by her, not be moved to deep anguish. We can see a deep feeling for this city by this prophet. Yet, what brought her to such an ending?

"Jerusalem has sinned gravely, therefore she has become vile. All who honored her despise her ... she did not consider her destiny; therefore her collapse was awesome." [Lamentations 1:8,9] God had warned her, she just refused to heed the warning! Now the "just judgment" of God has rendered His verdict.

The sad truth of this story was that it did not have to end like this! When God's children started to "walk according to their designs", God's warnings became a reality! Why did they not listen? What lessons can we learn from their grave miscalculation of God's judgment?

Today, we need to take a good hard look at the church. What do you see? Churches which are not growing spiritually, or numerically. Our young people going to the world, instead of Christ. Preachers who will not "**preach the whole counsel of God**". Worldliness is a serious problem in many churches. Add to this new and old issues: "**New Hermeneutics**", "**Unity & Diversity**", "**Divorce & Remarriage**", and "**Woman's Equality**"! **Modernism** has even infected the Lord's church. **Women elders, deacons, preachers**, and a new push to bring back **instrumental music** into the worship services. Is it nothing to you?

Yes, this is happening within the Lord's churches in many places all across our country. Yet, add to this another growing problem in the Lord's church today – apathy, complacency, and lack of dedication to the Lord's church. Maybe you think I'm just being an alarmist and things are really not this bad. Please consider some of these sobering facts...

In the 50's we were the largest growing religion in the United States. Today we are not even in the top 100 listed. The average size of the Lord's church is in the 70's. We have more churches today without elders, or ineffective elders, than ever before. Add to this shorter and fewer Gospel meetings, lower attendance during meetings, Sunday evening worship and mid-week Bible studies. Many churches are resisting book, chapter and verse preaching with more emphasis about the length of the sermon and the preacher's ability as a great orator than being "true to the book." Sadly, more members of the Lord's church are warming a pew than seeking to teach the gospel to those who are lost in sin!

What is happening to the church in the 21st century? We had better wake up brethren to the serious problems we are facing. What does God think as he looks down from His home on high? Too

many churches, preachers, elders, and brethren are "burying their heads in the sand"! We are not ostriches!

Do these things concern you? If so, what are you doing about it? God doesn't want "lip service", he wants action! What can I do? First of all, demand "sound gospel preaching". **If you're not getting it, who is to blame?** Next, we must admit our problems and take steps to deal with them. We cannot "ignore them" and hope they will go away. Dedication, zeal and fervency need to replace the apathy running so rampant in many congregations today. How sad is it when members spend more time on their cell phones than with the Bible – the words of life!

Brethren, if your heart aches like mine, roll up your sleeves and join me. \*\*\*