

“KNOWING THE TERROR OF THE LORD”

By Keith Greer

"Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. " {2 Corinthians 5 :11}

This statement, made by the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth, is one worthy of a closer examination. By so doing one can clearly see why Paul preached the gospel with zeal and urgency.

Please consider carefully the previous passage of scripture. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad "{2 Corinthians 5:10}

Paul understood the certain appointment all men will make.

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, "{Hebrews 9:27}

"Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." {Acts 17:31} Man will give an account of his actions before the God of heaven. No person will escape this day of reckoning.

How does that make you feel? Are you ready?

Since these facts cannot be disputed, Paul saw his preaching being an urgent matter. What kind of things did Paul "warn" men about? Allow me to give you a small sampling:

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" {Romans 12:2}

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." {Galatians 6: 7}

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God "{1 Corinthians 6:9,19}

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise," redeeming the time, because the days are evil. "{Ephesians 5:15,16}

What kind of teaching would we call this? Negative. Why would Paul preach such "hard sayings"? Didn't he know people needed to be uplifted and encouraged? People want to "feel good about themselves". This type of preaching comes under the category of "browbeating".

Being a preacher of the gospel of Christ, over the past few years, I've heard such comments from my brethren. Some would have you believe that we are "driving them off" by such preaching. Really? Could there be another reason?

Can we know the "**terror of the Lord**" too? What will the end be for those who have been unfaithful in their service unto the Lord?

"In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power," {2 Thessalonians 1:8,9}

Do I want anybody to be lost, especially one of my brother or sister in Christ? Can I sit idly by and watch them do things which will cost them their soul and say nothing? How could I hope to stand in the presence of the Almighty God without knowing I had done my job and warned my brethren of the need to be committed and faithful to our Lord in all things.

Dear brethren, I want better things for those I love in the Lord. Thanks be to God I well understand "the terror of the Lord.." ***