

“MY PEOPLE DO NOT CONSIDER”

By Keith Greer

“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me; the ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, My people do not consider.” {Isaiah 1:2,3} God had done much for His people— Israel—but they did not show proper gratitude for His love and favor. God’s people today need to consider the:

Awfulness of sin. *“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.” {Isaiah 59:1,2}* Ezekiel wrote that the soul that sins would die {Ezekiel 18:20}. Paul proclaimed that spiritual death is the result of sin {Romans 6:23}. Sin can cost men their souls and, if they don’t repent, send them to the devil’s hell. Sin cannot make good on its promises or bring true happiness. It needs to be seen in all its ugliness and rejected at every turn because of the destruction it brings into our lives. Finally it cost the death of Christ on that cross. All of us need to see sin in all of its ugliness and learn to remove it from all aspects of our lives!

Consequences of unbelief. *“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” {Hebrews 3:12,13}* Unless a person believes in Christ as God’s son, he will surely die in his sins {John 8:24}. God will not accept those who lack saving faith {Hebrews 11:6}. Sadly, the children of Israel, by continually rejecting and rebelling against God and His laws, learned this lesson the hard way. In God’s sight, disobedience is the same thing as unbelief. Despite current popular teaching, unbelief brings serious consequences! Yes, the devil is a master at hiding and trying to get one to ignore the severe consequences of unbelief. Please read the truth in *2 Thessalonians 1:7-9*.

Futility of worldly goods. *“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” {1 Timothy 6:6-8}* Centuries ago, men had their wealth and riches buried with them. The Egyptian people built great pyramids to house their leaders and all their wealth—sometimes, even living servants! Centuries later, when the pyramids were opened, the material wealth was still there, along with the ruler’s decaying bones! All material wealth is temporal, fleeting, and decaying. God’s children need to put their priority on eternal—not temporal things {*2 Corinthians 4:16,17*}.

The cost of our redemption. *“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” {Romans 5:6-8}* Jesus was not just a good man or a good friend; He was God’s Son. He left the glories of heaven and the privilege of dwelling with His Father to come to earth and die a horrible, cruel death on the cross. Why? He had only two motives: (1) Love for His Father, which prompted Him to do His will. (2) Love for sinful men. He tasted death to release every man from bondage

to sin and Satan {*Hebrews 2:9,14,15*}. He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. Every Christian should be humbled by the amount of love the Father and Son had for us.

Fact of eternity. *“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”* {*Matthew 25:46*} Each day we live, we are one day closer to eternity. We need to be prepared when the final day arrives {*John 5:28,29*}. No matter how long we live here on earth it will pale to the time spent in eternity! Dear readers, are you giving sober consideration to these things? Consider now, rather than regret later, when it's too late. ***