

DA END IS NEAR, TURN YO SELF AROUND NOW!

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In a little town way down in south Louisiana Bayou country there lived two ministers of the Gospel. Reverend Boudreaux pastored the Cajun Baptist Church and across the street Pastor Thibodeaux ministered the Word at the Full Gospel Tabernacle. One day they were working together putting a sign up which read, 'DA END IS NEAR! TURN YO SELF AROUND NOW! As they were hammering the sign into the ground a car sped by and the driver yelled out the window, 'You bunch of religious nuts!' A few minutes later they heard the screeching of tires, a crash and then a splash! Boudreaux looked at Thibodeaux and said, 'Da ya tink we should ha' just put 'DA BRIDGE IS OUT! '?

I wanted to start out with some light-hearted humor, because the message that the LORD has for us today is hard; He is challenging us to step up and be bold and be obedient--with no hesitation.

Isaiah 62:6-7 (Holy Bible from the Ancient Eastern Text)

- This is talking about an assignment that the LORD has given to His servant
- He was to hear the Word from the LORD and give it to the people
- He was to teach them the Ways of the LORD
- And he was to warn them when they strayed from His Ways
- Continually---this speaks of there being someone, at all times praying, interceding, and proclaiming God's Word to the people
- Encouraging and exhorting to good works, so that God's blessings will continue in their lives
- Warning about the consequences of sin--the curses and calamities--the dangers-- that come with it
- Notice the phrase--'until I make Jerusalem a praise in the Earth'
- This is Kingdom talk
- He's telling us to stay vigilant and diligent to live right until that time when He comes and deposes our Adversary

At that point in time, this Word was for Ezekiel, the prophet, but it speaks to all Believers today.

I Peter 2:9-10 (Amplified)

- This is our assignment today
- To set forth His wonderful deeds
- To display the virtues and perfections in Him--His character seen in us
- Living our lives according to His way of doing things
- Flowing with Holy Spirit
- Being obedient to His unction's

Let's look some more at our assignment:

Ezekiel 3:17-21(Amplified)

- Son of man--child of GOD
- YOU are a watchman!
- People's lives--eternities-- are at stake!
- People need to be warned about the consequences of sin: Examples:
- Sexual sin such as fornication, adultery, homosexuality--consensual sex outside of marriage
- Excesses such as drunkenness, gluttony, addictions
- Hateful sin such as murder, rape, theft, slander, lying
- Sins against God Himself such as unbelief and faithlessness
- There are consequences when you keep silent
- We will answer to GOD for our disobedience

Let me just say right here, that warning people of the **consequences** of sin is NOT 'judging a PERSON'.

- There is a difference
- We are not assigned to condemn a person for their lifestyle choices
- But, rather, warn them of the consequences of those choices
- Never make a person feel as if God 'hates them' because of the way they are living or struggling with a vice
- Instead, encourage that person--tell them about God's ways

Ezekiel 33 & 34

- Notice how the LORD starts out almost word for word as in chapter 3
- This tells me that He is very serious about this assignment He has given to His watchmen
- Our GOD is a 'Right Now' God
- He doesn't look at our past
- He's concerned with what we're doing 'Right Now'

- If you've been wicked in the past--FORSAKE YOUR WICKED WAYS!
- **Turn yo self around!!!! NOW!!!**
- If you do--all will be forgotten--under the Blood.
- If you've been following GOD and living right--KEEP DOING IT!
- Cause know this--if you turn back from GOD--it doesn't matter what you've done in the past--it will NOT be remembered.
- To the natural mind, this doesn't seem 'FAIR'
- But God doesn't have a natural mind--He is Divine
- He is ALWAYS fair--think about it this way:
- If He forgets the past of the wicked, to be fair, He would have to do the same for the righteous--IF THEY TURN!
- That's the key--IF THEY TURN
- When the wicked TURN from their evil ways--their wicked ways are forgotten
- When the righteous TURN from their righteous ways--their righteous ways are forgotten
- When the righteous stay true to the right ways--they are recorded and remembered
- I would say that is FAIR
- Our GOD is a RIGHT NOW God--remember that
- It's what you do with Him today that matters

Does everyone understand your assignment?

Let's shift gears here and talk about what our message to the children of men should be:

Psalm 115:16 (Amplified)

- GOD created the Heavens and the Earth
- The Heavens belong to the LORD
- But, He has created and GIVEN the Earth to the children of men--HUMANS
- **Mankind was not created for Heaven**
- Spirits live there--mankind is FLESH
- Creatures of flesh live in the Earth
- To live in the Earth legally you must have a body of flesh
- That's why Jesus was born of a virgin
- He entered Earth legally--that's why He could call Himself a 'Son of Man'
- He had a body of flesh

- The struggle is that *rebel spirits* want the Earth which GOD created for and gave to *humans*

Our message is this:

Ephesians 2:10-22 (Amplified)

- GOD has good plans for people
- At one time we were separated from GOD
- Now, through the Blood of Jesus, we have been brought near
- **We've been reconciled!**
- A new kind of creature has been created IN CHRIST
- This creature has been restored to the place of DOMINION
- This creature has been ANOINTED or covered with the Holy Spirit--just as in the days of the Garden Eden
- This creature can fellowship with GOD just as the first humans did in Eden
- This creature has access to the Presence of GOD at any time--Right Now--in the Earth--don't have to wait to 'go to Heaven'
- Want to see His face?--ASK HIM!
- He'll show you His face, His hands, His arm, His heart--HE LONGS FOR INTIMACY WITH YOU!
- He still comes to Earth to fellowship with His children!
- This creature will never die--never be separated from GOD
- Why? Because that same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead LIVES in YOU!

Hebrews 13:14 (Amplified)

- The original language does not say 'this world is not our home'
- That is a song
- Scripture says 'here we have no permanent city, but we are looking for the one (the city) that is to come
- 'World' and 'Earth' are different
- 'World' speaks of government
- 'Earth' speaks of territory--the planet
- The governments that rule the planet Earth right now are not permanent
- The Kingdom Of Heaven is the permanent government
- We are looking for the New Jerusalem--our permanent dwelling place

Revelation 21:1-7

- See! I make all things new!
- There will be new heavens and a new Earth
- The city of GOD--Jerusalem--will come down to Earth and GOD will dwell with humans--
- ON THE EARTH
- **Saints are not going to spend eternity 'in Heaven'**
- We will be living on the Earth with GOD
- There will be flesh and blood people that inhabit the planet, too
- His government will rule the planet and that is what will make it Paradise!
- And we will have positions in His government !

The warning is this:

Matthew 6:19-20 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19

- 1 Timothy makes it clear and plain what Matthew is talking about
- Don't hoard your riches on things that are not eternal
- Use the things of the Earth to impact the Kingdom of Heaven--which is eternal
- **The material things of this Earth can be transformed into eternal rewards by the way we use them**

Give everything to GOD and it will be waiting for you in the world to come--a good foundation for your life there!

Revelation 21:8 (Amplified)

- Sound the alarm!
- Time as we know it is coming to an end.
- The time is at hand when GOD will deal with the rebel spirits.
- The wicked humans will be destroyed and punished along with the rebel spirits that they followed.
- How can you recognize the wicked?
- Cowards, ignoble, contemptible and cravenly lacking courage
- Cowardly submissive
- Unbelieving and faithless
- Depraved and defiled with abominations
- Murderers
- The lewd and adulterous
- Practicers of magic arts and idolaters
- All liars

All of these shall have their part in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone--the second death!

Those that are in covenant with GOD will be protected and spared--they will spend eternity in the Kingdom of GOD.

His original plan and purpose will come to pass

Humans ruling the Earth--in bodies of flesh--with total access to His Presence

We are His watchmen--called to prayer, intercession, and sharing the Good News of reconciliation!

LET'S DO IT!