### INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Are you 1 - 3**Grieving?**

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# Dear Friends,



Go through the streets...and put a mark on the forehead of everyone who is in anguish over the outrageous obscenities being done in the city... Feel sorry for no one. Show no compassion. Kill old men and women, young men and women, mothers and children. But don't lay a hand on anyone with the mark. Start at my Temple...The land is swollen with murder. The city is bloated with injustice. They all say, 'God has forsaken the country. He doesn't see anything we do.' Well, I do see, and I'm not feeling sorry for any of them. They're going to pay for what they've Ezekiel 9, The Message done.

We don't understand how to properly read such painful words. Our tendency to literalize such prophecies cause us to form an image of God that is far from that final and complete revelation in the Face of Jesus Christ. So how do we understand the heart of this passage? The wages of sin IS death. God is not vindictive here, for it is impossible for Him to ever be so. He is manifestly good, and His goodness manifests in demonstrating the results of sin. And that result is death. Not just any sin, but a maniacal rejection of the good and embracing of the evil is referred to here. And we who have murdered over 60 million of our children and are working hard to increase that number, have sown the wind and are about to reap the whirlwind.

We may be tempted to relegate this scene from Ezekiel to one of those Old Testament horror stories and try to explain it away or at least seek to diminish its terrible warnings. But we sadly misunderstand the character of God if we think there is some great difference between the God of Abraham and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no difference between the anger of God here and the anger of God at all sin in all times and places. God HATES sin because sin destroys. You react to evil similarly because you are made in His image, except God's is perfect and complete. God's rage against man is only found where man has so united with sin that he has become one with it. To be one with sin is to be one with the target of God's wrath against sin. Yes, the Cross has delivered us from all evil. But whenever we as a nation willfully unite with sin

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to that degree, we become sin. Then the unchanging rage of God against sin is going to manifest. It is the spiritual law of sin and death at work. It is only the Cross that can save us from the collision. It is no failure of the Cross that this occurs. The Cross stands unmovably ready to save. Wrath is not a divine *emotion*. Wrath is the simple natural inevitable result of willful unrepentant evil. Wrath is no more avoidable when embracing evil than is burning when embracing fire. Judgement is God's loving call to turn. Wrath is what we eventually enter when we refuse to heed judgement. America, along with most of the West, is refusing to turn. How bad will it get?

I am just like the next guy - avoiding discomfort and pursuing comfort. I don't want conflict. But unlike the next guy, the Holy Spirit within compels me to hate evil and love God. So I cannot be silent. For well over 30 years, I along with many others have warned that we as a nation (and as a world now) were heading into great danger. At first evil was simply tolerated. Next, it was embraced. And now it is being forced upon children while we continue to murder babies. Yet sadly, (I say this with holy fear) many believers I have encountered over the years have strangely refused to see evil as evil. When I first sounded the alarm about the manifest wickedness that was taking over the public education system, the warning was not only unheeded but often rebuffed. Now who can refuse to acknowledge that the public education system is rife with godless insanity? (I know that there are exceptions, and we thank God for those exceptions. Yet these exceptions only proves the rule.)

So what is God going to do? He is allowing all the sewage we can swallow, in order for us to come to the point we will vomit it out. That seems to be the only thing left to awaken us before wrath is all that remains. It truly seems that as long as our daily lives are unencumbered by too much difficulty, we can just carry on as if all is well. Are we grieving? Are we worthy of being marked as one who is shattered over the horror of what we have become as a people? In Laudon County, Virginia, a boy dressed as a girl on two separate occasions raped two girls in the school girls' restroom. He of course could enter freely, thanks to Obama's push to make such insanity legal. The school covered up the rapes and persecuted the girls' families when they demanded action. Parents understandably were up in arms. What was the government response? Thankfully the judge found the boy guilty. But Biden asked the Department of Justice to begin to go after parents who were angry about this. Obama said this was nothing but 'phony right-wing outrage.' Remember Biden's campaign message? That voting for him was a return to decency? Really?! Today it was reported that in Orange County, Florida, a father stood up before the local school board to read to them from a library book from his child's school. As he read, the incensed school board demanded that he not continue. He was holding up a mirror, and they were being forced to see their faces in it. This book was one of those porn 'how to' manuals aimed at grammar schoolers. Fools and hypocrites! THERE IS A STRANGE BLINDNESS OVER THE MINDS OF MANY WHO CLAIM CHRIST, YET WHO IN THE NAME OF LOVE HAVE NOT ONLY TOLERATED HORRENDOUS EVIL. BUT ARE UNABLE TO NAME IT AS EVIL.

In 2005, I warned of the impending invasion of open homosexual pornography in public schools. This was not some prophetic revelation I was offering. It was the simple warning resulting from my review of a highly charged pornographic booklet printed and distributed to middle and high school students in Massachusetts called The Little Black Book. You can Google it and see for yourself. Just be sure no children are in the room. Still sadly there were naïve Christians who said I was being vindictive and unloving. Now we have children all over the country as young as first grade or younger, being taught out of government issued 'how to' manuals with illustrated pornographic detail. Yet STILL there are some Christians who claim that we should not be judgmental. Love screams

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to inhabitants of a burning house that they are in immediate mortal danger. That is the only loving thing to do.

Anything less is participation with the evil.

If God disallowed the natural results of evil in manifesting wrath, He would not be good or holy or worthy of worship or love. Be THANKFUL He is! And please note, that it was Peter who reminds us that judgement begins at the house of God. (I Peter 4:17) This should put away any ideas that this is only Old Testament. Old Testament or New, it makes no difference in how reality works. Lay aside any idea that God is kinder in the New Testament than He is in the Old. The law of sin and death is not utterly negated carte blanc, but only by the intervention of the Cross, which *supersedes it*. (see Romans 8) The law of sin and death remains in operation until the ultimate restoration of all things. (see Revelation 21, Romans 8, I Corinthians 15:22-28) There is coming a day when all death and its ramifications will no longer exist at all. We are called till then to be salt and light, to hinder rot, and expose works of darkness. And we do this not in self-righteous zeal, but because we are beloved by Father God. His love for us and in us transforms us into lovers of the truth and lovers of all people, even the most depraved.

So what is coming? If the law of sin and death is still in operation and is not superseded by the invoking of the power of the Cross, through awakening, repentance, and turning from evil, then I believe we will see a reenactment of the events of Ezekiel's prophecy. The natural result of sin is death. We have shed innocent blood, and even treated that evil as normal or tolerable. The mindset behind that initial evil brought in its wake the dissolving of marriage and family, the embracing of every imaginable (and some unimaginable) perversions, and now the cultural push to force those evils onto everyone from your grandmother to your infants. At some tipping point, we will see a sudden enforcing of the law of sin and death in action. Many will die. When God decrees for judgement to move to the level of wrath, it does not mean He is red-faced angry now and is throwing a fit, striking out in rage. It means that His prevenient grace which held back the natural ramifications of our evil is no longer standing to protect us. He simply steps aside and gives us over to our choices. (see **Romans** 1) *Our* stupidity brings the wrath. God does not send it.

This can be mitigated by the intercession of the people of God, who stand as kings and priests. How much it can be mitigated, only God knows. But we must be awake, available to the Spirit, and vigilant in these coming days and months. Death here, I believe, is physical. When you read Ezekiel 9 and you see that small children are included, does that mean God is punishing small children equally with adults? Or does it mean that small children will be swept up in the wake of the adult sinful destruction the adults have willfully allowed and even celebrated? The second, surely! That is part of the horror of human rebellion, that the little innocent ones suffer along with the rest. So this cannot be referring to some ultimate judgement. The wages of sin is death. Death is the judgement that finally brings a close to the parade of unchallenged unchecked wickedness. It is the fire that purges the poisonous disease. Wrath is a mercy in such cases. Eventually, at the restoration of all things, all will be put right and death will die. But until that Day, only the Cross can save a rebellious world from its self-imposed collision with wrath. And the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is exactly like Jesus, as Jesus is exactly like the Father, will then do all that is necessary to bring about healing, restoration, and cleansing. Our God is a consuming fire. What sort of fire? A purging cleansing fire.

Burn, holy fire, Love Incarnate, until we become what we behold in You.

## Closing Thoughts...



God is Love and God is a consuming Fire. These are not contrary. I am so weary of hearing believers say things like, "Yes God is loving, BUT He is also...", as if love and justice are in opposition, as if God is some split personality. His justice is loving, and His love is just. Haven't we lived long enough to know from our own experience that nothing can hurt us but sin? God is set to free us all from sin so the joy of life and love and goodness can flow unhindered to and through us. And He is set to bring it about no matter what it takes. THAT is GOOD NEWS!

### Giving Thanks, Clay & Mary





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