

Meditations On The Book Of Jeremiah

In reading chapters sixteen and seventeen, Jeremiah seems no longer to be pleading for sinful Israel. In chapters fourteen and fifteen you will recall God had forbidden him to do so. The sixteenth chapter begins with commands to Jeremiah personally. In view of the corruption of the people and the impending judgment he was not to mix with them in any way. He was not to marry among them, he was not to console the bereaved and he was not to attend their feasts. Marriage between believer and unbeliever does not have the sanction of God. Believers are not to embrace the customs of the unbeliever. At their funerals they were doing things strictly forbidden by God through Moses. Read Deuteronomy 14 and Leviticus 19. How far away from God's Word they had drifted—see verse 6. God's people are to avoid all appearance of evil and to keep themselves unspotted from the world. Instead of weeping for their sins they were making merry. Their mirth was a sign of their indifference and unbelief and by going to their feasts Jeremiah would indorse them and be a partaker of their evil deeds. The teaching here is complete separation of believers and unbelievers. Let us be sure we are in the Will of God in all things. In the fifth verse God says "I have taken away my peace from this people and my lovingkindness and mercies." It is blessed to have His peace and to be partakers of His lovingkindness and tender mercies. It is terrible to be deprived of them.

From verses fourteen through eighteen we gather the Lord will not utterly and forever forsake His people. He is going to restore them and the miracle of restoring them is so great that it will surpass the bringing of them out of Egypt for He will bring them out of all countries whither He has scattered them. This goes beyond that partial restoration after the Babylonian captivity.

There is comfort for God's children in verse 17 and dread for the unbeliever. It teaches the omniscience of God for He knows and can see everything. To Hagar He brought comfort and provision and she delighted to say "Thou God seest me." In Proverbs 15:13 we read, "His eyes are in every place beholding the evil and the good." Again in Proverbs 5:21, "The ways of men are

before His eyes."

We have a prediction concerning the Gentiles in verse 19. They are going to find in the God of Israel their strength and fortress and refuge in the day of trouble. We have found Him so. Strength implies power to support us, to give us victory over our enemies and our difficulties. Fortress means a place of protection and defence and our refuge means a place of safety, a place of rest and quiet and relief. All of this God is to us and will be in times of affliction.

Chapter seventeen and verse 4, God tells Jeremiah that he too will be a captive in a strange land. Beginning with verse 5 to the end are truths that God has given His children always. He wants us to trust Him. It pleases Him for us to trust Him and grieves Him when we do not. Judah and Israel had turned to Egypt and Assyria for help and this displeased God. It was compromise again and lack of trust in Him. For record of this read Isaiah 30:1 and Isaiah 31. We can trust men only as far as God lays it upon their hearts to help us but our trust is in God. Read Psalm 62:5, Psalm 34:8, Psalm 118:8, Psalm 125:1 and Psalm 146:3, 5 and 6.

As we look further in our chapter we can see that verses 7 and 8 are a picture of the godly man described in Psalm 1. Then we are warned not to trust our hearts. We can trust neither our wisdom nor our affections. Unless our hearts are completely controlled by the Spirit of God and our minds informed and regulated by the Word of God we shall be deceived and led astray.

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THE EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD

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cal vision are being stressed as they are faced.

PLANS.

The Ninth Synod next year will meet with the Collingswood Church where the first General Synod was held. The First Bible Presbyterian Church of Tacoma, Washington extended an invitation to the Synod to meet with them which was accepted for that time when conditions permit.

The last four Synods have suffered from delinquent reports from a number of committees with resulting confusion

and chaos in seeking to stay with the docket. This year's Synod was no exception. The recommendation has been made that all committees of the Synod meet before Synod convenes next year.

The call for a Bible Presbyterian Home for the Aged once again came to the floor of the Synod this year. Last year and the year before it went down in the face of more pressing matters. The Synod now has a committee working out plans for such a home or homes. The question of electing trustees to hold properties and gifts for the Synod precipitated debate and some difference of opinion as to the meaning of the Form of Government in its statements concerning Trustees.

A Finance committee for the Synod has been delegated the authority and duty of getting before churches the needs of various committees and institutions of the Synod as budgets are planned and congregational giving directed. The names of treasurers for such committees, institutions and projects commended by the Synod are given in this issue of THE CLARION. It has been the contention of some in the Synod that the reason some of our institutions and projects have not been designated in benevolent giving has been because the needs of such have not been clearly presented to proper committees and persons in local congregations. It is hoped that this Finance Committee will serve to alleviate this lack.

The work of the Young People's committee under the direction of the Rev. Jack Murray assisted by the Rev. John Addy was heartily commended by the Synod and the need for \$500 immediately to meet current expenses from young people's societies and churches laid before them. Truth for Youth, young people's quarterly, issued by the Committee was reported as having received a hearty welcome from those within and outside of our testimony.

The Eighth General Synod at Harvey Cedars will be remembered as a meeting marked by blessing, vision and anticipation of usefulness of the Bible Presbyterian testimony as it continues to stand "for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ."

The Rev. Phil Saint, brought illustrated messages to the children of the Daily Vacation Bible School at the Bible Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, N. C. during the last week of the school in June. He also spoke to public meetings at the church each night.