



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Volume: 18 Issue 12 **HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO GOD IS?** DECEMBER 2018

We want to take our scripture text today from *Psalms 78:40-42*, "**How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.**" Regretfully, in recent years we have seen an increase in teaching and emphasizing God's love, forgiveness, and intimate presence with His people. These truths are without a doubt very important to hear in modern society, where many people feel lonely, isolated, guilty, and often times unimportant and insignificant. The truth is the pendulum has swung too far. It seems for the most part many Christians have become overly familiar and they treat God as their personal buddy or the guy upstairs. If there were stairs you could get there, but there are none. There is no doubt about it, there has been a loss of respect for God's authority and holiness. I know holiness is no longer expressed from behind the pulpits today: however without it no man shall see the Lord. We read in *Hebrews 12:14*, "**Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.**" The apostle Paul is adamant in declaring; without holiness no man will be able to see Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior. Those who do not live a life of holiness will only see Christ as their judge and not as Lord. Those who Christ rejects will forever be separated from His most holy presence. If you have ever questioned God's holiness you will be surprised to see how His kingdom will be esteemed during His millennium

reign. We are told in *Zechariah 14:20*, "**In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.**" God's standard is nothing less than holiness whether we embrace that sacred principle or not. The word holiness in the Hebrew is #6944 *Qodesh*, and it means *apartness, holiness, sacredness, a holy thing, a most holy thing such as the Ark of the Covenant. It is something that has been hollowed and consecrated for the Lord's use.* In other words every pot in Jerusalem and in Judea shall be considered holy and consecrated unto the Lord of host. As a child of God, you have a grave responsibility in living a holy life. We read in *2nd Corinthians 7:1*, "**Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**" The apostle Paul said that we must cleanse ourselves. That simply means we have a responsibility in seeking the perfect will of God and aligning our life and life style with the Holy Scriptures. The word filthiness here in the Greek speaks of defiling our temple or clay jar. The believer should be careful concerning that which they allow to come into their bodies. The apostle Paul gives warning in *1st Corinthians 3:16-17*, "**Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile (seeks to destroy his temple or harm) the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God**

is holy, which temple ye are." I know this is somewhat old fashioned teaching but few ministers hardly ever speak about the sins and the bondages that hold the people of God hostage today. Remember whom the Son hath set free is free indeed! Freedom means to be freed from anything. Because Israel soon forgot who God was they began to demonstrate contempt for Jehovah. If we are not careful we too will also demonstrate contempt for our Lord. Reading from *Psalms 106:13-15*, "**They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel. But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness (spiritual famine) into their soul.** Over the last quarter century we have witnessed a profuse loss of God's Holy Ghost power and an overwhelming tide of sin and wickedness in the modern church. This is the human characteristics with any dispensation of Christians when they forget who God is. Once the presence of God has waned from within a believer's life then lust begins to replace the presence of God they once possessed. This is then followed up by pure unadulterated contempt for Jehovah. When men began to forget God the natural tendency is to then tempt God. When anyone begins to tempt God and His sovereignty that is the bareness of a backslidden soul. The Israelites repeatedly treated God with disrespect during their wilderness journey to the Promised Land. Israel soon forgot that just as Jehovah's

power was able to punish the pagan Egyptians for oppressing them, so the power of God was capable of punishing their disobedience and rebellion. It is so easy to forget God when you have no fellowship with Him. May I admonish you with several reasons why as a believer you need to maintain a high level of respect for Jehovah? The Lord executes justice, which includes deposing those who exalt themselves. Jesus said in **Matthew 21:44, "And whosoever shall fall on this stone (Jesus) shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."** The question is a simple one: had you rather willingly humble yourself or must Jesus grind you to powder? In layman's terms it will either be humility or total destruction. Secondly, Christ Jesus is the only one to be revered as well as feared: reading from **Matthew 10:28, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."** Beware, hell awaits the contemptible. I am well aware that in our modern society most limp wristed preachers declare that Jesus Christ is not that kind of Savior, one who will destroy the body and soul both in hell. These charlatans are fake preachers and they have caused this lack of reverence and profuse contempt against the Lamb of God. They never preach there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. This preacher preaches both with old fashion conviction. Thirdly, Christ will judge those who do not serve him. Jesus declared in **Matthew 25:31-33, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall he gather all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:**

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left." This is a portrait of the judgment of God dividing the just from the unjust. Christ then follows this passage up with this passage found here in **Matthew 25:45-46, "Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."** Recently I have been receiving more and more letters, e-mails, and books declaring there is no such thing as eternal punishment concerning the wicked. These charlatans will not admit everlasting simply means everlasting concerning the wicked! Concerning the other point, Christ has promised eternal life for the righteous that have lived according to His most holy Word. Both everlasting and eternity simply mean eternity without end. What is hard to understand about that? What is the purpose in trying to live a godly life on this side of eternity, if after a few years of punishment all men receive eternal life? This again is where Satan deceives people and they do not regard nor fear God for who He is. One lady once said to me, "she would make God let her into His kingdom." What mortal creature has the power to demand that of a sovereign God? One who does not fear nor regard God as sovereign. Only a deceived person would make such a foolish and maniacal statement. Without a doubt this lady has forgotten who Jehovah really is. Fourthly, Jesus Christ is like none other. We are to learn about Him so as to fear Him. The apostle Paul declared in **Hebrews 12:28-29, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace; whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a**

consuming fire." I willfully and intentionally aggregated all of my Scripture references from the New Testament so as to help you in understanding the God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament. People often times will say we are under a new covenant which is true: but when the time of adjudication comes to fruition, Jehovah remains the same God of both the Old and New Testaments. God does not change. Therefore the apostle Paul declared in **Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."** For just a moment I would like for you to reflect on your own perception of God and who He is. Have you become somewhat overly familiar toward him? If so, consider how you might become more realistic in your understanding- perhaps by meditating on the New Testament Scriptures cited above. As the author of both Old and New Testaments Christ reminds us we need to serve Him with reverence and with a holy fear. You may ask the question: why should I fear God in that manner? Because our God is a consuming fire! It is very easy to forget who God is in a sinful and debased world in which we all live. I encourage you to nurture your walk and relationship in Christ our Lord. Christ will come again and only those who have lived according to His Word will inherit eternal life. As always we humbly thank you for your generous love and support for The Voice of Evangelism International Ministries. We want to reach as many souls as we possibly can in this end time hour. We also want to strengthen and encourage the hearts and hands of those who are presently in the faith.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford