

WHY GOD DOES NOT WANT US, OUR FAMILIES, AND THE I.C.P.M. TOO “COMFORTABLE”

I. When We Get Too “Comfortable” - We Tend To Forget GOD And Drift Into The World

A. Israel In The Promised Land

“And it shall be, when THE LORD thy GOD shall have brought thee into the land which HE swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildest not, and houses full of all good things, which thou fillest not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not, when thou shalt have eaten and be full, then beware lest thou forget THE LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.” Deuteronomy 6:10-12

B. Professing CHRISTians In The Laodecian Church

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodecians write, These things saith THE AMEN, THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS, THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD, I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot, I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of MY mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked . . .” Revelation 3:14-17

C. CHRISTians Like Us Erecting “Idols” In Our Lives

“And GOD spake all these Words, saying, Thou shalt have no other gods before ME, Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them, for I THE LORD THY GOD am a jealous GOD . . .” Exodus 20:1,3,5

II. Thus God Will Regularly Bring Trials And Tests Into Our Individual Lives, Our Families, And Our Ministries

A. Biblical Examples

1. Joseph – study Genesis chapters 37-40
2. Moses – study Exodus chapters 14-18
3. David – study I Samuel chapters 19-23
4. Job – study Job chapters 1-3
5. Jeremiah – study Lamentations chapter 3
6. Daniel – study Daniel chapter 6
7. Peter – study Acts chapter 5
8. Paul – study II Corinthians chapters 4, 11-12

B. Church History Examples

1. John Huss – Imprisoned, martyred
2. George Muller – “Tight” finances, often ill
3. Hudson Taylor – “Tight” finances, often ill, hardships in China, “burnout”
4. Amy Carmichael – “Tight” finances, bed-ridden for last 20 + years
5. Corey Ten Boom – Imprisoned by Nazi’s, “tight” finances
6. Pastor Hin Go Lamb – Imprisoned in coal mine many years
7. Joni Tada – Paralyzed from shoulders down
8. Bill Gothard – Constant attack from other CHRISTian leaders

C. Personal Examples

1. I.C.P.M. – “Tight” finances, spiritual warfare, discouragement
2. schutte family – “Tight” finances, Kathy’s fight with cancer
3. daniel allen schutte – fatigue, “burnout”, discouragement

III. Because The Benefits From This Are Many And Eternal

A. It Will Drive Us To Prayer

1. The People Of Israel

Read and study the Book of Judges to see the following “cycle” GOD continually brought the people of Israel through:

- a. they wandered from the LORD
- b. GOD sent affliction through their enemies
- c. they cried out to GOD for deliverance
- d. GOD sent them a deliverer

2. The Prophet Jeremiah

“Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to THE LORD. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto GOD in the heavens. I called upon THY Name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon. THOU hast heard my voice, hide not THINE ear at my breathing, at my cry. THOU drewest near in the day that I called upon THEE, THOU saidest, fear not.” Lamentations 3:39-41, 55-57

3. The Prophet Daniel

“As it is written in The Law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before THE LORD OUR GOD, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand THY Truth. Therefore hath THE LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for THE LORD OUR GOD is righteous in all HIS works which HE doeth: for we obeyed not HIS voice. And now, O LORD OUR GOD, that hast brought THY people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O LORD, according to all THY righteousness, I beseech THEE, let THINE anger and THY fury be turned away from THY city Jerusalem, THY holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and THY people are become a reproach to all that are about us. Now therefore, O our GOD, hear the prayer of THY servant, and his supplications, and cause THY face to shine upon THY sanctuary that is desolate, for THE LORD’s sake. O my GOD, incline thine ear, and hear; open THINE eyes, and behold our desolation’s, and the city which is called by THY Name: for we do not present our supplications before THEE for our righteousness, but for THY great mercies. O LORD, hear; O LORD, forgive; O LORD, hearken and do; defer not, for THINE own sake, O my GOD: for THY city and THY people are called by THY Name.” Daniel 9 13-19

B. It Will Sanctify Us And Make Us More Like CHRIST

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, MY son despise not thou the chastening of THE LORD, nor faint when thou art rebuked of HIM: For whom THE LORD loveth HE chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom HE receiveth. For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but HE for our profit, that we might be partakers of HIS holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” Hebrews 12:5-6,10-11

C. It Will Glorify THE LORD

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations, that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor, and glory at the appearing of JESUS CHRIST.” I Peter 1:6-7