

Introduction

<<Woes brought by teachers>> by Jeremiah

James 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

This time, my message is about “woes brought by teachers”. Some of you may say that you have never heard about such thing as woes brought by teachers in the Bible. It may seem so, but the Bible is said to be **“a book written within and on the backside”** as we can see from the scriptures below.

Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

Although it may seem that there is nowhere in the Bible that talks about woes brought by teachers, as we read the backside of the Bible, it certainly looks like there is a description about it. So, we would like to take a look at this topic now.

<What is a teacher’s sin?>

Again, James in the Bible mentions about teachers.

James 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

It says that teachers will receive greater condemnation here. When the Bible says greater condemnation, it will be truly harsh. The reason for that is because the Lord actually mentioned that false teachers will be thrown into hell as we can see from the scriptures below.

Matthew 23:29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

The Lord said, **“how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”** to the teachers and rabbis of the time? We can understand that the Lord was proclaiming that they will by all means go to hell.

It is a horrible consequence for Bible teachers to enter hell, but it is what the Lord says therefore we know it actually happens. So, why do they end up in hell?

It seems that the clue is in the words spoken by the Lord when he said, **“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers”**. **“Serpents”** and **“vipers”** are related to the Garden of Eden. The snake in the Garden of Eden deceived Eve, twisted the word of God, and told a lie to kick her out of the tree of eternal life. She was kind of distanced away from it.

Just like a snake at the Garden of Eden, these false teachers are meant to teach about God, however, the doctrine they teach is far from the word of God. As the result, people who followed them will be cut from eternal life. That is why those teachers are called **“serpents”** and **“vipers”**. The word of the Lord also has meanings. Unlike doves and baby deer, **“Serpents”** and **“vipers”** are dreadful creatures who can take your life with their bites. They have deadly venom. In the same way, if you listen to the false teachers who are called as **“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers”**, and believe what they say, you will lose eternal life. This is what the word **“serpents”** implies. The Lord also talked about them as we can see from the scriptures below;

Matthew 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

As written here, people who listen to false teachers and believe their doctrine will not end up in heaven, but they will go straight to hell. So, we can see that the woes brought by teachers clearly exist in the church, and those teachers will not receive the eternal life but get a harsh judgment to be sent to hell straight away.

<Woes brought by teachers in recent time>

Now, how are we meant to understand the woes brought by teachers in this modern era? Unfortunately, it doesn't look like there is no such thing in recent time anyway. In fact, this is what the Bible says.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

The Bible was written to teach us what to do as we approach the end of the world. So, the fact that there are mistakes teachers made, description of disaster, and judgment means they are not just stories or research materials, but rather warnings and lessons for us. Teachers of modern era could also mislead a congregation; taking them to hell if they live hypocritically. Unfortunately, there is absolutely nowhere in the Bible that guarantees teachers and pastors wouldn't go to hell, so we need to take this fact seriously.

To see teachers bringing woes is also true in the modern era. For example, the words of the Pope and priests who are Catholic "teachers" are bringing woes to the believers. It doesn't look possible at all to enter the kingdom of heaven if you blindly believe in their words.

They promote unbelievable doctrines by saying that evolution is too scientifically proven to deny (hence Genesis is a myth?), there are mistakes in the Bible, and only the word of the Roman pope is correct. Also, they claim that there is salvation found other than in Christ and hell doesn't exist. I don't think that anyone could enter the kingdom of God by following such teachers who are completely against the Bible. Rather, these false teachers and affected congregation could go into the hell as Lord said. Let's take a further look at the book of James.

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

Here, it says, "**If any man offend not in word**", which actually implies how there are many teachers making lots of mistakes, especially in using words when serving. Indeed, to speak the word of God properly is really difficult. In fact, unfortunately, it is hard not to make mistakes when preaching no matter how careful you are.

James 3:3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

3:4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

Bits are for controlling a horse and it is a parable of teachers who lead the entire church. Also, small helm which controls a big ship has the same implication.

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

Tongue is a small part of the body which is also a parable of the teacher who is supposed to preach. It affects the rest of the body which means the entire church. Fire is a parable of spiritual things. When tongue (teacher) is deceived by the devil, the damage will be huge and it leads the entire church to deception. That is what the scripture reference, **“Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!”** indicates.

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

This describes that the tongue means a teacher who has been deceived by the devil, and it makes the entire church filthy, then burned down. This is exactly what is happening in Pentecostal charismatic churches right now. Those teachers who can't distinguish between the good and bad spirit have been introducing the demonic third wave revival, satanic leaders like Benny Hinn, and Rodney Howard which have already made many Christians burned by the devil's fire.

James 3:7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Here, it says no one can control a tongue (teacher). This is true. For example, the Roman Pope preaches a terrible anti-biblical doctrine, like “Mary is also a redeemer together with Christ”, but no one can stop him.

James 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men,

which are made after the similitude of God.

3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

3:11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

3:12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

It describes that both blessings and cursing are coming out of a teacher, and that is the problem with teachers. It also says both sweet and bitter water are sent from the same place. The water is a parable of spirit. Sweet water means Holy Spirit and bitter water means the demons. Therefore the problem is that sometimes teachers give the message of the Holy Spirit, but bring in the demon other times.

This shouldn't happen, but it actually often does in reality. When teachers are hypocritical and live unrighteous life, the demon could be brought out through their messages. We tend to think about doctrines and knowledge in terms of receiving the message, but the Bible says that the message will bring the spirit. So, it warns us that the message preached at the church could bring out something demonic.

James 3:14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This scripture is also about the mistakes of teachers. It describes “**bitter envying and strife**”. Envy, strife, and pride are not usually mentioned in public, but they do exist. God sees our heart. Those envy, strife, and pride could be reflected on the doctrine, and one could start preaching terrible doctrines by thinking “I will try to impress the congregation” or “I want to preach the doctrine that no one else does”. Such attitude is the teacher's sin.

James 3:15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

However, we need to know that these “innovative doctrines” are actually not from God,

but they belong to the world and the demons. Surely, there are many teachings which belong to the demons right now, but my understanding is that their ultimate form is Pre-tribulation and dispensationalism. These are the teachings of demons which were introduced into Christianity in 19th century by a British man called J. N. Darby.

Dispensationalism is like separating one era from the other, and claims that the church era is temporary. It also insists that the church era ends when rapture occurs, and there will be no church in the next era which is led by Israelis (Jews). Plus it says that tribulation is only for Jews. It is an absolutely ridiculous teaching from a Christians' point of view.

But, this teaching is full of demonic deception, so any Christian who dares to believe in such fake theory will not worry about End Times anymore, and stop the preparation as well. This is indeed the teaching of the demons which was set to disturb Christians' preparation for End Times.



Serpent alters the word of God, and steals eternal life.

<Contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints>

By the way, Jude insists to “**contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints**” as below.

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and

denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

What does Jude mean by **“the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”**? I mean, what kind of faith did the people of the early church and Jude have, and what was the faith like that they were fighting to keep?

We can see the answer by studying the document of the early church era. And, to tell you the truth, Christians in the early church era supported the view that their salvation will come after the tribulation. No one believed the ridiculous doctrine that they will be taken up before the tribulation.

Therefore, unfortunately, if any Christian accepts the pre-tribulation rapture theory, he could possibly be categorized as not someone Jude says **“contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”**, and have lost the battle against foreign doctrines which **crept in unawares**.

So, we need to carefully see this situation for ourselves and examine as we live. This is because, as I said previously, the judgment against teachers is going to be a harsh one. Those teachers who spread foreign doctrines to deceive their congregation may well face the judgment of hell.

Jude describes in the scripture above that **“For there are certain men crept in unawares”**, and warns about the foreign doctrines which will creep in. It is also described that if we accept those doctrines, we are to **“turn the grace of our God into lasciviousness.”**

This word leads to wonders, pre-tribulation rapture, and two-steps rapture theory. Because no one has ever become faithful a believer after accepting pre-tribulation rapture theory. Rather, the doctrine which teaches that any Christian will be raised to heaven before tribulation didn't help Christians to stay faithful and receive blessings. As this false doctrine spread, it seems that all faithful Christians are almost extinct.

Sadly, the time has changed and we can't find someone who **“contends for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”** anywhere, but I encourage us to inherit the good tradition to keep fighting for this.



Heretic J. N. Darby let pre-tribulation rapture theory crept in

<<Let's make it our habit to do God's will>> by E3

I would like to share my testimony about what I learned from the message which in the book of James. Let's take a look.

James 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Regardless of what people think or say about Christian church and Christians, James says **“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone”**. Pastor Jeremiah gave us a message as below from this scripture.

As verse 15 states, we should make sure that we take an action when there is something needed to be done. Otherwise we may not receive the eternal life when we don't do anything despite being faithful. Although it was James who wrote this letter, everything in the Bible was written through the inspiration which comes from God, so this is exactly what God says to us. But, many people (Christians) actually seem to think that they only need to believe in God's word, and don't need to take an action.

Also, he used the scripture below to explain this.

Luke 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master,

what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

10:26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

10:28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

As Jesus says in verse 28, it is important to “take an action” to gain “the eternal life”. We should be careful not to be deceived or believe something different in this regard.

He then went onto preach about “action” by using the scripture below.

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

These scriptures are for Christians. Unfortunately, having faith is not enough to gain salvation. You can't just say that you know the Bible without taking action and expect to gain eternal life. Therefore, we need to look at putting the word of God into practice. In this regard, let's just do it smoothly without any hesitation.

This was the message given by Pastor Jeremiah, and the last part which goes thus, **“let's just do it smoothly without any hesitation”** particularly touched me. I may be wrong, but I wonder if it is our nature to hesitate or feel under the pressure to do God's will. I am not in the position to preach anything to others, but I pondered how I should respond to **“do it smoothly..”** As I prayed for a while, I felt that God spoke to me saying “You only need to make it your habit”. I simply agreed.

By the way, one of my friends didn't use to have a habit of brushing his teeth before going to bed until he got married. But, once married, his wife asked him why he doesn't brush his teeth. That was when he started brushing his teeth before going to bed.

Although he was reluctant at the beginning, 12 months later, it has now become part of his daily routine, and he can't actually go to bed without brushing his teeth now because it will make him feel unsettled.

In the same way, I wonder if we should make it our habit to do God's will. You may find it awkward in the beginning, or people think you are strange, but as you continue, it will become normal to you. Wouldn't it be great if you start to think like "It is a strange feeling not to do God's will"? By putting it into practice for the rest of your life, you will be promised to have the eternal life as a result, so I recommend you to do so if you sense that is God's will. But on the other hand, if you choose not to do any of God's will, you may not be able to have the eternal life as Pastor Jeremiah said.

In the first scripture we looked at, it says "**Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone**". The word "**dead**" here means "sin" or "destruction", so we should remember that even if you call yourself a Christian and live with your faith, it is still possible to face unwanted consequence after the death.

May glory and honor be given to God who always teaches us important lessons.

Amen