

“The children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness” by Jeremiah

Today’ s topic is “the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness” . This means that even after you have become Christian, if your walk is not righteous, the Bible warns us that the eternal life could be taken away from you.

<Even the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness >

The Bible talks about this as below.

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Who are the children of the kingdom? The kingdom here means Israel the kingdom of Judah therefore, this explains that just because you were born in Israel doesn’ t guarantee that you will enter the heaven. It could go the other way around.

<The kingdom in the New Testament means the church>

Now, the kingdom of God exists in the New Testament world. It is the church.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Christ is the head of the church, so what “But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” can be understood as the warning to Christians in the New Testament era. Let’ s also look at Luke 13:23-30.

Luke 13:23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

When asked if there are people who will be saved, Jesus didn't give a positive answer. Rather, He mentioned that people will not be able to go through the narrow gate even if they try. This tells us that we shouldn't misunderstand what the Bible says and understand correctly. Below are what I summarized in this part.

1. Few people are saved. Many may believe in Christ but few stay faithful and receive the salvation.
2. It is important for some people to put some effort to enter through the narrow gate. If we choose to follow wrong teachers and enter through the wide gate, we may miss the eternal life.
3. Despite the warning from God, many will struggle to enter the kingdom of God.

These may sound different from Christian's common sense, and what we look now actually support this view.

13:25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

Here, there is a person who has been shut out by his master. This is a Christian who chose to go through the wide road and missed the eternal life. Once again, this teaches us that we have to be careful in choosing what doctrine we decide to follow otherwise it will become difficult to enter the kingdom of God.

God decides who enters the kingdom of God. It doesn't depend on our wish, request, or thought. You need to choose the narrow gate as Christian.

13:26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou

hast taught in our streets.

People in this time all interacted with Jesus and received his teaching. As many as 5,000 people ate and drank while learning from Jesus, but it didn't guarantee the entrance to the kingdom of God.

Sadly, many of them ended up denying Jesus, agreed to crucify Him, and didn't receive the salvation in the first instance.

<Meaning of parables>

By the way, eating and drinking are parables. Eating is receiving the word of God.

Deuteronomy 8:3 that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

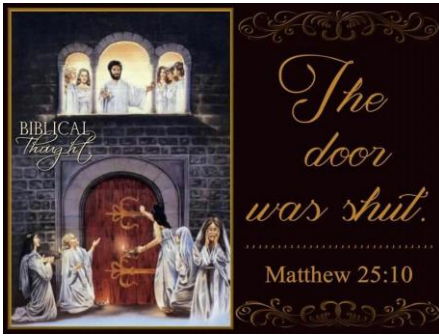
Drinking is also a parable of receiving Holy Spirit therefore, eating and drinking are all about Christians who would go to the church and receive the word of God through Holy Spirit rather as religious activity. The point is that they could possibly be kicked out of the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 13:27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

So, how come what appear to be right Christians will possibly be shut out of the kingdom of heaven? The reason is found in this scripture: "workers of iniquity" .

<What is iniquity?>

What is iniquity? In Greek, it is called "adikia" . It literally means that you break God's warning. This is the very reason why some self proclaimed Christians won't be able to enter the kingdom of God. They don't follow God's guidance.



The door was shut

We can also guess its reason. It is because they have been receiving the wrong teachings and doctrines in their churches. They were taught to choose the wider way which will only lead them into destruction.

It could be something like “People of the New Testament will become righteous by faith therefore they don’ t need to follow the law” .

<It is important to follow God’s direction to receive the eternal life>

However, this kind of teaching is absolutely wrong. Lord himself taught us to follow God’ s guidance. Let’ s look at the scripture below.

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.

This section talks about following the God’ s law in order to obtain the eternal life. It is all about going through the narrow gate. Let’ s look at the scripture below.

Matthew 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good

thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

19:18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19:19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Lord again encourages us to keep the commandments. He was asked twice and gave the same answer twice. This ensures us that we need to follow God's commandments to receive the eternal life.

If we get deceived by the idea of "Faith is the most important now and we don't need to follow the commandments" and choose the wider gate, it may be difficult to enter the kingdom of God. Being Christian and going to the church is one thing but whether we could end up in the heaven is another story.

It is fantastic for anyone to start walking life as Christian, but we have to know that not all self-proclaimed Christians are going to enter the kingdom of God. Some may find the narrow gate and others are not going to. Lord didn't deny that there are people who will not be saved.

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

This scripture is about God's people in Israel and Judah failing to enter the kingdom of God. They are the people of the kingdom of God and descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They read the Bible and gathered every week but still missed the chance to enter the kingdom of God. The reason for that was that they didn't follow God's commandment even after hearing it.

This scripture is not unrelated to us in the New Testament era, either because we are also like those people who read the Bible and go to the church. This means if we also

didn't follow God's commandment, you may say in some cases that we could perhaps fail to enter the kingdom of God and "weep and gnash our teeth."

< The tares are gathered and burned >

So, is it biblical to say that some Christians are not going to enter the kingdom of God? For example, there is a scripture in the Bible as below.

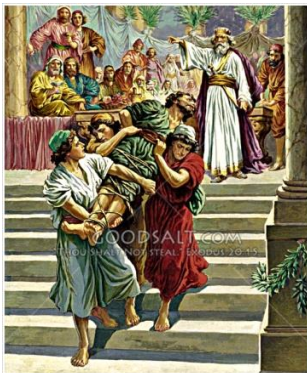
Matthew 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Wheat is a parable of the word of God therefore the tares are Christians who were brought up with the wrong doctrines. They will end up like the tares which will be burned. As I said before it all depends on what kind of walk as Christian we choose after all. We should receive the warning correctly.

Amen



You will be kicked out into the darkness

Knowing the era “Rock ’ n’ Roll and CCM” by H.F

There are many music genres used at the Christian churches these days. Some play traditional gospels and hymns, and others sing contemporary Christian music (CCM), which is leaning towards pop/rock music therefore popular among young people. Many churches in the U.S play CCM and Hillsong is particularly famous and influential to many churches across the globe.

CCM has established itself as a music genre with 5 categories in Grammy Awards. As many as 50 million CDs were released in a year and many musicians tour to share their vision. Not only in the U.S, but Japan also has seen the trend of using CCM in churches.

CCM has a characteristic of Rock ‘n’ Roll and we introduced that some group of people may see this dangerous as they acknowledge Rock to carry evil themes. For example, drums and rhythm could be connected to Voodoo religion, and don’ t forget some dirty lyrics which worship Satan.

Leviticus 18:21 And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord.

Molech was an idol for Amon. People of Israel built an evil idol of Molech and when they burned children as sacrifice, they played the drums. That is why the drums are connected to Voodoo and other satanic religions. Some people even stretch their imagination to conclude that rock music is therefore related to evil worship.

Music is also proven to influence body and mind very much. Drum beat is known to have hypnotism effect so could control our mind. This is the reason why Satan uses drums by giving stress on our brains so that we can’ t distinguish between good and bad. We then get drawn to destructive elements which are also addictive. 1 Peter 4:3 says **“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries”** and this is exactly what happens when some people listen to rock music.

Romans 8:7-8 also says “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” . The bottom line is that the worldly music and Spirit of God will never go together.

1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

I personally wonder if there is holiness in CCM. Many CCM musicians have tattoos and it is hard to distinguish them from the rest. People sing and shout but some people initially do so not necessarily because they want to worship God. They rather seek their own satisfaction.

1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

CCM may look like that they are just having fun like the worldly rock ' n ' roll music, so the question is there any holiness in it?

There is a concern about their lyrics, too. David Cloud gave a warning in his website “Way of Life Literature” that the lyrics in CCM include some untruth. The website shows a lot of examples about compromising biblical contents, anti-Christian theme, and wrong understanding of Jesus. It claims that there are messages of different doctrine mixed in CCM as a trick to deceive us.

Ecclesiastes 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

As you can see here, CCM could sometimes give us “ideal” image of God with sweet sounding messages, so we need to make sure that we don’ t end up worshipping Satan and see what is from Holy Spirit correctly.



CCM