

Dec 17, 2010

Robert Ching gives the devotion on “Wait on the Lord” from Isaiah 30 especially verses 8-18

This is our last Prayer meeting for 2010. There are 3 notable events:

God has preserved this weekly event, when many churches have struggled to hold even one monthly. Other than thanksgiving and Christmas, a remnant has remained steadfast to intercede for the Gilead families. We should fervently pray for increased attendance.

We have taken turn to lead devotion, drawing strength & comfort from His word. We have recorded the praises, devotion and prayers of every meeting. This is a journal of God’s goodness to Gilead.

Man is forgettable, and we live in a rebellious generation (v30:9-11). Gilead must heed this warning.

Exodus 1:8 “Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.” Of course, the deeds of Joseph are recorded in the Egyptian court. How sad a new king can forget the goodness of Joseph to his people.

The Israelis are not better. Judges 2:10 reads “And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.” What next? V 11-13 “did evil”, “served Baalim, Baal and Ashtaroth”, “forsook the Lord”, “followed other gods, gods of people around them”, “provoked the Lord to anger” No wonder Isaiah 30:8 tells: “Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:” Write what? “that this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:” There are many unanswered prayer requests:

Our loved one is still unsaved.

Some are still unemployed; we don’t see light at the end of tunnel.

Our young people is still disillusioned & aimless

Most are insecure of the future.

Our health is deteriorating.

Marital, parental, and family issues abound.

Temptation is to try something else, go off course, retrieve to self. Instead of looking up to God, we look to men for help.

v30:1 “Who take counsel, but not of Me,

V30:1 “And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit,”

V30:2 “Who walk to go down to Egypt, and have not asked my advise”

Last Sunday, we found a bag of “white nuts 白果” on the food counter. Chinese business men hate to eat “white nuts”. They are phonetic equivalence of “empty results”. All the efforts yield no results → futile efforts:

V30:3 “the strength of Pharaoh shall be your shame”

V30:3 “trust in the shadow of Egypt shall be your humiliation”

All the treasures you bring yield no benefits – “to a people who shall not profit” (v30:6)

“For the Egyptians shall help in vain and to no purpose” (v30:7).

v30:7b “Therefore I call her Rahab the Do-Nothing” – You get nothing for what you give, for they do nothing!

But worst, our disobedience is detrimental to self, because:

We have added sin to sin (v1b)

Despise His word (v12)

Trust in oppression and perversity (v12)

The punishments are swift and gravest:

Building on sand – fall is high, and breaking is sudden (v13)

Serious – break like a potter's vessel into many pieces (v14)

Complete – none to spare. (v14)

Swift – “Flee on horses; but those who pursue shall be swift”

God's method is still the best. For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: “ – God knows the outcome of every devious acts, desires our welfare, and therefore prescribes the course action.

“In returning and rest you shall be saved;” – return from our evil way and settle in God's best – that is the way to be saved. Matthew Henry Commentary: “Return from going down to Egypt, and rest satisfied in the will of God, and then you may trust him with your safety. In returning (in the thorough reformation of your hearts and lives) and in rest (in an entire submission of your souls to God and a complacency in him) you shall be saved.”

“In quietness and confidence shall be your strength” – MHC:” ... keeping our spirits calm and sedate by a continual dependence upon God, and his power and goodness; we must retire into ourselves with a holy quietness, suppressing all turbulent and tumultuous passions, and keeping the peace in our own minds. And we must rely upon God with a holy confidence that he can do what he will and will do what is best for his people. And this will be our strength;...”

Never too late to “Return from Egypt” v18 “The Lord will wait that He may be gracious to you”

Don't be discouraged when our prayers are not answered. V18 “Blessed are all those who wait for Him” – we wait in the spirit of prayer (meetings).