

I AM THE LORD

Jeremiah 9:23-24

INTRODUCTION: Pride and boasting are sins and affronts to Holy God. Christians should glory in Christ while they grow in the grace of understanding and knowing Him as their Lord. Like Paul, we should be boasting in the cross of Christ.

I. LORD'S WARNING CONCERNING GLORY

A. CORRUPTION OF THE HUMAN NATURE.

The Bible throughout its pages reveals the corruption of the human nature. Jeremiah warned the Israelites of their boasting. They were guilty of trusting in their wisdom, wealth, strength, and power. America boasts in her glory while she brags of her wealth and military power.

B. COST TO HUMAN NATURE.

There is a great cost when a nation trusts in its own greatness and goodness. John Adams, our second president, wrote these words. "Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There was never a democracy, yet that did not commit suicide." These are the result of a corrupt society from within. It does not always have to be the result of foreign enemies. We are watching as our nation falls because of compliance, indifference, and turning away from the morals and biblical principles that America was built upon. Nations fall because of the sin that is allowed to control the lives of people rather than people being obedient to God. We are witnessing the fall of our rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Lust and self-interest are a big part of our problems. This corruption comes from the sinful lives of every human. The verb translated as "glory" in this passage means "to boast, or to show off verbally." Jeremiah's words in verse 23 speak loudly to us today. "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:" Jeremiah the prophet warned against trusting in human wisdom, might, and riches.

II. LORD'S WORD CONCERNING GLORY

A. BOASTING IN THE LORD.

The more we grow in Christ, the better we will understand and know our Savior and Lord. We will experience His love and understand more about His character. The Lord records three things about His character. God's Word tells us to "let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me."

The Lord identifies Himself in this verse, saying, "I am the LORD which exercises loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth." God is eternal, the self-existing One. Jesus said in Revelation 1:8, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Jesus has all power and authority. As the eternal God of all creation, He is holy God who is unchanging. As God, He does not need anyone or anything to help Him. As perfect and eternal God, He exercises His loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness throughout the earth.

B. BLESSINGS OF THE LORD.

We delight in different things in life. Some people delight in different cars or various sports. Women love different clothes and colors. Men like their tools or maybe resting in an easy chair. Some like to fish while others like to hunt. Some people like to hike while others enjoy walking the trails to different places.

In verse 24, the Bible tells us what God delights in. He delights in justice, loving-kindness, and righteousness. These attributes come from the very nature of God. We are told that God practices these in the earth toward mankind. The Lord God exercises His loving-kindness to each of us. God's love is steadfast, and His mercy is forever. The word judgment in our King James Bible can mean justice. The God of glory is completely just and fair in dealing with mankind. He knows what is right and wrong, good and evil, and what is justice and injustice.

The Lord displays His loving-kindness in His steadfast love and mercy that He gives to His people. In grace to the undeserving, He gives His love to the undeserving sinner.

Since He is a holy, loving, and just God, He provides His good and pure care of His children and creation. He delights in what is reflected in His holy nature and in His values.

III. LORD'S WORSHIP CONCERNING CHRISTIANS

A. BOAST IN THE LORD.

Psalm 34:2 states: "My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad." The apostle Paul said in Galatians 6:14, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." The sinner who has gone to the cross realizes his unworthiness and Jesus' goodness as the Savior.

A Christian is crucified to the world. Repentance is an ongoing act of acknowledging sin and confessing one's sinfulness to Jesus Christ. Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection are the only means for me to be saved. Therefore, I am to renounce worldly pursuits. I am to confess pride, selfishness, greed, and worldly ambitions. My goal in life, as told by my Lord, is to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

B. BLESSINGS IN THE LORD.

The word blessings used in the New Testament means the joy and happiness that Christ gives. The person in Christ is blessed of God. Salvation is his gift. He has experienced the favor of God in life and will experience it at death. He or she may face hardships. Regardless, they have the favor of God with them in life and at death.

We are kingdom children by salvation in Christ. Therefore, we are to seek the Lord in this life while we trust in His saving love and grace. Like the psalmist of Psalm 44:8, we need to remember, "In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever."

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. Christians have every reason to boast in the Lord.
2. Pride and bragging about your self are unbecoming to Christians, and it is sinful.
3. Knowing God in His glory will cause Christians to glory in the Lord.

