

THE LIFE AND WORK THAT CHANGED THE AGE

Message Seven

The Work that Changed the Age—Preaching Righteousness

Scripture reading: 2 Peter 2:5-9; 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11; Heb. 11:7; Rom. 1:14-16; John 15:5; Acts 4:31; 1 Tim. 2:4; Acts 1:8

I. Second Peter 2:5 “And did not spare the ancient world, but guarded Noah, the eighth, a herald of righteousness, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.”—1 Tim. 2:7:

- A. A herald is a messenger vested with public authority, who conveys the official messages of kings, magistrates, princes, military commanders, or who gave a public summons or demand, and performed various other duties; in the New Testament a herald is God's ambassador, and the proclaimer of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. Nothing was righteous in Noah's generation and the earth was filled with violence and that violence included robbery, murder, fornication, and lawlessness and corruption—Gen. 6:2-5, 11-12.
- C. When God told Noah that He was going to destroy all men with the earth, Noah rose up to preach God's righteousness in opposition to the corruption of his generation, telling the people to get right with God, with others, and with themselves or else God's righteous judgment would come upon them—2 Pet. 2:5:
 - 1. Because he preached righteousness and lived a righteous life to protest against the unrighteous, ungodly, and evil generation, he was spared from God's governmental judgment according to God's righteousness—2 Pet. 2:5-9.
 - 2. To be righteous is to be right with man before God, and to be godly is to express God before man; this was the manner of life Noah lived, which saved him from God's governmental judgment according to His righteousness.
 - 3. While Noah was preaching righteousness, he was building the ark; in principle, we are doing the same thing; we are preaching righteousness and we are protesting against the evil age; while we are preaching, we are building a corporate ark—Heb. 11:7; Gen. 6:14-22.
 - 4. During that period of time, he must have experienced a great deal of opposition, criticism, mockery, and condemnation; no one besides his family appreciated the work of building the ark; however, when God's judgment came, the ark saved him out of that judgment.
- D. God wants us to express Him mainly through our speaking for Him; in the time of Noah when the whole earth was corrupted, God came and called Noah to be a herald of righteousness, and Noah then preached the righteous words of God for one hundred and twenty years; today we should speak for God in the same way—v. 5.

II. A herald is a proclaimer of the gospel of Christ, an official reporter of God's New Testament economy; Paul had such a status and commission for the Gentiles—1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11:

- A. A herald is a proclaimer of the gospel of Christ, an official reporter of God's New Testament economy; Paul had such a status and commission for the Gentiles—v. 7.

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- B. Paul said that he was a debtor to every type of person, indicating that preaching the gospel is the repayment of a debt; we can repay our debt by preaching the gospel—Rom. 1:14-16.

III. According to our experience and observation, the young people need to be exercised in the spiritual activity of going forth to bear fruit; the easiest time for Christians to bear fruit is when they are young—John 15:5:

- A. “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses”; a witness is a speaking one; we are chosen and appointed, even assigned to be His speaking ones; we all have to speak Him, speak for Him, and speak forth Him; this is our duty:
1. We need to be those who speak Christ to all kinds of people daily in season and out of season (Acts 5:42; 8:4; 2 Tim. 4:2); we should speak Christ to people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.
 2. When we speak the word of God, we have to speak it with boldness; in Acts 4:31 boldness is used for the speaking of the word of God; we have to learn to pray that we may get the Spirit; then we will have the boldness to speak the word of God.
 3. We should not be silent, but open up our mouth to speak; we must speak throughout the day; all the time we have to be learning how to speak, how to be a genuine, constant, and instant speaker; you should speak the Lord's Word continually; this is our daily duty.
- B. We must testify to the entire universe that we are such persons living Christ and speaking Christ all the day; we are persons living Christ and living to Christ—Eph. 1:13; 1 Tim. 2:4; Acts 1:8.