
Words of Truth

Let's Get Down To Business

By: Brian A. Yeager

There are songs, quotes from athletes, phrases in movies, and just everyday statements that include, "let's get down to business". The idea generally conveyed in that phrase is it is time to get serious. There are times where we need to stress to other people that we are about serious business in certain situations (i.e. II Corinthians 1:16-17). Sometimes people are lead astray because serious matters are not addressed in serious ways (Jeremiah 23:32 and Zephaniah 3:4).

We know we do not always have to be about business. Jesus Himself was not always about business (Mark 6:30-32, Luke 5:29-35, Luke 7:31-35, and John 2:1-2). We are authorized by our Lord to have times wherein we are not all about business too (I Corinthians 10:23-31). There are even times when, as individual Christians, we may want to "throw a party" (Luke 15:11-24).

We serve a great God who gives us a very balanced expectation concerning our lives in this world. He expects us to enjoy life and also be serious when it is time for such. The problem, as always, is what people do with these liberties that God provides us with. Too many people spend life never getting down to business. People want the luxuries of life, but not the responsibility that comes with the fact that you have a soul given to you from God. In death, our bodies return to the dust of the earth while the spirit shall return unto God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:7; cf. Luke 16:19-31). You may have power over your life in this world, to a certain degree, but the life to come is all about the Lord's decisions (II Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, we must be about serious business when it comes to our souls.

Taking Matters Of The Soul Seriously

There are people that do not consider the consequences of their sins seriously. In fact, those people look at God as though He is really never going to do anything about their sins. Here is a biblical account of such: *"And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil. Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof. The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole*

land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land” (Zephaniah 1:12-18).

The children of Israel, in the context above, didn't take God seriously. They didn't consider the matters of the soul something to truly be concerned about. It wasn't a one-time problem (Psalms 10:11-13, Psalms 94:7, and Ezekiel 8:12). Israel thought they would be able to hide themselves from God. They ignored the warnings about it. Isaiah had told them this: *“Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us? Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding” (Isaiah 29:15-16)?*

The same problem exists today. People ignore the fact that God sees and hears everything. We need to realize that we're never out of His sight (II Chronicles 16:9, Proverbs 5:21, Jeremiah 16:17, and Hebrew 4:13). No matter how lightly we look at God, the fact is that we cannot hide from Him (Psalms 139:1-12). With this fact, even when we're “having fun”, we still need to be seriously minded to a certain degree. We NEVER want to let down our guard and leave ourselves vulnerable to losing the prize possession of our souls.

Don't Let Your Guard Down

Consider how God warns us to be seriously minded concerning being on guard spiritually: *“Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons... But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers... And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof... Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober... Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (Deuteronomy 4:9, Luke 12:45-46, Romans 13:11-14, I Thessalonians 5:6, and I Peter 5:8-9).*

Conclusion

Take the time to be serious about this study. Sometimes, because judgment lingers, a person can become complacent (Ecclesiastes 8:11). This can even lead to one becoming brazen (Isaiah 5:18-19). You and I cannot become that person. We know that God is dead serious about the eternal punishment for sin (Matthew 25:31-46 and Romans 6:23). While we enjoy the life God has given us on earth (I Timothy 6:17), let's also be serious in being ready for the Judgment of the Lord (I Thessalonians 5:1-4 and II Peter 3:1-14).