

SUBJECT: It shall be well with them that fear God,
READING: **Ecc 8:12** Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

Introduction:

I believe with all my heart that America was founded with God's guidance as a means through which He could build a nation in which the Church of Jesus Christ could become a great and powerful movement that would ultimately defeat the Satanic rebellion, rescue His beloved Israel and unite all of mankind around Jesus Christ!

James Madison was a planter, a scholar, the Father of the Constitution, and the fourth President of the United States. He said; "We've staked the whole future of American civilization not on the power of government far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us...to govern ourselves according to commandments of God. *The future and success of America is not in this Constitution, **but in the laws of God** upon which the Constitution is founded.*"

When we watch the news we see what at times is almost unbelievable concerning what is going on in this world. It seems those who are running the world only care about one thing! Their own power and money all they can amass without regard for right and wrong!

A recent leak of files reveals the offshore holdings of 140 politicians and public officials from around the world including current and former world leaders. Among them the prime ministers of Iceland and Pakistan, the president of Ukraine, and the king of Saudi Arabia. More than 214,000 offshore entities appear in the leak, connected to people in more than 200 countries and territories. Also revealed are a number of major banks that have driven the creation of hard-to-trace companies in offshore havens.

The political season has proven that that there is no honor among thieves or politicians! It seems they will do whatever it takes; say whatever they must with little if any regard for the truth to gain power and with power comes influence and wealth!

It is little wonder people and particularly honest people have become cynical! Honest people suffer and the crooks prosper! How can we make sense of it all? The answer is found in the word of God.

Ecc 8:12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

The problems we face today have been around from the beginning of time and the word of God acknowledges that God is aware of the problem and deals with it righteously! First of all...

I. The Problem of National Sin;

- a. There is no doubting the fact that America is "Forgetting God."
- b. In the last several decades, America has been rapidly transformed from a God-fearing and worshiping nation into a secularist and atheistic society,
 - i. Where communist and atheistic ideals are glorified and promoted,
 - ii. While Judeo-Christian values and morality are being increasingly eradicated from our nation.
 - iii. For decades militant radicalism has promulgated "liberal" and "progressive" ideas of elite anti-Americans!

iv. God and His moral laws have been progressively erased from our public schools, from public discourse and in their place perversion, corruption, violence, decadence, and insanity.

- c. **I declare unto you today that this is not new to mankind only to America!** The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah writing to Judah delivers God's message;

Isa 5:1-6 Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: (2) And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. (3) And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, **judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.** (4) What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? (5) **And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: (6) And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.**

- d. These very words can be applied to America; *Now will I sing America a song of my beloved touching My well beloved a very fruitful hill: (2) And I fenced it* (protected it), **and gathered out the stones** turning its wilderness into great cities; turning its fertile land into productive fields of fruit and

vegetables and its sprawling pasture lands with all manner animals to fill our storehouses! **He built a tower in the midst of it** involving a government built on His own godly principles, and also made it the most prosperous and free country on the planet!

- e. In Isa 5:4 God asks a pointed question; *What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?* Everything necessary for freedom, prosperity, and godliness was done! God could not have done more!

- f. In these next verses beloved is a look into what our nation and world is experiencing; Isa 5:5-7 *And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: (6) And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. (7) For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.*
 - i. *Godly judgment is absent in most of our land!*

 - ii. **Righteousness** has faded from our government, from our educational institutions, and unfortunately in most of our houses of worship!

The Problem of National Sin Is Not New and the sin spring forth from the same fountain!

II. THE PROBLEM OF CHANGING VALUES

Isa 5:18-21 *Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: (19) That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it! (20) **Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (21) Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!***

- a. As a result of the word of God being ignored and discarded there is no fixed standard of moral behavior which allows a major change in national and individual values! As Madison wrote; *“The future and success of America is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which the Constitution is founded.” The future and success of America is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which the Constitution is founded.”*
 - i. Remove the laws of God from the American way of life destroys *The future and success of America*
 - ii. Men seek knowledge that is NOT based on the unchangeable truth of God’s word and what they find is a country adrift.
 - iii. How else could we as a nation deny the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to the unborn through abortion?
 - iv. How else could we call same sex marriage a civil right when God defines it as between one man and one women?

- v. How else could we forbid the reading of God's holy bible in the public schools and yet permit those books that teach communism and Marxism?
- b. Without the moral compass of The bible we find what Isaiah found a nation turned upside down; *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*
- c. Without recognizing God's omniscient wisdom we are opened up to man's sin darkened understanding!

Isa 5:21-25 (21) *Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: (23) Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! (24) Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. (25) Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away...*

The Problem of National Sin Is Not New it goes hand and hand with THE PROBLEM OF CHANGING VALUES; these therefore birth...

III. The Problem Of Universal Suffering;

- a. The fact that good men suffer has perplexed sociologists and theologians from the beginning of time; Job wrote **Job 14:1** *Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.*
 - i. Job knew whereof he spoke! But Job is described by God as the godliest and most righteous man in his time in history! **YET HE SUFFERED!**
 - ii. In a single day Job lost all his wealth, all his servants, and all his children!
- b. **And yet we see that wicked also suffer!** One such person was Jezebel wife of an equally wicked king Ahab. *Jezebel came to a ruinous end when she was cast from a window by three Eunuchs whereupon she was trampled to death by horses and eventually eaten by dogs, leaving behind her only her feet, skull, and hands.*
- c. We acknowledge **the fact of universal suffering intellectually** and yet when we see it happen in our own experience it can cause us to ask God "***Why do the righteous suffer while the wicked prosper?***"
Let us hear from Mr. Wisdom Himself Solomon...

Ecc 8:12 *Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:*

- d. This is a question that is addressed many times in the word of God. I have already mentioned **Job** **whose** "friends" concluded that the righteous **do not suffer.**

- i. If this is true then Job's trials were in reality the result of Job's sins! Many people still have that opinion in our day!
 - ii. But a study of Job shows by God's own words that it was not because of his sin that Job suffered!
 - iii. Therefore, the question persists!
- e. In **Psalm 73**. Asaph is nearly to the point of giving up as he witnesses the prosperity of the wicked and the trials of the righteous. Psa 73:2-6 **But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. (3) For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. (4) For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. (5) They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. (6) Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.**
 - i. Some in error imply that the idea that serving God brings with it immunity from trials! Yet reality and truth tells us that even though serving the Lord does bring with it many benefits.
 - ii. However, most of them are spiritual in nature, **while most of our trials happen in the physical realm.** That is why we often have a problem accepting the things that come our way.
- f.* We must be vigilant when the trials of life begin to multiply in our lives, that we do not come to the conclusion that the preacher came to in **Ecc 2:23** *For all his days are sorrows, and his travail*

grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.

- i. We must keep by faith the attitude that there are no accidents with the Lord!
- ii. *"When a cowboy applied for an insurance policy, the agent asked, "Have you ever had any accidents?" After a moment's reflection, the cowboy said; "Nope, but a bronc did kick in two of my ribs last summer, and a couple of years ago a rattlesnake bit me on the ankle." "Wouldn't you call those accidents?" asked the puzzled agent. "Naw," said the cowboy. "They both did it on purpose!")"*

The Problem of National Sin goes hand and hand with THE PROBLEM OF CHANGING VALUES; and **The Problem Of Universal Suffering brings rain on the Just and the UnJust**

But seen from the proper perspective there is much to rejoice in! Hear the words of our Lord Jesus; *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33. This brings us to

II. THE PROMISE THAT BLESSES US

Ecc 8:12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

- a. Mr. Wisdom, Solomon points out; **yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God,**

- i. There is not a hint of skepticism in Solomon's words; **surely I know!**
 1. Although he does not deny the apparent longevity of sinner, he is sure that those who fear God will be better off.
 2. Long life can be a curse as much as it can be something good. God's mercy is often seen in a person's life ending than continuing.
 3. What he is sure of is **that it shall be well with them that fear God**
 4. The mere observations of the external circumstances cannot negate the fact that God's word says **it shall be well.**
 5. Those we live by faith know that God does all things well that are a part of His eternal Purpose!
 - ii. This is not blind mindless optimism, it is predicated on a fact of **them that fear God, which fear before him:**
- b. That is why I am glad that I can report to you today that your respect, your trust, your faith in God assure me and Mr. Wisdom **I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:**

Conclusion:

We cannot by ourselves solve **The Problem of National Sin**; we can see it, we can lament over the pain it causes, we can even pray about it but we by ourselves cannot solve it!

Neither can we alone or even as a church reverse THE PROBLEM OF CHANGING VALUES; the die is cast; **2Ti 3:1-5** *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. We can and should turn away from it; but we cannot reverse the growth of wickedness. In some ways we may be able to slow it but nothing more!*

When it comes to **The Problem Of Universal Suffering** we can lament over it but it is an undeniable part of life in a world that is saturated with sin, evil, and infiltrated by demonic forces in the unseen world! Those forces come to bear on both the righteous and the wicked!

So how can we claim the assurance of Solomon's words? *yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:*

First we must enter into a relationship with God through Christ by believing the gospel and receiving Christ as Savior.

Secondly; live a life of faith; faithfulness to God, to God's Word and to Christ's church!

Thirdly; set an example of Godliness that contrasts righteousness against sin; that speaks up for Biblical values and live by *them*;

And thirdly seen the suffering of the righteous in the light of
Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for
good to them that love God, to them who are the called
according to *his* purpose.

Begin a life as one who fears before God by receiving His son
Jesus Christ through repentance and faith!