

WHAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO HEAR 14/2/18

One of the strongest themes in the bible reveals the need for every person to take responsibility for their own lives and their future direction. The 'Lord's prayer', details a simple outline of reality and responsibility along these lines ('thy will be done on earth... forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors' MAT 6:9-13). In a world full of victim claiming and name calling, the ways of God have never been needed more, yet are strongly rejected by most people. What hope do our children have and what hope does our country face, if denial, victimhood and lies are the preferred options? It can only get worse as the solutions are ignored.

These are the Lord's prayer principles, behind the quality of spirit filled living and success... MAT 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. We are all responsible for our own lives and choices, with the bible laying out spiritual steps from which we make our own choices, for our own development. A balanced approach provides a happy, sustainable life. Failure to implement these attitudes leads to failure in much of our lives and flows on to family, marriage, children and friends... a blessed life is a very simple option, when the ways of God are our first choice. This requires perpetual humility.

God is revealing his plans to save the human race from continuous failings and certain death. LUK 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just (God's principles); to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. The preparation comes from the Holy Spirit and by our willingness develop and apply it.

An effective relationship with God means submission to him and a change of direction. It also means that everyone of us, have to take responsibility for our own lives... not blaming others. To accept God's methodology and by preaching the gospel to the unsaved, both in word and by example. HEB 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. This is very powerful stuff, but very effective and valuable to us all. We all need to learn to correct our errors and maintain our development.

Not everyone wants to hear the truth... most want to hide behind their pride and weaknesses. ACT 7:57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, 58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. Saul was later converted by receiving the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues... after humbling himself. He was renamed Paul and went on and became the greatest of the apostles in his time. This is what a good testimony can offer the people of this world.

There are two types of converts, those who are looking for God and those who aren't... both are able to be saved by the power of God and our testimony. ACT 2:37 Now when they heard this (the Gospel of salvation linked to the day of Pentecost, linked to the prophet Joel, where 120 received the Holy Spirit all speaking in tongues), they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. The people were told that they were guilty of the blood of Christ and needed to be accountable and make humble changes... accept the blame and trust in the Lord. This message is still our message and this lifestyle is still our lifestyle.

We are the light of this world and our calling is to present the gospel in both lifestyle and word according to that which God has done within us. This is not always a popular directive as it also highlights the great need of responsibility and accountability to God's word. Common sense tells us that it is far better to please a consistent and merciful God, than to try and please the ever changing tide of angry humanity.