

THE WICKED ARE LIKE A TROUBLED SEA

Isa 57:20,21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The prophet paints a graphic picture of the wicked in this text. A stormy, restless, raging and changing sea: that casts up mire and dirt
- B. As we look at society today, (we are society), we ought to be reminded of the Lord's compassion: Mk 6:34 (like sheep not having a shepherd)
- C. When people turn from God to live in sin, they are like the troubled sea itself in many respects
- D. For our lesson today, I want to think about this from the standpoint of being out on that troubled sea.
- E. As humans we "sail the sea of life" but for Christians it is different from those who are not, that is, the wicked.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE WICKED HAVE NO COMPASS FOR DIRECTION

- A. Man needs direction for his life Jer 10:23
 1. A mariner would be in deep trouble trying to sail without a compass. Man is in trouble sailing the seas of life with God's direction in his life
 2. What is man's purpose? Acts 17:27; Eccl 12:13 "Fear God and keep his commandments"
 3. Without God man has no purpose. Gen 1:26
- B. When man sinned, God drove him from His presence
 1. God will not abide where sin is Isa 59:1,2
 2. Because we all have sinned Rom 3:23; 1Jhn 1:8,10 we all have separated ourselves from God
 3. However, Jesus died for us (Jhn 3:16) to make our salvation possible Heb 2:9; Rom 3:25; 5:9,10; 6:3
 4. Being cleansed by His blood we have the "compass" we need for direction Heb 13:5

II. THE WICKED HAVE NO PEACEFUL HAVEN:

- A. When sailors are beset by storms which they and their ships cannot handle, they look for a peaceful haven
- B. Because sin invariably brings trouble, the wicked look for a haven; but in vain
- C. Jesus is "Prince of peace" Isa 9:6 therefore, true peace is possible only in Him Eph 2:14,15
 1. Not the peace of the world Jhn 14:27
 2. Christ and His gospel are to provide for us the security and peace we all crave Eph 2:14,15
 3. No more "troubled sea" when we put our trust in Him and live for Him Phil 4:7

- B. The "Prince of peace" doesn't just want us to have "inner peace" His primary mission on earth was to make possible man's peace with God
 1. The reason for His death Col 1:20; Rom 5:1
 2. When one comes to God through Christ Jhn 14:6 the Lord promises Matt 28:20; Heb 13:5
 3. For those who continue in sin, rejecting Christ there can never be peace with God or self
 4. But Christ is our "Haven of Rest" Matt 11:28

III. THE WICKED HAVE NO ANCHOR OF THE SOUL

- A. The ship driven by the storm needs a firm anchor to be able to withstand the buffeting. So it is with each of us in this life
 1. Trouble is sure, trials are certain
 2. But God gives us hope as the anchor we need Heb 6:18,19
- B. Jesus became our sacrifice for sin and was raised to give us hope 1Pet 1:3,4
 1. Life on this earth will end 2Cor 5:1; Heb 9:27
 2. What kind of life can we have without hope as our anchor
- C. When problems arise (and they will), the wicked are like the troubled sea
 1. Children of God have hope, "an anchor of the soul"
 2. In the midst of problems, Paul wrote Phil 1:23
 3. As our trials come, we need to remind ourselves again of the promise in Rom 8:18, 37

CONCLUSION:

- A. Yes the wicked are like the troubled sea. There can never be rest and peace for any who rejects God's will
- B. But Christ "is our peace" and He offers us the safety of His eternal rest Jhn 14:1-3; Heb 4:1-11
- C. When we will heed His words Matt 11:28
- D. We can say with Paul: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil 4:13
- E. You see, the "troubled sea" cannot really harm the follower of Christ.