

REMINDERS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(1 Tim. 4:6)

Introduction:

1. Let us take a break from our “Freedom Summer Series” this morning, step back, and think big picture.
2. Just a little lesson regarding some reminders and recommendations for the people of God.

Discussion:

I. The Reminders.

- A. Reality of existence.
 1. We are spiritual beings placed inside physical bodies (Gen. 1:26; 2:7), often referred to as tents (2 Pet. 1:13, 14; 2 Cor. 5:1-4).
 2. We have been placed in the physical universe in order to make the choice of where we will spend our eternity (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29).
- B. Reality of judgment (John 5:28, 29; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27; John 12:48; Rev. 20:11-15).
- C. Reality of the Law of Excluded Middle.
 1. Our God is so good, and knows us so well. He gave us a choice of only two!
 2. The choice of two makes it easier and removes all confusion.
 3. The Law of Excluded Middle = “In logic, the law of excluded middle is the third of the three classic laws of thought. It states that for any proposition, either that proposition is true, or its negation is true”-Wikipedia.
 4. Either we love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength or we do not! Either we have completely submitted ourselves to God and His will, or not.

II. The Recommendations.

- A. Matt. 7:13, 14 = 2 gates and 2 ways.
 1. Our Lord said that most people will choose the broad easy way, and enter into the broad gate which leads to destruction.
 2. But our Lord urged us to walk the narrow way and enter by the narrow gate which He warned was difficult and few would do. But its end is life (cp. Rom. 6:20-22).
- B. Matt. 7:15-20 = 2 trees and 2 fruit.
 1. This passage is much deeper than it appears to be. It is a summary text like Matt. 22:36-40.
 2. Consider what being a “good” tree means to our Lord (cp. Matt. 19:16, 17; Rom. 3:9-12; Ps. 14:1-3; Eccl. 7:20; Nah. 1:7). A “good” tree in the context of our Lord speaking here is a “God” tree; and “God” trees bear “God” fruit naturally.
 3. That is why a bad tree cannot bear good fruit, because it cannot bear “God” fruit.
 4. We are commanded to be “God” trees and to bear “God” fruit (cp. Matt. 22:36-40; Matt 3:1-12).
- C. Matt. 7:24-27 = 2 men and 2 houses.
 1. We are encouraged to not be foolish people who build their houses on other than the word of God, for they shall fall (cp. Ps. 127:1).
 2. We are encouraged to be wise and build our houses on the word of God, for then we shall stand (Cp. Eph. 6:10-18).
- D. Matt. 7:21-23 = 2 lives and 2 fates.
 1. Those who know the Lord but do not submit/obey Him will be turned away to destruction (Matt. 25:41-45).
 2. Those who know the Lord and submit/obey shall be welcomed in to the rest prepared for them (cp. Matt. 25:34-40).

Conclusion:

1. Remember who we are. Then remember whose we are. Then respond/live accordingly.
2. What else? Um, nothing!
3. Invitation.