Bad Things Happen!

9/11 - The date that terrorists demolished the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City! Thousands of lives were taken in this and other attacks at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. Hundreds of fire fighters, policemen and common citizens risked and gave their lives to rescue others. Millions of Americans joined in prayer for the injured and families of the victims.

Such a disaster not only touches our hearts, it also causes us to ask a lot of questions, such as, “Where was God in all this and why did He allow it to happen?” There are no simple answers to these questions, yet the Bible does give some insights. In Jesus’ day people were asking questions when a disaster of a smaller magnitude occurred. Eighteen people were killed when a tower in Siloam fell on them. Some apparently were wondering if this happened because the people were guilty of some terrible sin. Here is what Jesus says to them and to us today: “Think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye REPENT, ye shall all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:3-5). Jesus statement is to all of us, “This should be a wake up call!”

I believe God is saying to us, WAKE UP, PEOPLE! You are pushing me aside and forgetting who I am. You are misrepresented me as a God who is tolerant of evil. You “call evil good, and good evil” (Isa. 5:20). If this terrible tragedy causes us to stop and hear His voice, then there is some good can come from it.

It is true that today the Lord is “longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to REPENTANCE” (II Pet. 3:9) But the very next verse tells us that the day of God’s patience will come to an end. In those days what happened to the twin towers will seem like child's play. Peter says, “The day of the Lord will come” and at that time “the heavens will pass away with great noise and

A Wake Up Call to Us

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The Problem of Sin

the elements shall melt with fervent heat” (II Pet. 3:10) I have quoted two verses that speak of repentance. But what is repentance? Literally, this word means “a change of mind.” We must give up our own self-righteous thoughts about ourselves and begin agreeing with God that sin is a problem with all of us. Here is what God says to us:

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9)

“There is none righteous, no, not one.... There is none that seeketh after God.... There is none that doeth good, no, not one.... All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rms. 3:10, 12,23)

“The wages of sin is death”(Rms. 6:23), “after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27), “and death and hell were cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:14).

Do you agree with God that we deserve His eternal judgment
God’s Good News

because of our sins? That is a bitter and humbling pill to swallow, but unless we are willing to repent, that is, agree with God as to His assessment about us, we will not be able to benefit from His good news for us!

Here is the good news of the Bible: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son” (Jn. 3:16). “Christ died for our sins ... was buried, and ... rose again the third day” (I Cor. 15:3-4). “By grace are ye saved through faith ... it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). Yes, my friends, Jesus Christ came down from heaven to suffer, bleed, and die on the cross for your sins and mine!

Now, there are some who are depending on their good character, good deeds, or religion for their eternal salvation. These things may all be well and good in our eyes, but you will search the Scriptures in vain for evidence that they will get you into heaven! The apostle Paul preached “repentance toward

The Choice is Yours!

God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts. 20:21).

You may be one who says, "I know I'm a sinner, but hey, nobody's perfect!" Well, you're exactly right; none of us are perfect! That’s why God says to us all, “Ye must be born again” (Jn. 3:7).

My friend, will you repent today, that is, accept God’s estimation that you are perishing and need to be saved? Will you receive God’s provision of a Savior who suffered on the cross that He might rescue you from eternal judgment? Will you place your trust in the Savior right now by obedience to the gospel, before God's wrath and judgment fall on you?

God does not want anyone to perish and be lost eternally; but where you spend eternity depends on the choice you make today!

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leon@arcentralchurch.org
501-374-2039