

A Wasted Opportunity

I Thess 2: 13-16

A Wasted Opportunity

- Last week we looked at Vs 13-14
 - What we found was amazing
 - Here was a church that was founded by Paul
 - In just three short weeks
 - They turned from idols to the living God (Chptr 1: 9)
 - Paul is commending them in this letter
 - Vs 13-14
 - You received the Word of God
 - You let it do its work in your life
 - You did not get deterred by persecution (Vs 14)

A Wasted Opportunity

- But in Vs 15-16, Paul turns a corner
 - He speaks of a wasted opportunity
 - By people who should have known better
- As you well know there is a movement called “antisemitism” raging throughout the world
 - Universities are involved
 - Businesses are involved
 - Church are involved
- Unfortunately, Vs 15 is sometimes used to justify these vile actions

A Wasted Opportunity

- We need to understand that when Paul is writing this letter; he longing for the Jews to come to Christ.
 - Romans 9: 1-5
 - Some today say that the Israelites are no longer in the plan of God and have been replaced by the Church?
 - Romans 11: 1-12
 - “May it never be”
 - But by their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles

A Wasted Opportunity

- When we look at the history of the Israelites
 - We see again and again and again
 - The hardening of the heart towards the God who chose them out of all the nations of the earth
- Paul starts out with his present time and works his way back into the history of the Jews
 - Vs 15.....who killed the Lord Jesus
 - John 18: 28-31; John 19: 6-8; 15
 - Oh no, it was the Romans who killed Jesus (Acts 2: 22-23)

A Wasted Opportunity

- The prophets.....
 - What did the prophets do that was so terrible?
 - They told them the Word of the Lord
 - Here was the result
 - Matt 23: 29-39; I Sam 22: 17-19; I Kings 18: 3-4
 - Acts 9: 20-24; Acts 7: 51-54
- But it did not have to be this way
 - Deut 28: 1-14
 - Or if you would rather not listen??? Deut 28: 15-36

A Wasted Opportunity

- Consider all the things the Israelites experienced
 - Pillar of cloud by day
 - Pillar of fire by night
 - Manna in the wilderness
 - The tablets of stone written on by the finger of God
 - In 40 years of wandering even their shoes did fail
- Yet they rejected Him repeatedly

A Wasted Opportunity

- What does this have to do with us today?
 - Hebrews 3: 7-11; Hebrews 3: 12-14
 - Rev 3: 14-22
- How many sermons must you hear?
- How many times will you fellowship with the saints?
- How many times will you harden your heart?
- There is a new movie out called “Mission Impossible, The Final Reckoning”
 - The premise of the movie is that AI is going to take over the missile codes of all the countries with nuclear weapons, launch them and then nearly all life on planet earth will be extinguished. Then a new world will come

A Wasted Opportunity

- Fortunately, fiction is not reality???
- Oh No????
- We are living at a time when all life as we know could end in nearly an instant
 - If BRICS gets its way and the dollar is no longer the trade currency of the world.
 - Our money will be worth less than Charmin tissue
- Today with hypersonic missiles, the world has about 25 minutes from launch to anywhere in the world to detonation

A Wasted Opportunity

- Wrath has come upon them
 - John 3: 36
 - The wrath of God abides on him
- Question.....
 - What kind of a nation kills its own children?
 - What kind of a nation dedicates an entire month to homosexual debauchery?
 - What kind of a nation is so far in debt it will never recover?
 - What kind of nation says in God we trust but will not allow prayer in the schools?

A Wasted Opportunity

- You see America hasn't learned from the Israelites
 - There are thousands if not millions of church goers who have not learned from them either
 - We think we can do whatever we want????
- So, what do you want?
 - A blest life or a life of constant curses?
- Israel was faced with two choices
 - They did not choose wisely
 - What will you choose?
 - Luke 19: 43-44
- Normal isn't coming back.....JESUS IS

Good and Gracious King

Good and Gracious King

- I approach the throne of glory
Nothing in my hands I bring
But the promise of acceptance
From a good and gracious King
- I will give to You my burden
As You give to me Your strength
Come and fill me with Your Spirit
As I sing to You this praise

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice
- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King

Good and Gracious King

- O what grace that You would see me
As Your child and as Your friend
Safe, secure in You forever
I pour out my praise again
- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King

Good and Gracious King

- Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious
Good and gracious
Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious King (repeat)

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King
You're a good and gracious King
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