

This Means War! (Part 1)

- They will hold their twelfth meeting next week in Washington, DC and they are costing the American taxpayers millions of dollars. Their mission is “to prepare a full and complete account of the circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, including preparedness for and the immediate response to the attacks.” However, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9-11 Commission) has been somewhat sidetracked in recent weeks by the media buzz on this question: “WHAT DID PRESIDENT BUSH KNOW BEFORE 9/11?” An unspoken judgment hangs in the air – if he DID know that terrorist attacks were imminent and did NOTHING, he’s not fit to be our leader. He didn’t do his job! He failed on his watch!

Ezekiel 33:6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

- The Apostolic pastor also has a job to do ... a very difficult one! And he doesn't have the luxury of doing just the tasks that he likes.

2 Timothy 4:2-5 [2] Preach the word; be instant in season (**present in time of need**), out of season (**inopportune times**); reprove (**challenge**), rebuke (**forbid**), exhort (**invite**) with all longsuffering (**patience**) and doctrine (**teaching**). [3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching (**tickled**) ears; [4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (**fiction**). [5] But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

- Today's message will be offensive to some people because it confronts their sin. Others will think it unwise to deal with such sensitive issues in a church service, even though the media invades our homes and our minds every day with their perspective. Some will think we shouldn't talk about these things in front of our youth, while all the time the world is indoctrinating them behind our backs with a pseudo tolerance and their own brand of “amorality.” Some will call this a “hardline” message. I am not a “hardline” preacher, but I have to admit that with a lot of people today the “softline” doesn't work! Some may walk out of the service so the Word of God cannot “get to them” to convict them, yet they'll go home and sit through movies that assault morality without being bothered in the least.

- We've even lived to see the day when people “shop” for churches, when people leave a church for the most unscriptural of reasons ...
 - The Lord “led” me somewhere else
 - I don't like a “big” church (1/2 of 1% on a good day!)
 - I just want to be “fed”
 - I just want to be “used”
 - All you talk about is “the lost”
 - I don't like the “worship”
 - I disagree with the “standards”
 - I don't like leaving a service feeling “negative” (convicted!)

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Exodus 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

Galatians 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

• **Terry Kennedy – VIDEO CLIP**

- It is no secret to the faithful members of our local assembly that we have in recent months come under a fierce attack from the enemy. We don't talk about it very much, because we refuse to give him credit or glory. But I ask you today: How many young people must fall into sin before we address it? How many times must volunteer ministries within the church be attacked to the point of discouragement before we stand up against the evil twins of gossip and criticism? How many marriages must go down in flames before we raise a voice to declare God's protective commandments with authority? How far do we allow personal holiness to slip away from the Pentecostal movement before we stem the tide?
- The devil is NOT more powerful than my God! So I stand here in the strength of the Holy Ghost, covered by the blood of Jesus Christ, and on the authority of God's Word to fight back. Are there any apostolics left who are indignant at the assault of the enemy? Where are the redeemed who are still proud of their God and still mad at the devil?
This means war!

Psalms 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. **When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.**

- Over the next few weeks, the watchman of this assembly will do his job and LIFT UP A STANDARD against the enemy!

Hebrews 10:26-31 [26] For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, [27] But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. [28] He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: [29] Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath **trodden under foot** the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? [30] For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- One of the most successful schemes that Satan has ever launched against humanity is also his oldest scheme – that the Word of God is OPTIONAL (“you shall not surely die”). As a result, we now have Christians who attend churches, sing worship songs, listen to sermons, and feel saved – but they live in opposition to God’s Word. They TRAMPLE UNDERFOOT the commandments they don’t like.
- Nowhere is this more apparent than in our current callous disregard for God’s commandments about marriage and sexual sin.
- Young people, in our sex-saturated society, you don’t stand much of a chance of remaining pure unless you make a commitment to live by God’s guidelines regarding sex. **REGARDLESS OF YOUR FAILURES IN THE PAST, YOU NEED TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO LIVE BY GOD’S STANDARDS BEGINNING TODAY!** Sex is for marriage only – not outside marriage, and not before marriage.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

- If you’re not already married, you need to decide right now that you’ll only marry another Christian – that is God’s standard for you!

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

- If you are married, you need to decide right now that adultery will NEVER be an option – that is God’s standard for you! It doesn’t matter what your spouse does, what needs they don’t meet, or what happens in your marriage – being faithful is God’s command!

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

- COUPLES DON’T FALL OUT OF LOVE, THEY FALL OUT OF REPENTANCE. **BEHIND EVERY CASE OF MARITAL DISSATISFACTION LIES UNREPENTED SIN!** That’s why one divorce often leads to another one – sin is still there!

Ephesians 5:24-25 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

- **GOD HIMSELF GAVE US A ROLE MODEL FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE – BY GETTING MARRIED HIMSELF!** In the Old Testament, He is a husband to Israel; in the New Testament, He is a husband to the church. God hates divorce because He is married, **AND HE HAS BEEN FAITHFUL TO HIS BELOVED DESPITE EVERY CONCEIVABLE OBSTACLE!**
 - God’s marriage is a COVENANTAL MARRIAGE. (commitment to Abraham)
 - God’s marriage is a PASSIONATE MARRIAGE. (Song of Solomon)
 - God’s marriage is a FOUGHT-FOR MARRIAGE. (Hosea and Gomer)
 - God’s marriage is a GIVING MARRIAGE. (He gave up all His rights on Calvary!)
 - God’s marriage is a ONE-SIDED MARRIAGE. (His needs are often unmet, but He is still faithful!)
- You shouldn’t have to preach about adultery in an apostolic church, but you have to today! That’s because much of the adultery that goes on is not “physical immorality” at first, but “emotional disloyalty.”
- You don’t just wake up one day with “no feelings” for your spouse. That happens when you allow a thousand little acts of disloyalty to your marriage over a long period of time.
- If this kind of preaching angers you, ask yourself why you have such a problem with the commandments of God?

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

- So many people today want to make God in their image instead of letting God make them in His image. They rewrite the Word of God according to their own opinion, conveniently ignoring the parts they consider optional. They do so to their own destruction!

Philippians 3:17-19 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

- **ILLUSTRATION: Tearing pages from “Bible”**

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Matthew 5:27-28 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

- **All the Bible words having to do with LUST have the concept of SELFISHNESS as their root word.**

Matthew 5:31-32 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Matthew 19:5-6 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers **God will judge.**

- **BUT GOD UNDERSTANDS! NO HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND!**

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication

1 Corinthians 7:10 Let not the wife depart from her husband

Ephesians 5:24-25 Let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1 John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.

1 Corinthians 11:14-15 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Matthew 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Romans 12:10-12 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

- This is not a “Bible” – but some of you are more upset that I ripped pages out of a Bible than you are that you rip pages out of it every day with your lifestyle and your disobedience!
- The devil has attacked and he has won a few battles ... but let the sleeping giant called the church arise to lift up a standard against Him. **THIS MEANS WAR!**