

DANGERS FACING THE CHURCH TODAY

1 Corinthians 1:10, 11

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church is not protected by a large bubble that prevents danger from getting in.
 - A. It never has had that kind of protection and never will.
2. In a sense, in certain areas, we are protected, but in others there is none.
3. During the time following the death of Christ and the institution of the church we see that the church suffered many dangers.
 - A. The danger of division - John 17:21; 1 Cor. 1:10.
 - B. The danger of false teachers - 2 Pet. 2:1; 2 Cor. 11:26.
 - C. The danger of backsliding - 2 Tim. 4:10; Acts 13:13; 15:38.
4. The early church faithfully faced dangers and we should be prepared to do so.
 - A. In this lesson I would like for us to examine a few of these dangers.

BODY:

1. THE DANGER OF SUBSTITUTING WORSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

- A. I fear that we have reached the point where many brethren believe that baptism and attendance is the only true mark of discipleship.
 1. Ask someone if they believe if another is faithful and see what criteria they use to determine their faithfulness.
 2. I am not denying that attendance is import - Heb. 10:25.
 - A. What I am denying is the idea that if one attends services they are “faithful.”
 3. For true faithfulness to be found we must continue to stress Bible words such as “growing,” “every good works,” “complete,” and “perfection.”
- B. I also fear that many brethren have a good dose of what I call “churchianity,” but have no idea what “Christianity” is.
 1. Of course one cannot be a Christian without attending services, but one can attend with the regularity of a Pharisee and never be a Christian.

2. THE DANGER OF THE CARES OF THE WORLD

- A. It has been said of the present generation that we are a busy people who do nothing.
 1. We are always on the go, but we are not getting anywhere.
 - A. We constantly complain about not having enough time, but what are we wanting additional time for?
- B. What are the struggles of the day?
 1. Making a living.
 2. Entertaining and being entertained.
 3. School of our children.
 4. Running a busy bus schedule for a family on the go.
 5. Ball games, trips, side trips, the newspaper, and T.V.
- C. In so many cases people's lives will pass as a “vapor,” (Jas. 4:14), yet they have not taken “time to be holy.”
 1. This is one of the greatest dangers facing the church today.
 - A. Our streamlined society has almost excluded the church.

- B. Rather than the church being the center of our lives, and everything revolving around it, it has become one of those things which revolves around something else.
 - 1. Many people are only 1, 2, 3, or 4 hours away from quitting.
 - 2. Too many people attend the services of the church when they have time.
 - A. However, this seldom happens because they too busy taking care of the cares of the world.
- D. The answer to this problem?
 - 1. The only answer I know of is found in Matthew 6:33.
- 3. THE DANGER OF CHRISTIAN HOMES BREAKING DOWN**
 - A. Marriages are ending in divorce to the tune of approximately one out of every two, which has been the case since 1975.
 - 1. We are living in an age of “freedom,” which is simply another term for moral decay.
 - B. Marriage vows are no longer sacred.
 - 1. Marriage ceremonies are nothing more than a formality that people go through in order to live together until they grow tired of one another - Brittany Spears type of marriages.
 - C. God, on the other hand, intended that marriage, begin and end in success.
 - 1. When only Adam-existed God said it was not good (Gen. 2:18), but when Eve was created things became “very good” - Gen. 1:31.
 - A. When God said that marriage was good or honorable (Heb. 13:4), He did not have Hollywood type marriages in mind.
 - 2. Our society has become so lax in regard to this matter that people obtain a divorce for no reason at all.
 - A. If we have a headache, we get rid of the ache, not the head.
 - B. And if we are having trouble in our marriage we ought to get rid of the trouble rather than the marriage.
 - 1. In our society today, marriages are as disposable as razors.
- 4. THE DANGER OF INDIFFERENCE TO THE LOST WORLD**
 - A. The church should be vitally interested in evangelism.
 - 1. This includes preaching the gospel to every country, every state, every city, and every soul - Mark 16:15.
 - A. “The whole purpose of the whole church is to take the whole gospel to the whole world.”
 - B. The pulse of a person helps determine whether that person is living or not.
 - 1. The pulse of the church can determine the same.
 - C. The pulse of the church can be checked by several means.
 - 1. In the interest we have in bringing others to services and the Lord.
 - 2. In the training of our children - Eph. 6:4.
 - 3. By our growth.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We need to pay attention to these dangers while we have the opportunity.