

"A MESSAGE FROM GOD"

"I have a message from God unto thee." Judges 3:20.

What constitutes a message from God to any person? Any intimation of His will, whether specific or general, is a message from God.

I. The Reality of It.

1. The Nature of It.

- (1) It is truthful.
- (2) It is loving.
- (3) It is needful.
- (4) It is suitable.

a. Suited to man's ignorance.

"Making wise unto salvation."

b. Suited to man's sin.

Expiating its guilt by the blood of the Cross.

c. Suited to man's misery.

(5) It is adequate.

There is no need which it cannot fill.

2. The Bearers of It.

(1) The Bible.

This book is full of messages from God.

(2) The Holy Spirit.

(3) Providential events.

a. Manifold mercies.

b. Bountiful blessings.

c. Dreadful disappointments.

(a) Sickness.

(b) Separation.

Friends who seem to be in good health, strong in body, vigorous in mind, full of plans and projects are suddenly taken away from us.

(4) Christian relatives.

a. A loving mother.

b. A kind father.

c. A devoted sister or brother.

(5) Christian friends.

(6) Printed materials.

a. Gospel tracts.

b. Religious books.

- (7) Ministers of the Gospel.
How should they deliver His message?
- a. Earnestly.
 - b. Affectionately.
 - c. Boldly.
 - d. Faithfully.

It is better for people to be angry with the minister than for the Master to be angry with him because of the message he has delivered.

3. The Hearers of It.

- (1) The young.
God bids His servants to tell you, who are just entering life, that you have in your possession a priceless treasure which He has committed to you to be used for His glory, and for which He will hold you hereafter to a strict account. You are in the possession of sensibilities not yet dead to the influences of His grace. He has afforded you a knowledge of His will, and He has, moreover, brought to bear upon your hearts the power of His Spirit. He tells you that you may squander and lose all the advantages which you now possess, but He warns you of the result.
- (2) The middle-aged.
God bids His servants to tell you, who are near the meridian of life, that you should "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these other things shall be added unto you."
- (3) The aged.
God bids His servants to tell you, who are nearing life's close and are standing, as it were, with one foot in the grave, that "the hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." He would have us to ask you, "Is that honor yours?"

In the light of all these facts, each of us must admit that we have had messages from God. There is not a one of us to whom God has never sent a message in one or more of these ways. I cannot understand how any one could imagine that he has never received a message from God.

II. The Resume of It.

God's messages are of different kinds. In His Word there are messages which urge us to:

1. Realize that we are sinners.
"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
2. Repent of our sins.
"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
3. Exercise faith in Him.
"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God." Every call to believe on Christ is accompanied by the assurance that pardon of sins, peace with God, and the gift of eternal life shall follow the true exercise of faith.
4. Be reconciled to Him.
He calls us and pleads with us to become reconciled to Him. "We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

5. Be prepared to meet Him.
"Prepare to meet thy God."
6. Set our houses in order.
"Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live."
7. Enjoy the Gospel privileges. Such as:
 - (1) Access to God.
 - (2) Acceptance with God.
 - (3) Peace of conscience.
 - (4) Adoption into God's family.
 - (5) Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - (6) Guidance.
 - (7) Protection.
8. Obey the Master.
"To obey is better than sacrifice."
"Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it."
9. Perform our duties.
"Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."
"When ye shall have done all those things which are commanded of you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."
10. Avoid eternal destruction.
"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat."

III. The Response to It.

There are just two ways in which one can respond to a message from God, namely:

1. Reception.

When a message from God is heard, it ought to be responded to promptly with:

- (1) Profound attention.
- (2) Deep gratitude.
- (3) Faithful obedience.

This sort of a response is:

- (1) Wise.
- (2) Safe.
- (3) Right.
- (4) Best.

2. Rejection.

When a message from God is heard it ought not to be rejected because that sort of a response is:

- (1) Unwise.
- (2) Unsafe.
- (3) Wrong.
- (4) Calamitous.

To reject God's message means inevitable doom. "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."
Proverbs 29:1.

What will your response be to this message of God.?