

Romans 1:21-23

Sunday 3/30/2008

Remember last week we began to continue on with the mindset of the Gentiles. I showed you last time how the Gentiles have one thing about them that they always do. This is exactly the way they do: they always take the glory of God and make it like unto themselves or something else. The Gentiles, by nature, cannot just simply accept God as He is. We see that through the whole Bible, really.

That first statement out of the devil's mouth back there, even before he fell in Ezekiel and Isaiah, where he said, "I will be like the Most High God," unfortunately that statement is just not limited to the devil. That's what we do. We say to ourselves, "We want to be like the Most High God," and that's what Gentiles do.

I heard a man a number of years ago make a statement. It's one of those statements that it takes about 20 years for you to fully understand. You just have to take it and you watch life, and after a while you say to yourself, "Boy, that statement was true." He was talking about how God has revealed Himself to man. In our own society, He reveals Himself to you. He reveals Himself, as the Bible says, He's the true light that lighteth every man that comes into the world. We've established that fact, and he said this in reference to that: "When God lights a man, and that man rejects the light that God gives him, the light rejected becomes lightning."

I thought to myself when he said that, that was kind of a cute statement and kind of tucked it away, but after many, many years of watching and a study of the Gentile nations, our own nation, the one we live in, the United States of America, it doesn't take long to see that truth bearing itself out, that light rejected becomes lightning.

I. The Light of God's Word

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

When God saves you, He gives you a light, and that light is the Word of God. This is an oversimplification of what the Bible is. He gives you the light of the Word of God. The Bible says that we live in darkness. Your road through life every day is in darkness, and in that darkness are all the pitfalls, all the struggles, all of the pits, all of the traps that the devil has laid for you, all the things that you'll go along in life in the darkness, fumbling away along and trip over something.

My wife broke her toe a couple of weeks ago. It's all right, it's better, but I'm going to tell you how she broke it. It's an illustration for where I'm at. She bought a new antique table. To me, it looked just like an old table somebody threw away, somebody else got out of the thing and sold it to her. It's a beautiful table, and we didn't have a place for it just yet, so we put it at the end of the bed. In the middle of the night, early in the morning, anyway, the lights were not on. It was dark in the bedroom. She got up to go out and do something, came back in, pitch black dark, thought she was going down to her side of the bed, and ran right at that table and caught her little

toe and her next little toe right between the leg of that table. That's what she said. The problem was she tried to get back to bed and it was pitch black dark.

Now, she has a flashlight right by her bed, so do I, because I have learned how many times that I have gotten up in the middle of the night and I have run straight into the credenza, or thought I was going into the archway of the bathroom and run into the ceiling thing and still got the imprint of the light switch on my forehead. In other words, in dark places where there's a lot of things you can hurt yourself with, you need light, not a Bud Light, just the light. I saw some of your eyebrows go up when I said that. You betray yourself. You need a light. And what man needs in this world of darkness, unsaved man, is a light. Once you get saved, you get that light, and that light is a lamp unto your feet, a light unto your path.

Now, when you reject that light as a Christian, and many times we do, how many times we deal with people whose lives are so messed up and so sideways and so just incredible situations, and it's all because they violated the principles of the Word of God. They thought that they were the exception to the rule, that they could beat the system, and they found out that you can't. And what happened was they wound up getting themselves into some kind of circumstance, some kind of situation, and at the end of the day it's all because they rejected the light that God gave them that showed them the pitfalls that were waiting for them.

That's why it's so important to have the Word of God in your life. A study of the history of the Gentile nations will very clearly show you this great principle: that when God gives any nation or any individual light, and that light gets rejected, that light comes back as lightning, and it's going to do more damage and it's going to allow more heartache in your world, in your life, than you would have if you'd have just followed what God said.

II. The Decline of Nations Without God's Light

Last week I showed you just a brief history, and I wished I would have had time to do it more, but we just didn't have the time. I showed you a brief history of Europe and how that everything in Europe from the Reformation right up to where we're at today—the art, the literature, the architecture, the sculptures that men made during this period of time, the music, everything that man did, even the way that the buildings were done, the architecture of it—everything is relevant to where that nation is to the Word of God. And I showed you in just a brief capsule form how that the Word of God is the anvil by which the nations are forged on.

Now, when a nation forgets this book, when God's people forget this book, the light of God's Word, which God intended to be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path, turns into the judgment of God in the form of lightning. And today as we speak, when you talk about Europe—and I know that we're Americans, and to me this has always been one of the most fascinating things about studying Bible in the history and the hand of God, how it works and operates down through not only the world we live in but down through the world in the history as it all developed. And Europe has been now 200, over 250 years without the light of God.

Stop and think about that. A nation that every day men and women went to work, a nation that every day they came up with new ideas, a nation that every day somebody painted another painting, wrote another sonnet, somebody wrote another book, a