We Need an Altar Call

Behold, this Evil is of the LORD

**Whoever are the Instruments, God is the Principal Agent.**

**The Evil of sin is from ourselves; the Evil of trouble is from God**

God is not evil, **God is Holy**, Love, Just and **Wrath** and He punishes and chastens the immoral evil of men and He uses the afflictions of the righteous to strengthen and purify to perfection our faith and our praise.

1Peter 1:6—*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

2Chron. 6:19—*Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee:* 20—*That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place.* 40*—Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.* 41—*Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. 42 O LORD God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of David thy servant.*

**The whole word of God** is of use to direct us in prayer; and how can we express ourselves in any better language to God than that of his own Word and Spirit?

Psalm 132:1—*A Song of degrees. LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions: 8 Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength. 9 Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness; and let thy saints shout for joy. 10 For thy servant David's sake turn not away the face of thine anointed.*

2Ch 7:12—*And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.*

*13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;*

*14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

*15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.*

*16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*

*17 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;*

*18 Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel.*

*19 But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;*

*20 Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations.*

*21 And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to everyone that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?*

*22 And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.*

2Ch 20:9—*If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then* ***thou wilt*** *hear and help.* James 1:27*—Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.* Ps 119:67*—Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.*

2Kings 6:33—*And while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer?*

How natural is it for men to lay the cause of their suffering on anything or person but themselves! Ahab's iniquity was sufficient to have brought down God's displeasure on a whole nation; and yet he takes no blame to himself, but lays all on the prophet, who was the only salt that preserved the whole nation from corruption. How few take their sins to themselves! And till they do this, they cannot be true penitents; nor can they expect God's wrath to be averted till they feel themselves the chief of sinners.

Amos 3:6—*Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?* Isaiah 45:7—*I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.* (God will form trouble or create affliction to lead men to repentance) **Ps 119:67**

Jer. 32:42*—For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.*

Joel 2:13*—And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*

Jonah 4:2*—And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.*

1John 1:5*—This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that* ***God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.***

*“****God is light****, and* ***in him*** *is no darkness at all”*

* Knowing the nature of God as Light will only make us to understand that with Him we have the Hope of Eternal Life and without Him we perish in the darkness of eternity.

The Lord is Light and gives light and without Him is darkness The Lord is Peace and without Him there is no Peace

Light, peace, Righteousness and safety **or** darkness, calamity, unrighteousness and adversity- (**evil**)

Simple illustration: Turn the light on and there is light and then turn the light off and there is darkness God is Good, Preeminent, Omnipotent and absolute Supreme:- Since God is the Author and the Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), He governs and sets limits to all. The good and bad actions of men and angels are so under His control that he accomplishes through them his own wise counsels, while they are left altogether free and responsible to Him for their conduct for The Lord will never violate your will. God won’t let you be lost forever without a fight.

You must be willing to serve God to go to Heaven: but God can show the results of the will of a man that is not willing to serve God, to help others to be willing to serve God. Rom.15:4; ITim.1:20; Jeremiah18:2-4,7-10; 51:20; Ezekiel 14:14-21; Acts 2:23; 3:18; 13:11; ICor.5:5; Eph.4:18

The choice is yours but God is Sovereign over all, Light and Good or Darkness and evil.

* Light and Peace or darkness and war. (evil=trouble-calamity, judgment against sin)

God knows what is in man and His judgment will bring it out and reward you accordingly.

Ex 10:20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.

21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.

22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:

23 They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Gen1:3-5; Ps.29:10-11; 104:20-23; Jer.31:35; II Cor. 4:6; 5:11; Rom1:18; 13:4; Rev.14:10; 15:1

Will all the Prophets warn of God's judgments and the people not be afraid? Does any adversity come without God's Holy appointment? IIPet 3:9,15 The Lord is longsuffering and willing that all should come to repentance

Mic 2:3 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, against this family do I devise an evil, from which ye shall not remove your necks; neither shall ye go haughtily: for this time is evil.

Amos 5:13 Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time

* God will so plague them that they will not allow the godly to open their mouths once to admonish them of their faults.

Eph 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.