

My Word Will Not Return to Me Void

Thomas Geraci

For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven and returned not thither but watered the earth and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth it shall not return unto me void but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55: 10, 11.

In reading this scripture, many come to the conclusion that as long as they will listen to or read the word, attend church, or prayer meeting, or are a part of some type of prayer group that they will be saved or changed just by being present at these special occasions. No matter how insincere or contrary to the will of God their lives may be. It is as if they will be converted against their will because of being in the presence of his word. Although this interpretation is well meaning and hopeful, it is a false hope, and as we will see it is not Biblical.

Let us review the scriptures on this subject for this is the safest way to receive a correct understanding of them. We need to allow the scriptures to interpret themselves. We will

understand better from the various perspectives from which they are dealing with the topic.

Starting with this scripture in Isaiah 55:10 which states that “the rain and snow that comes from heaven returns not till it waters the earth that it may bring forth and bud, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater. So my word will not return to me void but it will accomplish that which I please.” In the NIV Bible we read “It will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” What does God desire for his word to achieve and what purpose is his word to fulfill? We should turn to 2 Tim. 3:15-17 to get a better understanding of the purpose that God has in giving us his word.

“and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. “

So then, his word gives us wisdom unto salvation (understanding on how to be saved). What is the purpose; for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect.

The purpose of the word of God can be fulfilled even when we turn away from it's counsel, and the ultimate purpose of making the “Man of God perfect” is not fulfilled. For when we receive doctrine, reproof, correction or instruction in

righteousness, the decision to receive or reject or even neglect the counsel is left with the individual who hears. The apostle Paul prophesied of

“a time that would come when they would not endure sound doctrine, instead to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears wanted to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” 2 Tim 4: 3, 4

Stephen also rebuked a people who would always fight against the truth in order to hold onto their own opinions’ and desires. Acts. 7:51 **ye stiff neck and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost as your fathers did so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your father’s persecuted?**

So God would send his prophets to illustrate what we read in 2Tim 3:15-17. As we read in Jeremiah 35:15

I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying “Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them, then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers. But you have not inclined you ear nor obeyed Me.

This brings to us a very important question, If God sends a message to warn, reprove, correct, instruct and the people to which this message is sent do not heed it would that cause the

word to return unto the Lord void? Or could some other purpose be fulfilled in the giving of the word of God?

John 3:19 and this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Is it possible that the very words that were meant to sanctify us will be the very words in the judgement that condemn us because we did not heed their instruction? I would like to propose that not only God's word will condemn us in the judgement, but also every other blessing that we have received from God that has not made us more like him in character. Instead we have used them to accomplish more self-serving pursuits of life, satisfied that we are the recipients of God's blessings without passing them on or sharing them as good stewards of His grace to those in need.

Matt.12:41, 42 the men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and behold a greater than Jonas is here. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the Wisdom of Solomon; and behold a greater than Solomon is here.

Matt.11:20-24 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works, which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, They would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you it shall be

more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the Day of Judgment than for you. And thou Capernaum which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works which have been done in thee had been done in Sodom it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the Day of Judgment than for thee.

As the children of Israel were entering the promise land, the Lord warned them through the counsel of Moses to continue to walk in his commandments:

Starting in Deuteronomy 28 Moses gives them the Blessings and cursing's, blessing when they obey and cursing when they disobey. We decide by our choice and action weather the word of God will be a blessing or curse to us. And Moses concludes in Deut.30:19 **I Call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, Blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live...**

So my word will not return to me void but it will accomplish that which I please." To whom much is given, much will be expected. Let us look at one last verse to put an Amen on our study today. It is found in Romans 2: 13 **for it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.** May each one of us so live our lives that we will heed every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God. Its reproof, its correction, its instruction in

righteousness that we may be perfect; thoroughly furnished unto every good work. That we may be faithful stewards of the Grace of God.