

The High Price of Neglect

It has been said that in a democratic society the price wise men pay for neglecting politics is to be ruled by unwise men.

This observation is so patently true that no-one who values his reputation for clear thinking is likely to contest it.

In this country for instance, there are millions of plain men and women, decent, honest, hard working and peace loving, who take their blessing for granted and who make no effort to assure the continuance of our free society.

Such people are in the majority but for all their numbers they are not going to determine the direction our country will go in the next few years.

Their weakness is in their passivity.

Such people sit back and allow radicals and those in the minority who shout the loudest to set the course for the future.

If this continues much longer we have no assurance that we can retain that liberty which was one purchased for us at such appalling cost.

The same can happen to us as Christians in our spiritual life.

Jude 3-4 [NIV] *“Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a licence for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”*

The price good and sober Christians pay for doing nothing is to be led by these highly vocal minorities whose only qualifications for leadership are an overwhelming ambition and a loud voice.

Jude 10 [NIV] *“Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals, these are the very things that destroy them.”*

Such people know least and talk most, while sane and godly men, well founded in God’s Word, too often give up leadership to them rather than to resist them.

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 7 [NIV] *“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.” ... “always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.”*

The power such people are denying is that of the active indwelling Holy Spirit Whom we should be allowing to produce in us His fruits.

Galatians 5:22-23 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

All too often such “fruits” are absent in many leaders.

What are we to do to counter such a biblically disqualified leadership?

2 Timothy 4:2-4 [NIV] *“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”*

Only through a Spirit-inspired understanding of God’s Word, the **Handbook For Life**, can we stand against such pollution of Christian standards.

There is a desperate need for people who have had the scriptures illuminated by the Holy Spirit to arise and under God’s lead assume leadership.

There are in the Christian fellowship such people who have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to discern between the true and false, always using God’s Word as the standard by which they judge all things.

Let such people as these arise and be heard.