

## **“Stop! Dangerous!”**

“To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; they have no delight in it” (Jer. 6:10).

The Winter 1991 issue of the University of Pacific Review offers a chilling description of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster: “There were two electrical engineers in the control room that night, and the best thing that could be said for what they were doing is they were 'playing around' with the machine. They were performing what the Soviets later described as an unauthorized experiment. They were trying to see how long a turbine would ‘free wheel’ when they took the power off it.”

“Now, taking the power off that kind of a nuclear reactor is a difficult, dangerous thing to do, because these reactors are very unstable in their lower ranges. In order to get the reactor down to that kind of power, where they could perform the test they were interested in performing, they had to override manually six separate computer-driven alarm systems. One by one the computers would come up and say, 'Stop! Dangerous! Go no further!' And one by one, rather than shutting off the experiment, they shut off the alarms and kept going. You know the results: nuclear fallout that was recorded all around the world, from the largest industrial accident ever to occur in the world.”

The instructions and warnings in the Scriptures are just as clear, and if we ignore them, we do so to our own destruction and, tragically, to the destruction of all those influenced by us. “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29). “I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” (Acts 24:15).

### **A Preacher Who Wouldn't Do**

A local church was in need of a preacher. One of the elders was interested in finding out just what kind of preacher the church wanted. In order to do this he composed a letter as though it had been received from a preacher and read it in the business meeting convened to select a new preacher.

“Gentlemen:

Understanding that you need a preacher, I would like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications that I think you would appreciate. I have been blessed to preach with power and have some success as a writer. Some say that I am a good organizer. I have been a leader in most places I have gone.

Some folks, however, have some things against me. I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years at a time. In some places I have left town after my works caused riots and disturbances. I have to admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any wrong-doing. My health is not too good, though I still get a good deal done. I have had to work at my trade to help pay my way.

The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I have not gotten along too well with the religious leaders in different towns where I have preached, and I am sure they will not recommend me. In fact, some of them have threatened me, taken me to court, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known even to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you, even if I have to work to help with my support.”

The elder read this letter to the meeting, and asked if they were interested in the applicant. They replied that he would never do for their church. They were not interested in any unhealthy, trouble-making, contentious, ex-jailbird; and, were insulted that his application had ever been presented! But one of them did ask the preacher's name, and the elder replied, “The apostle Paul.”

### **The Seed Vs. the Marble Slab**

In a cemetery in Hanover, Germany, is a grave on which were placed huge slabs of granite and marble cemented together and fastened with heavy steel clasps. It belongs to a woman who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Yet, strangely, she directed in her will that her grave be made so secure that if there were a resurrection, it could not reach her. On the marker were inscribed these words: "This burial place must never be opened."

In time, a seed, covered over by the stones, began to grow into a tree. Slowly, it pushed its way through the soil and up through one of the cracks between the marble slabs. As the trunk enlarged, the great slabs were gradually shifted so that the steel clasps were wrenched from their sockets. A tiny seed had become a tree that had pushed aside the stones. If God could put such force in the world He created, surely He will have no problem raising all the dead, whether buried at sea, cremated, or decayed into dust.

### **True Worship Starts With Me**

By Dee Bowman

I will take home something if I bring something.  
I will get something out of it if I give something to it.  
I will be edified by others if I seek to edify them.  
I will be encouraged if I am first an encourager.  
I will be uplifted if I lift up others.  
The Lord will be closer to me if I draw closer to Him.  
Worship, even in public, is a private affair. It starts with me.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--Even a small star shines in the darkness.  
--Nothing is so embarrassing as watching someone else do what you assured them was impossible.  
--Prosperity reveals the fortunate; adversity reveals the great.  
--It isn't the number of members that make a successful church; it is the number of members doing the Lord's work.  
--The manner in which a gift is given is often of more worth than the gift.  
--He who has a sharp tongue soon cuts his own throat.  
--You can buy an education, but wisdom is a blessing from God.  
--Happiness is not a destination, but a mode of travel.  
--If I open a cookbook and read all of the recipes, but do nothing more, I will never get dinner ready. Similarly, reading the Bible can be done in the same way with the same results.  
--Gold is tried in fire, men in adversity.  
--No matter what your lot in life is, build something on it.  
--Many people see their duty in plenty of time to dodge it.  
--Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.  
--The world would be a wonderful place if we all did today what we plan to do tomorrow.  
--Sometimes the hardest thing to get is going.  
--Habits are first cobwebs, then become cables.  
--Hope is patience with the lamp lit.  
--When confronted by a Goliath, how do you respond? "He's too big for me to hit," or, "He's too big for me to miss."