

Transforming Daily
“... for the day of the Lord is coming ...”
Joel 2:1

Though the prophets, being the mouth piece of God, prophesying God's judgment and wrath upon all who resisted, rejected and rebelled against Him, they were truly an expression of God's grace. Literally in the same breath that they proclaimed the burden of God, they proclaimed the blessing of God on all who would repent, and be reconciled to Him. Joel's message was no exception. Joel, prophesying to the Southern kingdom, Judah, cried out for them to repent or else suffer the destruction of God. Again, if His children would repent and heed His Word, God would deliver them. His promise included the prophecy of the Lord's return.

God never changes. His Word is true. If His character toward sin then was as the prophets portrayed it in their writings, His character toward sin now is the same as it is portrayed by the prophets in their writings. Some say that the church was not designed to experience the wrath of God. I believe they are mistaken. The Bible says that God disciplines (chastens) whom He loves. And what about chapters two and three of the book of Revelation? The Word of God was proclaimed then to be heard and heeded by Israel, and today it is to be heard and heeded by His church (and still applies to Israel). All those who resist, rebel and reject Christ, whether in or out of the church, will suffer His wrath.

As a child, when I suffered the discipline of my father because of my disobedient, I often received a whoopin', but sometimes I was sent to my room (sometimes after dinner and sometimes without dinner). After a while I would plead with my dad to hear my plea. He always heard, but he only listened when he heard true remorse. Of course I thought life would move on and all was forgotten, but not so. My father expected me to do or complete whatever it was that was required of me that I rebelled against in the first place. He was right to do so because that was the evidence of true repentance and remorse on my part to obey his instructions that I had originally rejected.

Where do you stand in relationship with God? Where do you stand in fellowship with His Son? Where do you stand in compliance with the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit? Does God's Word mean more to you than just a means to fulfill a "wish list?" It is time for the children of God to reevaluate their commitment and service to God, for the day of the Lord is coming.