

EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – July 2025

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FAITH WARNS

A biblical FAITH believes God's warnings of coming JUDGMENT and seeks to WARN others! In contrast, people with no faith carry on with no concern about the coming judgment. In the words of Jesus, they eat, marry, are given in marriage, buy, sell, plant, and build with no thought for coming judgment (cf. Lk. 17:26-30). They carry on with life with no thought for God.

Hebrews 11:7 (NKJV)

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

True faith takes God at His Word concerning things not yet seen. Prior to the time of the FLOOD of Noah's day, evidently it had not yet rained (see Gen. 2:5). But Noah, by FAITH, took God at His Word, and moved with godly fear prepared an ark for the saving of his family. This is clearly stated to have been an act of FAITH. Faith moves! It moved Noah! Faith is an active reality that demonstrates itself in "godly fear," which is to say, "reverence".

The ark signified SALVATION for those who would get on it, but it also served as a perpetual symbol of coming JUDGMENT for those who refused to believe. Thus in the building of the ark, Noah "**condemned the world**". The ark indicated that the entire world was under condemnation and headed for judgment! Peter tells us that Noah was "**a preacher of righteousness**" (2 Pet. 2:5), and we might say that his key sermon "illustration" was the ark. His message in effect was, "If you don't repent and put your faith in the Lord, the condemnation of the Lord is upon you." And it was!

But note that in doing this, Noah, "**became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith**." This is HOW the faith of Noah was seen in his life. It WARNED people! The building of the ark was a perpetual warning, which was the outworking of his FAITH!

FAITH WARNS! The prophets constantly WARNED the people as they called them to repentance. John the Baptist called the people to repentance and WARNED of coming judgment if they did not repent (Mt. 3:10-12). Jesus in WARNING spoke more about hell than He did about heaven (cf. Mt. 10:28). Jesus in WARNING spoke more about hell than anyone else in the Bible (cf. Mk. 9:42-50).

Philippians 1:28 (NKJV)

28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

We are not to be scared of those who oppose Christ and His people. As Paul goes on to say, we are granted not only to believe "**but also to suffer for His sake**" (Phil. 1:29). Courageous faith speaks of a spiritual reality that serves to convict our adversaries and speak to them in their lostness. Thus, FAITH WARNS!

The Bible builds to the climactic WARNING of the book of Revelation, which in turn builds to the climactic WARNING/INVITATION of Revelation 22:14-17.

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Thot: God NOW commands all people to repent because JUDGMENT DAY is coming! (Acts 17:30-31) FAITH believes it and sounds out a WARNING!

Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J Oswald