

## **A Call To Repentance II**

**By Greg Rangel**

We are living in a time in which the world seems to get more corrupt by the minute. Every day that you sit down to watch the news the only thing that see is how wicked man is and how much more wicked man is getting. Jesus did say in regards to the last days that, "...because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matt. 24:12). How true are the words of Jesus! The love of many in these days has definitely gotten cold. It is for that reason that people these days will have no problem in injuring another person or even killing them.

The Bible has always revealed the true nature of man and how wicked his heart is. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 3:10-18, "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: and the way of peace have they not known: there is no fear of God before their eyes." It is because man is wicked that Jesus Christ had to come down from heaven to die for the sins of humanity. And it is also for this reason as well that God has called man to repentance.

There is a big misconception among many today because they believe that as long as they "sincerely" believe in the ways of their religion that they can continue living the way they want to. They believe that as long as they go to church on Sunday and "confess" their sins that they can continue to do as they desire the rest of the week. But is that what the Bible teaches? Can man live the way he wants and still be o.k. with his God?

As we study the Bible on this topic, we can clearly see that God calls men to repentance. In our last article we cited many of the Scriptural references that deal with that. But going back to the Bible, we see that those that live in such an ungodly way will not inherit the Kingdom of God. In other words, they will not go to heaven, but to hell. For example, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 states, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." This truth is also seen throughout the rest of the Bible. For example, Paul wrote in the book of Galatians that, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).

You can try to deceive yourself into thinking that you are o.k. with God because you might faithfully go to church, or you might even be so religious because you received the

traditions of your fathers. But if you are living in such a way as Paul described above, you are not o.k. with God. God did not give us, let's say, the "perfect" religion through which we can live the way we want and sin as much as we want because "hey, we can go to confession on Sunday." That kind of thinking is no doubt religion at its best. But unfortunately that is all that it is, religion because we see that the Bible teaches otherwise. God wants a repentant heart, "At the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:" (Acts 17:30). God also wants an obedient heart, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15, see also 14:21, 23-24). Going to church but living in sin is deceitful. Get right with God today. Receive Jesus.

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