

This past week a televangelist by the name of Rev. Ike died. He preached a wealth and health gospel – that is, God wanted you rich and healthy. To me, he was one of the few honest evangelists, even though he was wrong – because he told people that if they sent him their money, they would make him rich. And they did! He had a multitude of houses and cars.

He was just one of the many examples of false teachers that are out there. As I said last week false teachers are abounding – both in the established churches – that is, those that ostensibly call themselves Christian churches and in cults and other religions – such as Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, Islam – to name a few.

If you look at things on the outside, they might seem to be pretty grim. On the surface it looks like the “bad guys” are winning. When you have established “Christian” churches teaching that there are other ways of salvation than through the Lord Jesus Christ ... when you have churches teaching that God loves you regardless of your lifestyle ... when you have churches denying essential doctrines of the Christian faith that have been held for 2000 years – yes, things look pretty bad.

However, all is not lost. God has a remnant of faithful, true believers out there – He always has and He always will. Again, remember the words that I quoted last week – the words of our Savior, when he asked Simon Peter – this same Peter – who he was and we read in Matthew 16:16-18: *“Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”*

But the other thing that we have to fully understand is this – in the end, God wins. It is that simple. The Book of Revelation is book of the final victory of the Lord Jesus Christ. It tells of the end and the final judgement of Satan who is behind all the false teaching.

And that is exactly what we see as we continue our study in 2nd Peter. Please turn with me to 2 Peter 2:4-11 (READ). The doom of Satan and the false teachers is sure. Again, listen to the words of the 3rd verse that we sang just prior to the Sermon, from A Mighty Fortress is Our God: *“And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us: The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.”*

And then the last line: *“God’s truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.”* Yes, my friends – in the end, God wins and He will judge those who do not hold His Way and His Word.

As Peter continues in his letter to the pilgrims of the dispersion, this is exactly what he tells us. Last week we saw that there were false prophets among the people – who even denied the Lord who bought them – bringing on themselves swift destruction.

Continuing with that truth, Peter gives us some examples, the first of which is in 2 Peter 2:4: *“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;”* This verse tells us about the angels that revolted against God – and how they were judged by God and cast into hell. The original Greek indicates that they are in a place waiting for the final

judgement – which we know will come in God’s time.

And then he continues – 2 Peter 2:5: “*and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;*”

Here he talks about the judgement on the earth on the days of Noah. Apparently, Noah told the people around him to repent ... to turn from their sin – he is described as a *preacher of righteousness* – but no one listened to him – and so only Noah and his family was saved.

Think about that for moment – God was so upset with the wickedness that was in the world that He destroyed everything that He had created, with the exception of Noah and his family. We also know that God promised never to destroy the world by flood again – but we know, that there will be final judgement.

Then he talks about the judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah – 2 Peter 2:6: “*and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;*” Their destruction was to be an example of what happens to those who live in ungodly manner. We find that today people are not heeding the example of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Nations have been destroyed because they have followed in the ways of Sodom and Gomorrah. In fact, it has been said, that God would need to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah if He doesn’t judge people for following their wicked ways.

Continuing he talks about how Lot was saved – and how he was delivered: 2 Peter 2:7-9a: “*and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations ...*”

Lot was living among those who were not obedient to God. And in the deliverance of Lot is a message of hope – yes, we are surrounded by all sorts of false teachers and ungodly practices – but God will deliver His people and judge the ungodly – 2 Peter 2:9b-11: “*and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.*”

Consider how the ungodly are described – *those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.*

This is pretty accurate description of exactly what is happening today. Those of us who live according to the truth as revealed in God’s Word, are considered narrow, bigoted, homophobes and other adjectives that have described us. Today, we see that there are those – even within the church – that are calling good, evil and evil, good.

It is as Romans 1:18-23 says: “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are*

clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

God’s wrath has come and is coming on those who serve the created thing rather than the Creator. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie. It says that their foolish hearts were darkened – and that is exactly what we see today.

But again, we know that God’s victory is secure. We know that end of the story.

So, while it may seem that the bad guys are winning – take heart – their doom is sure and He will have complete victory! Praise be to God!