

A THEOLOGY OF SAFETY

Matt. 7:24-27

Introduction:

A man offered a job of driving a wagon, and two applicants showed up to be interviewed. The employer decided to test the men's ability with the wagon, since there were many hills and curves in the area.

The first man took the reins and began to show his skill. He was quite good with the horses. Once he showed how close he could come to the edge of the road and not fall off into the deep ravine.

The second man was very patient and gentle with the horses. When he passed the point near the ravine, he kept the horses as far away from the edge as he could. He saw no reason to tempt fate. Which do you suppose the employer hired?

He hired the second man. He didn't want a driver who would take unnecessary risks.

1.Safety is important in our lives; we wear seat belts, buy smoke detectors, and put locks on our doors to protect ourselves. 2.Safety with our lives, our families, our possessions is important; how much more shall we think of our souls.

•Matt. 10:28 the soul is eternal; our lives here are not •Luke 9:25 what profit is there in gaining the whole world and losing his own soul?

Recently I heard someone speak about what we believe and call it a "theology of safety" as if that were some evil thing. It is not!

I. God is always concerned with our best interests

1.Deut. 6:24 "So the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today."

•some people look at God's commandments as a negative thing (burden, enslaving, a heavy yoke) •but every one of God's instructions are for our good:

•drunkenness is a sin because of all the ugliness it leads to •anger, wrath, hatred, bigotry

are sins because they hurt •greed is wrong because it leads to many a pain

•every law of God is for our best interests

2.1 Tim. 2:3,4 God wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth; 3.2 Pet. 3:9 God wants everyone to repent and not perish 4.John 8:31,32 God's word given to us to set us free

II. Jesus warns us to protect us because He loves us

1.Jesus says more about hell than any other person (11 of 13 times). Does He do this to frighten us or to protect us?

•If hell is not real, Jesus would certainly be cruel. •But if hell is real, Jesus would be cruel and criminal not to warn us.

2.Paul said to the Galatians: "Have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (Gal. 4:16)

•Prov. 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

•Jesus Christ is no Judas Iscariot. He loved us so much He died for us. Do you think Jesus would teach anything not for our best interests?

III. Jesus teaches us to take the safe way

1.Matt. 7:13,14 The narrow way leads to life; the other does not. 2.Matt. 7:24-27

Obedience leads to life; disobedience, neglectfulness, does not

•There is a way that is right and cannot be wrong. •Is there any good reason to risk by building on sand?

3.1 Tim. 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

•2 Tim.2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. •Hebr. 2:1 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. (2) For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, (3) how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?

4.A theology of safety is one of obedience and love; a theology of risk is one of

carelessness, disobedience and presumption

•why do it if it could risk your soul?

•gray areas in morality •presumptuous areas of worship •man-made traditions

•Would it not make much more sense to do what we KNOW is right?

Conclusion:

1.The man who built his house upon the sand, built it because he thought it was safe to do so. He found out later that it was not. 2.The bridges between Ada and McAlester that cross the S. Canadian River; one on rock, one on sand. 3.What are you building on with your soul? Obey the gospel.

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