

9-2-17

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

LESSONS FROM A HURRICANE

Our prayers are certainly with the folks in Texas who have been devastated by hurricane Harvey and continue to suffer the after effects of the storm. Already questions are being raised as to decisions made before, during and after the storm. Actions will be reviewed which hopefully will lead to more productive responses in similar future events should they occur. In times of disaster there are surely lessons to be learned.

One lesson we learn is dependence upon God. We are not always in control of every situation. The adage that no one can control the weather is still true. No human being had the power to deter hurricane Harvey from its destructive path. The winds could not be quelled nor the waters abated by mere human response. Those who believe that man is entirely self-sufficient and has no need for God (humanism) should take note. Man is often helpless before the powerful forces of nature. Likewise, without God and the guidance of His Word, man is helpless to overcome the powerful forces of sin and evil. Satan is continuously seeking our spiritual destruction (1 Peter 5:8). Without God, we are helpless before him. But through Jesus' shed blood we can overcome the devil and be saved from the eternal consequences of sin (Romans 5:8-9). We must learn the lesson of dependence upon God.

Another lesson is the recognition of what is most important in life. From a material standpoint, the losses from hurricane Harvey are in the billions of dollars. Many lost nearly all, if not all, of their material possessions. Yet, of these most would agree that the saving of their lives was much more important than the loss of their possessions. Jesus taught, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21). Material things are necessary but they are far from the most important thing in life. It is far more important for one to prepare for eternity by "laying up treasure in heaven." This is done by submitting ones will to God's will in obedience (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:8-9). When one comes face to face with the reality of one's own death, material possessions become irrelevant and all that matters is the question, "am I right with God?" Yes, what great lessons we can learn from a hurricane.

Please join us for our Gospel Meeting at the Green Plain church of Christ, September 10-14 with Luke Puckett speaking. Sunday services are at 10 and 10:45 am and 7:30 pm. Monday through Thursday services are at 7 pm. Come be our honored guest. For more info visit our webpage at <http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org> or call 270-492-8206. Thanks for reading. Your comments are appreciated.