

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

You Must be Born Again!

“Hear then His voice today. Perhaps you are made aware of the necessity of a change of heart and life, at some future period, in order that you might die safely. Such a change is equally necessary if you wish to live comfortably now. As long as you are unfit to die, you can have no true enjoyment of life. It is an easy thing to prove that procrastination is highly dangerous. Do you consider how many uncertainties you must presume upon? Are you sure that you will not be suddenly cut off by an unexpected stroke, or visited with fever? Tremble lest such be your end, if you are trifling with God, who is now calling you by His Gospel to seek Him today.” [John Newton]

www.sermonaudio.com/crc

www.unholycharade.com (blog)

www.lightfordarktimes.com (blog)

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel (Light for Dark Times)

The Lord Shut the Lions' Mouths

January 26th, 2025

Sermon Text: Daniel 6

Scripture Reading: Zephaniah 3

“As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the

living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.” Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of

the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.” (Daniel 6:20-24)

We are living in unique and exciting times for our nation. The terrible evil which has been working to destroy suffered a real defeat and we are very grateful. Great damage was done to our country and we are now seeing a beginning of putting things right once more. I am very thankful and we need to pray for President Trump every day.

There is talk now of America entering into a “**Golden Age**” of peace and prosperity. Tech companies are announcing investments of \$500 billion dollars to advance Artificial Intelligence systems which are described as

“super intelligence” able to solve problems in medicine and many other fields. And we are hearing that the American Dream will be viable once more, that the economy is going to markedly recover as the many foolish, delusional green theories of worshipping the earth are discarded.

For years, wicked people and sinister, dark forces have been at work to dismantle and destroy basic truths which hold a society together – gender distinction, marriage and family, recognition that all kinds of perversions are wrong, that there is a God, attacks upon freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and upon our justice system and more. Economic and social orders...and on and on. This surely has been the darkness of Satan’s kingdom at work. And the enemy is not going to go down easily. But there is renewed hope that some measure of righteousness will be restored.

However...and there is always a “however” in such times. We need to be wise. We always must think

about these things biblically, according to the Lord's Word.

There have been eras in the history of our nation (and of the world) when people spoke of a new "golden age." After World War I, it was said that this was the war that would end all wars. Woodrow Wilson and others promised that if a League of Nations could be established, wars could be ended before they even began. People celebrated. The horrors of the Somme and other battles would become history. The 1920's were the "roaring 20's" and fortunes were made in the stock market. Science was advancing. The good times were rolling.

And then came the crash. The depression. And after that came another World War even more terrible than the first. The unthinkable was now real. Hitler had rebuilt Germany's war machine while this League of Nations stood by. Warnings went unheeded until it was very nearly too late. Millions and millions died all over the globe.

Why? How could this be? How can this keep happening right up to our own day?

Anyone who is a student of world history, or even of the history of our own country, if they are wise – will feel *a sense of foreboding when our leaders begin to promise the arrival of another "Golden Age."* Why? Don't we want our nation to prosper? Don't we want peace for our children and the generations to come? Of course? And we pray that the Lord will give great wisdom and guidance to President Trump and his team. We are very thankful for them.

But there is a great danger here, and it is this:

Any Golden Age that is created by man apart from a real dependence upon, faith in, and obedience to the Lord is destined to come crashing down. It is the Lord alone who blesses nations with a Golden Age. And that blessing ONLY comes when the people of a nation obey God's Word and put their trust in Him.

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. (James 4:13-16)

What is the real, ultimate source of wars, crime, famine, disease, poverty...? It is SIN. It is this terrible thing which came into the world at the Fall by Adam’s sin.

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. (James 4:1-2)

Any solution to these evils which always plague us individually and as a nation which sidesteps this

thing called SIN, is destined to fail. Because man’s sin, his corrupted mind and heart, is the real trouble.

Why? Because such solutions do not acknowledge the Lord and our broken relationship to Him. These “Golden Age” promises rely upon man’s own schemes and plans rather than obedience to a command given to us over and over in God’s Word:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. (Proverbs 3:5-10)

The very great and real danger facing us today is not primarily

China or even the lying leftists (communists if you prefer), *it is this great evil of pride and living and acting as if the Lord were irrelevant to us.*

Over and over and over again, the Lord tells us:

Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD. (Psalms 4:5)

I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the LORD. (Psalms 31:6)

Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (Isaiah 26:4)

Psalms 115:1-11 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! (2) Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" (3) Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. (4) Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. (5) They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. (6) They have ears, but

do not hear; noses, but do not smell. (7) They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. (8) Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them. (9) O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. (10) O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. (11) You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

Trust in the Lord. Trust in the Lord. Not in man. Not in ourselves. Trust in the Lord.

And so when we hear man boasting about how he is going to bring in a Golden Age, how he is going to build huge complexes of Artificial Intelligence which will show us amazing things, how he is going to send men to Mars, how he is going to put an end to wars....*and the speaking and emphasis is not upon a trust in an looking to the Lord as our help and shield...we should be troubled.* As Senator Kennedy of Louisiana put it in regard to

another subject... *We have seen this movie before!* And it does not turn out well.

Daniel 4:28-30 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. (29) At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, (30) and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?"

Let's go back once more to Daniel in the Lions' den and take careful notice of what Daniel told the King that next morning:

Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him..."

Who is it that gives the victory to His people? Think it through.

- Who shut the lions' mouths?

- Who delivered Noah from the flood?
- Who empowered David to kill Goliath?
- Who opened the prison doors for Peter?
- And who conquered Satan at the cross, raised Christ from the dead for our justification?

Did man do any of this? Of course not. It was the Lord. What was David's part? Or Peter's? Or Noah's? *It was to trust in the Lord and not lean on their own understanding and energies.*

Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, (24) but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

What is our victory? Where is it to be found? –

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:4-5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (5) Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

There is another danger lurking for us and it is this:

The mistake of identifying political conservatism as Christianity. Of regarding politically conservative people – with whom we share many convictions – as fellow Christians. The danger of the church’s message becoming indistinguishable from that of the message of the Republican party.

Let me share by way of illustration an experience I had this past week. I was invited to participate in a talk show panel on a politically conservative program. I had done

so several times before and I agreed. The other panel members were all pro-Maga people as was the director of the program. They all had some good things to say about our nation, about the evils of the leftists, and so on.

But toward the end of the program, after a lady panelist cautioned the others to take care not to regard President Trump as a savior rather than Christ, I was compelled to point out a very great danger – a trap to beware of. Namely, of identifying as Republicans, as political conservatives, as “God Bless America” people, *and yet walking in sin ourselves.* I gave an example – a celebrity rapper who is often invited to perform for Republican MAGA events – including one of the recent inaugural balls – sometimes wears a hat with “Jesus” printed on the front – he did so in an appearance on Fox News. And yet his lyrics are often very profane and even blasphemous such as his “Rock ‘n Roll Jesus.”

I pointed out to the other panelists (the topic by the way was on

freedom of speech) that claiming to be a Christian, wearing a Jesus hat, and yet walking in sin like this is a deception. A Christian will not participate in such evil. I found out very quickly that in this group, which had selected as its subject *freedom of speech*, did not really allow freedom of speech.

The reaction was immediate anger and hostility toward me. One panelist said “are you saying that a person isn’t a Christian who talks like that?” I replied, “that is exactly what I am saying. A Christian is a person who is a new creation in Christ, someone who has been born again just as Jesus said.”

At that point another panelist – a psychiatrist, jumped in and said “I believe Jesus was the greatest Hebrew prophet, but this born again thing is far too judgmental.” In other words, he believes Jesus was JUST a prophet, not the Son of God. And he rejected what Jesus told Nicodemus – you must be born again. But the moderator cut off the conversation at that point and concluded the program.

Here is my point. In all of the talk shows I have participated in at that forum, I have never sensed a oneness with these politically conservative people. Consistently what I have found is that they always steer the conversation away from Christ and scripture whenever I introduce the subject into the discussion.

What are the things they want to talk about? *Man’s solutions. How we conservatives can oppose and remove leftists and their ideology from our government. We need to DO this. We need to DO that. President Trump is making the right moves here.*

But almost no one wants to address the real basic root issues that are the cause of all of our difficulties:

- Man’s sin
- That we are a nation under wrath
- That our sins have hidden the Lord from us
- That repentance of sin is where we must start.
- That Christ is the only Savior

- That God is the only One who can shut the lions' mouths and deliver us

No one wants to go there. No one for the most part in these politically conservative circles wants to humble themselves before God, confess and turn from their sins, and put their faith in Christ alone.

I have noticed another very troubling characteristic in these conservative circles. It is this – whether it be Bill O'reilly (a Roman Catholic) or the people at Fox News (many of whom are Roman Catholic) – they frequently make statements such as: “It doesn't matter if someone is a homosexual or a lesbian or transgender – that is their choice and they have the freedom to choose. I don't care if the Episcopal church has appointed that Bishop who attacked President Trump in her misuse of a pulpit – they can appoint whoever they want.”

In other words, a very, very typical characteristic of so many leading

conservatives is a refusal to call sin – sin! A refusal to call evil for what it is. And many of these people claim to be Christians.

As soon as a real Christian speaks out against sin and calls for repentance and a return to the Lord – to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Way, Truth, and Life, the fangs always come out and we find that these “allies” are not allies at all. These are the very kind of so-called Christians who will choose to side with Antichrist when he is revealed.

No one can deliver us from the lions' den except the Lord. There is only One who will stand with us in the fiery furnace. We must be certain to place our trust only in Him and not in man:

Psalms 146:1-6 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! (2) I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. (3) **Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.** (4) When his breath

departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. (5) Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, (6) who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

Pray for the king. Pray for our President. Pray that he be kept from the trap of pride and that he and his family and staff will come to know Christ and place their real trust in Him. But do not put your trust in man. Don't be swept away or caught up in promises of a new Golden Age while there is no real repentance from sin and a turning to Christ.

Psalms 118:5-14 Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free. (6) The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? (7) The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. (8) It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. (9) It is better to take refuge in the LORD

than to trust in princes. (10) All nations surrounded me; in the name of the LORD I cut them off! (11) They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the LORD I cut them off! (12) They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them off! (13) I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me. (14) The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. (6) He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. (7) "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. (8) He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in

the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Let's not be deceived. Let's not be caught up in faith in man and promises of a Golden Age that man will create. Ultimately it will be a man rising up out of the troubled sea of humanity whom Satan will empower to bring in a so-called worldwide “Golden Age.” And the whole world will run after him –

Revelation 13:1-9 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. (2) And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. (3) One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. (4) And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight

against it?” (5) And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. (6) It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. (7) Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, (8) and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. (9) If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

Pray without ceasing for our President and his staff, for our nation – that the Lord will bring a great revival and we will see many people repenting of evil and turning to Christ. And let's always be praying for the churches, that the Lord will send His Spirit to give life to dry bones once again.

Because it is the Lord and the Lord alone who shuts the lions' mouths.

