

# The MBC Weekly

## Don't Dismiss God's Warnings!

God's warnings are never designed to kill your fun! But, rather, to offer you greater blessings & more fun! Pure fun without the shame and guilt that the "pleasures of sin for a season" may offer us! Don't forget this truth: *"It is because God is love that He punishes us to bring us to brokenness so He can redeem us."* He warns us because He has compassion on us! Because He loves us! And, how does God respond to His people when they confess their sin & return to Him? He restores them, doesn't He? That's what He did with Adam & Eve; with Abraham & the patriarchs; and, with Israel on multiple occasions! He would bring revival to their souls & their lives were blessed! But, when individuals & nations continue in their rebellion, there comes a time— and, only God knows that time; so, don't sin presumptuously, calculating how far you can go in your sin before God has had enough— there comes a time when God's patience is exhausted; that, in order to accomplish His purpose, in your life, that He punishes! This is the place where Israel's sin had brought them in 2 Chronicles, chapter 36, *"But they kept ridiculing God's messengers, despising His words, and scoffing at His prophets, until the Lord's wrath was*

*so stirred up against His people that there was no remedy"* (v.16). Those are haunting words— *there was no remedy!* All that was left was God's wrath! Only punishment! It was the only thing left that God could do to turn Israel around! There's an incredibly revealing verse of Scripture in Isaiah that's often overlooked; but, I think the message is powerful! Isaiah— one of the very messengers that 2 Chronicles 36 referred to— says, *"For the LORD will rise up as He did at Mount Perazim. He will rise in wrath, as at the Valley of Gibeon, to do His work, His strange work, and to perform His task, His disturbing task"* Isaiah 28:21. Inspired by God's Holy Spirit, Isaiah says that God's judgment is His strange work! His disturbing task! God, Himself, finds His judgment & punishment of sinners to be disturbing because it's not His will that any would perish! When you sin against God & His Word & you ignore His warnings, He will punish you because He is Holy & Just! But, know, that it disturbs Him to punish you for the great love & compassion that He has for you! So, why would you continue to turn against Him & go your own way? Why do you spurn His love for you & choose all the cheap substitutes that sin offers you? None of those things will satisfy! None will bring you joy & fulfillment!

## Forgiveness For The Prodigal—

Why endure punishment when God willingly offers all prodigal sons forgiveness! When prodigal Israel repents of her sin & returns to the Lord, to accomplish God's purposes, He redeems them! Let me tell you what it means that God redeems them! There are at least 3 words, in the original languages of Scripture, that are translated "redeem" in the Bible! One means *"to buy or purchase"*; and, it's used in the context of a slave who is bought to be owned as property! At the time that God redeemed Israel, they were enslaved to Egypt. Here's the point— we are all enslaved to somebody! We are either enslaved to sin, which is a cruel & destructive task master! Or, we are enslaved to a God who loves us with great compassion & willingly meets every need we have according to His will! But, once you've been redeemed by God, He will begin a work in you that's redemptive! He reforms you to make you willing to obey Him & love Him!

## "Greeting Team"

### For Sunday, January 31

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go "welcome" people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

## Greeters this week:

### 5TH SUNDAY!

### WE'RE ALL GREETERS!

- 1st— Jen Hagler Thursday Night  
Brian Hagler Sunday Night
- 2nd— Terry Embke Sunday Night;  
Erickson Thursday Night
- 3rd— Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;  
Donna Ehlers Monday Morning
- 4th— Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon;  
Tackett Sunday Night

## Small Groups @ MBC

### Offer

## Spiritual Accountability And Instruction

-Guide To: Small Group Ministry @ MBC-

## Announcements

1. Is The Bible Pro-Slavery?  
[www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-wrong-say-bible-pro-slavery/](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-wrong-say-bible-pro-slavery/)
2. Biblical News Commentary?  
Checkout  
[www.albertmohler.com/the-briefing](http://www.albertmohler.com/the-briefing)