

SERMON OUTLINE

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL

DANIEL 5:1-31

MARCH 13, 2022

"Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." – Hebrews 3:12-13

FOUR WARNING SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL CALLOUSNESS

1. DISTORTED VIEW OF YOURSELF: VS. 1

- "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." - James 1:22-24
- "For self-examination to properly function in the lives of disciples, knowledge of God must lead to both honesty and humility. Honesty, in that our call is to be who we actually are before God, because God wants to transform us and cannot transform the people we pretend to be (because they do not exist). Humility, because one cannot know God without being humble... the goal is to be who you are with the God who died for you in the midst of your sin. The goal is to grasp grace as you are rather than as you wish you were. Ultimately, the goal of self-examination is to be fully open before God. Rather than leading to fear, self-examination is done in freedom because God has given us his grace. God already knows the sins we are so hesitant to unveil." Kyle Strobel, *Formed For the Glory of God*

Self-reflection Questions:

- Am I comparing myself to others or to the standard found in God's Word?
- What is God, by His grace, wanting me to change about how I live, feel, or think?
- What are you hiding from God, yourself, or others that you need to confess and repent?

2. SUPPRESS TRUTH ABOUT GOD: VS. 2-4

- "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to

them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.” – Romans 1:18-23

3. LACK TRUE UNDERSTANDING: VS. 5-9; 20-23

- “They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.” – Eph. 4:18

4. INDIFFERENCE TOWARD SPIRITUAL WARNING AND JUDGEMENT: VS. 24-31

- “Many think of God’s most fearsome acts of judgement as earthquakes, fires, pestilence, and famine. Not necessarily. The most fearsome acts of God’s judgment are when He simply gives people over to depraved minds. The wrath of God’s abandonment is His most fearsome act of judgement.” – Justin Peters
- “Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.” – Romans 1:24-28

Benediction: “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.” – Ezekiel 11:19-20