

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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God's Unfolding Plan

1. Gospel - First taught by word of mouth (Mark 16:15; John 6:45)
2. The apostles went everywhere preaching, "The whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:20, 27)
3. By 64 AD this gospel was preached throughout the world (Col. 1:23; Matt. 24:14)
4. Before the end of the 1st Century, the spoken word became the written word (I Cor. 14:37; I John 1:3, 4)
5. The Scriptures were complete before the end of the 1st Century (II Peter 1:3; Jude 3)
6. This was in keeping with Jesus' promise (John 16:12-15)
7. 1st Century Christians accepted these writings as inspired (I Thess. 2:13)
8. These letters were exchanged among the churches (Col. 4:16; Rev. 1:4; Gal. 1:2)
9. Corruption of texts prevented by presence of the apostles (Gal. 1:8, 9; I Cor. 14:29 [prophets])

“You Knew I was a Snake”

by Jimmy Tuten

There is an old tale about a peasant who, while hoeing in his field during the spring thaw, came across a snake. He raised his hoe to kill it, but the snake begged for mercy. “I’m too frozen to do you any harm,” it cried. The farmer, full of compassion, picked up the half-dead serpent and put it into his tunic, against his chest. As he began to work, the snake got warmer and warmer. Suddenly the snake bit the peasant, who frantically reached in and pulled it out, throwing it to the ground. “Why?” asked the man, “I befriended you. I trusted you.” “True”, hissed the snake as it slithered away. “But don’t blame me. You knew I was a snake when you picked me up.”

Like Moses of old, many people know that sin’s pleasures are but for a season (Heb. 11:25), that the world will pass away and the lusts thereof (I John 2:16, 17). Yet they continue to indulge in the pleasures of sin. They take sin unto their bosom and go about their business. Some day when these things have passed away and they are faced with eternity, they will cry out against sin and accuse it. But it will be too late. Sin will reply, “You knew I was but for a season. Don’t blame me.” And truly one cannot blame sin with the word of God being what it is.

The Bible says that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). This death is eternal separation from God throughout eternity. Hear it expressed in II Thess. 1:9: “*Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power...*” Imagine what it is going to be like in hell; people blaming sin for the death which is their wages for having served sin. Can’t you hear them saying, “How could you do this to me?” But sin will reply, “**You knew I was sin!**”

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16