



A DAY OF RECKONING AWAITS
Ecclesiastes 8:10-14

WOODLAND PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

4 MARCH 2018

BACKDROP

- ▶ Sometimes it appears that wrongdoers get away with their evil works and, thus, many think either
 - ▶ God does not care, or
 - ▶ sin has no consequences
- ▶ We wonder whether there is justice in the world.
- ▶ Sometimes the world will even rub our noses in it.

BACKDROP (cont'd)

- ▶ If there were anything to this righteousness stuff, surely evil will not be so pervasive or at the very least . . .
 - ▶ All evil would be dealt with in an expedited fashion; and
 - ▶ Good people would not suffer
- ▶ Not only is evil not dealt with in what many would consider due course, but many who do wrong and die are often time praised in the very places where they have done their wickedness.

See v. 10

However, do not despair and do not allow this to lull you to sleep, as the Bible teaches --

1. Sin separates us from God (an unenviable position) and leaves us in a spiritually forsaken state

*Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor his ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you that he will not hear. **Isaiah 59:1-2***

2. God's delay in executing judgment is simply a manifestation of his grace and mercy, granting space (time) for repentance

- ▶ Note the parable of the *Prodigal Son* – returning to his father after a life of lasciviousness, debauchery and riotous living. **Luke 15:11-32**
- ▶ *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. II Peter 3:9*

3. Failure to Live Right Could Have Far-reaching Impact (Generational Curses)

- ▶ Saga of Israel (Northern Kingdom)
 - ▶ Established on flawed spiritual premises **I Kings 12:25-33**
 - ▶ All kings were evil
 - ▶ Eventually besieged /overtaken by the enemy
- ▶ Oftentimes because of upbringing, children will follow in the footsteps of their parents in bad habits and sins. In such cases the pattern of sin becomes repetitive, and the effects of sin continue. **See I Corinthians 15:33**

4. The Judgment will be the Reckoning of all reckonings –

*For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil. **Ecclesiastes 12:14***

The wages of (payment for) sin remains death!
Romans 6:23

Lord's Invitation

- ▶ **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (**Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17**)

Believe (**Acts 15:7**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin (**Acts 2:38; Acts 8:38**) or

Invitation cont'd

- ▶ **Be reconciled unto the Lord (I John 1:8-9);**
or
- ▶ **Desire prayer (James 5:16).**