

Recovering AWE!

(aw) n. strong feeling of amazement

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, May 21/22, 2016 Ray Davis

“Toxic Faith” Ecclesiastes7:15-29

Beware of toxic teachers (Matt23:4), toxic churches (1Cor) and toxic beliefs (Col2:8) because they are more about bondage making than bondage breaking (John8:31-32; 1Tim4:16). A lie about God, believed to be true, will affect your life as if it were true.

A TOXIC FAITH:

Ecclesiastes 7:15

- Believes you suffer because you're not living right either because of hidden sin or a lack of faith. (Gal6:7-9; Rom8:1; Heb 12:5-11; John16:33; 2Tim3:12; James1;2)

Verses 16-19

- Falls Prey To Extremes:
 - ✓ Continued struggle with sin vs. loved & accepted by God. (Rom7:24-25)
 - ✓ Legalism (I obey therefore God accepts me) vs. Antinomianism (God accepts me therefore I don't have to obey) vs. Gospel (God accepts me therefore I want to obey). (Eph2:8-10)
 - ✓ If it's going to be it's up to me (human responsibility) vs. let go and let God (God's sovereignty). (Phil2:12-13)
 - ✓ Take sin seriously but don't wallow in your guilt (Rom2:4; John 8:11).
 - ✓ All grace & no truth or all truth and no grace. (Eph4:15)
 - ✓ In prayer ask boldly but surrender completely. (Luke 22:42)
 - ✓ Theology – Doxology = dead orthodoxy. Doxology – Theology = Idolatry (addiction to a religious high/emotionalism). Theology + Doxology = Soul Satisfying/Life Liberating! (Jn4:23-24)
 - ✓ In the essentials there is unity (Jn17:20-23), in non-essentials there is harmony (Rom14) but in all things show LOVE (Jn13:34-35).
 - ✓ Independent vs. dependent (Gal6:2, 5)
 - ✓ Sorrowful yet always rejoicing (2Cor6:10)
 - ✓ Three enemies: Satan, Sin & Society (Eph2:1-3)

Verse 20

- Never confesses sin, and always works hard to give the impression that you never struggle or are tempted with sin, or have failed in anyway so that you can feel spiritually superior to others. (1Jn1:8; James5:16)

Verses 21-22

- You take yourself too seriously and you are defensive and judgmental. (Matt7:1-5)

Verses 23-25

- Can't handle doubts, questions & the deep mysteries of God. (Rom11:33-36)
- Fails to see that sin problems are complex and multi-faceted and simplistic and reductionistic (pat) answers are unhelpful & alienate. (1Tim6:12; Heb12:1-2)

Verse 26

- Manipulates & controls by fear and pride rather than motivates through love & truth. (2Cor5:14-15; Titus2:11-12)

THE ROOT OF OUR PROBLEM:

Verses 27-29

- We are sinners by nature and by choice and seek to remedy our problem through self-salvation projects: irreligion (self-discovery) and religion (moral conformity). (Luke 15:11-32)
- Elder brothers (Pharisees): Superiority complex, fear based joyless compliance to rules, and are very bitter when things don't go well because they feel God owes them. (Luke15:28-30)

SOLUTION: A TENDER WORD FOR PHARISEES

Luke 15:28-32 The assurance of the Father's love through the indispensable & costly sacrifice of the True Elder brother (Jesus/Luke 19:10) will humble you, fill you with joy and give you a heart to reach both elder and younger brothers for the Father's Glory.

Growing Notes

- 1) What comes to mind when you think of a “Toxic Faith”? How are toxic teachers (Matt23:4), toxic churches (1Cor) and toxic beliefs (Col2:8) more about bondage making than bondage breaking (John8:31-32; 1Tim4:16)? How can a wrong concept of God affect you in a toxic kind of way?
- 2) Read through the text and reflect on the points and cross reference from verses 15-26. Which one(s) are most convicting to you? Which one(s) of the extremes do you most often fall prey to? How can it affect your Christian life?
- 3) What is the root of our problem (vv27-29)? What are the two ways we try to remedy it (Luke 15:11-32)? What are the characteristics of elder brothers?
- 4) How will the assurance of the Father's love through the indispensable & costly sacrifice of the True Elder brother Jesus transform our lives overcoming any toxic faith (Luke15:28, 31)? Pray that db is a place where elder & younger brothers come home to the Father's love!