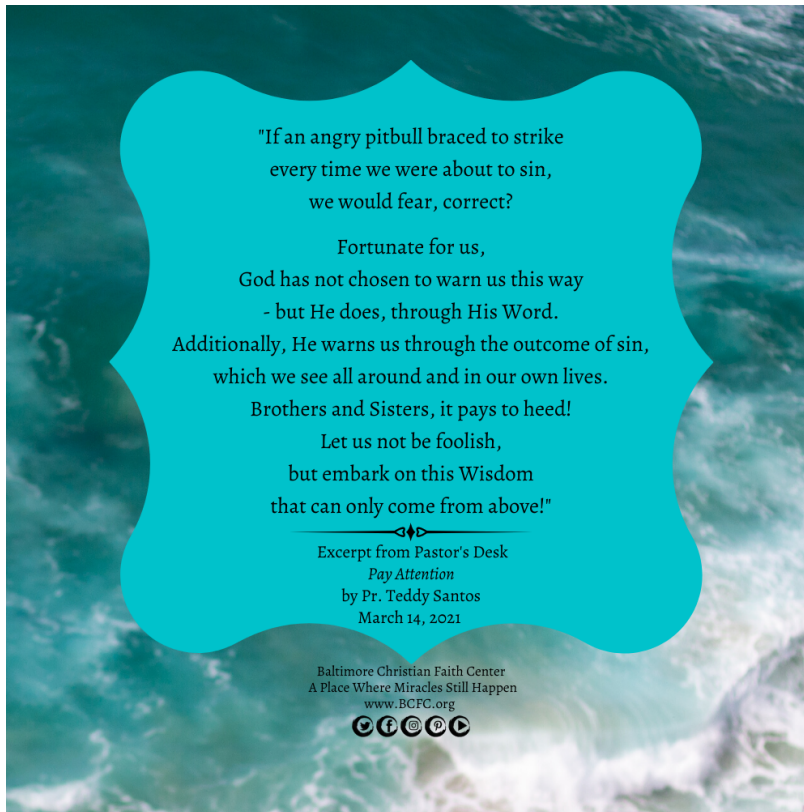


PAY ATTENTION

Pastor's Desk – March 14, 2021



Proverbs 1:20-30

(20) Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. (21) She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city. She speaks her words: (22) "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. (23) Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. (24) Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, (25) Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, (26) I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, (27) When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. (28) "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. (29) Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, (30) They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke.

Fearing God is a decision. Each day of our lives, we encounter many pressures, forces, and influences that force us to respond. We must make a choice: "Will I go this way, or will I go that way?" One way expresses the fear of God; the other way expresses the fear of men, the fear of the loss of comfort, the fear of losing some different cultural, social, or physical "need" that we fear losing.

Note the verbs in this series of verses: "despised," "hated," "would have none," "did not choose"! Any wonder that Romans 8:7 states that the carnal mind is enmity against the Lord? We begin to recognize that it was the fear of the Lord, a gift from Him, that inspired us to respond, directed us in the direction of the very One who holds in His hands the matters of life! God imparted that reaction within us!

An antagonism exists toward wisdom - toward God. It is not hiding. People have admittance to common wisdom, described as being right out there on the street - out in public. It is in the forest, in the city; on the job - it is wherever! We are enclosed by it!

Proverbs 1 teaches that God (symbolized as Wisdom) just about uses every method imaginable to awaken folks to what is correct so that they will fear evil. We witness Wisdom warning, laughing, and threatening, like a dog exposing its teeth. If an angry pitbull braced to strike every time we were about to sin, we would fear, correct?

Fortunate for us, God has not chosen to warn us this way - but He does, through His Word. Additionally, He warns us through the outcome of sin, which we see all around and in our own lives. Brothers and Sisters, it pays to heed! Let us not be foolish, but embark on this Wisdom that can only come from above!

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos

