

Dwelling in Days of Disarray

Sermon available on johnlongwell.com



- I. We are living in a day of disarray
 - A. The world lacks order and caters to confusion
 - 1. Financial experts have built entire careers around speculating about economic unknowns
 - 2. We invest in stocks & bonds (a system of uncertainty)
 - B. Disarray (confusion) lends itself to neglect (districts in N.O), which over time yields decay.
 - 1. God has purposed us to live with clarity

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace,

- 2. A little attention to the vital areas will revitalize our lives.

- II. We make a contract with confusion or a covenant with clarity
 - A. We sign the contract of confusion when we don't acknowledge God
 - 1. If any lacks wisdom (dwelling in disarray)...simply ask.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

2. Let us not think we are wise, let us show we are wise.

James 3:13-18 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- B. There are two kinds of wisdom, demonic and Divine.
 1. Demoniac wisdom: arrogantly believes they are wise without proof or demonstration
 2. Divine wisdom: meekly completes the Father's will without seeking or drawing attention
 3. Demoniac wisdom: marked by envy, selfishness, pride & deceitful lies draw the spotlight
 4. Divine wisdom: pure, peaceable, gentle and willing to yield,(without need to establish itself)
 5. Demoniac wisdom: spite, malice & selfishness are perfect soil for confusion & all things evil
 6. Divine wisdom: merciful, without bias or hypocrisy filled with good fruits
- C. The fruit harvested will be according to the nature of the one sowing
 - 1. We reap peace because it is sown in peace by those whose nature is to make peace
 - 2. The enemy would sell us seeds under pretense that will not yield the promised fruits
 - 3. Such is the recipe for confusion, under the guise of worldly wisdom
- D. We bind the covenant of Clarity when we acknowledge God

Proverbs 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

III. Establishing Christ in our lives

- A. God will give us specifically what we need to dislodge the obstruction in our path.
 1. God isn't generic, he is specific, personal and intimate & He knows what you need.

James 4:2-32 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

- 2. Beware: the obstruction may be the very heart with which we ask
- B. Dwight L. Moody & Billy Graham are known because of the impact of God not that of man
 1. The goal must be to establish Christ
 2. This is the key to a dynamic move of God
- C. Allow God to develop your strengths & cover your weaknesses with His grace
 1. Our faithfulness & obedience will be instrumental in finding the next Dwight & Billy
 2. Our first ministry is to our family. (This is the true heart of pure wisdom)

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.