

GOD IS A STRANGER IN THIS LAND

Jeremiah 14:8-9

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: In many parts of this country, there is very good reason to think that God is no stranger, and that He is busy making Himself known, yet in other parts of this land, it appears that God has become a stranger for He is not mentioned, His Word is not studied and there are many who have never even heard of His Son, Jesus Christ. If God is a stranger in parts of this land, then why, how has that happened? This country was founded upon the Word of God. What has happened? Why is God becoming a stranger in this great land?

- There are fewer and fewer conversions, people being saved.
 - When God is present with power anywhere, there are always people awakening to God's presence and being saved.
 - When God is present, there is love, joy and worship.
 - Take a good look at today - what a dismal contrast from years gone by.

- There is so much deadness among today's Christians.
 - In times of revival, not only are the lost saved, but Christians receive newness of life and are active in bringing people to Jesus.
 - How little of this is happening today. So few seem to be aware of all the evil surrounding.
 - It is very clear that God is indeed a stranger in this land.

- Sinners of today are very bold in their sins.
 - When God is present, sin is not as open and sinners are not as bold for there is a surrounding power that quiets sin.
 - Sinners are restrained in their sinfulness.
 - When God is not present however, sinners do not hide their sins nor are ashamed of what they do.

I. WHY HAS GOD BECOME A STRANGER IN THIS LAND?

1. God's ministers/preachers/pastors, evangelists are not preaching what they should be.
 - There is much unfaithful preaching.
 - A great percent of a church's congregation are out of God's will, yet their pastors are not concerned nor are their sermons aimed at those inactive, out of communion, out of God's will.
 - Many pastors do not deal tenderly, deeply concerned over his church family.
 - There is little of a persuading spirit among many pastors today.

2. There is much unfaithfulness in setting forth Jesus Christ as the answer to ALL the needs of sinners.
 - New converts are eager to tell everyone he/she knows about Jesus and if they were to become ministers, how they would persuade others.
 - There is little excitement and eagerness to tell others that Jesus is the answer to all one's needs by pastors of today.
 - Many pastors are like the Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day, they know the Scriptures, yet they do not practice what they know the Word of God says.
 - Many pastors do not set forth Jesus Christ clearly, plainly, faithfully nor do they beg people to be reconciled to Christ.
 - No wonder God is a stranger in this land.

II. GOD HAS BECOME A STRANGER TO CHRISTIANS

1. There seems to be little thirst for hearing the Word of God among Christians.
 - Many Christians seem to want to specify what they will hear from the pulpit.
 - They come as judges rather than as children.
 - They prefer to be popular as Moses rather than sit with Mary at the feet of Jesus.
2. The prayers of Christians today are without power.
 - Christians could be people of great power yet they will not pray in tears and sorrow.
 - Christians hurry through any prayers they might make, when they can find the time.
 - Few if any Christians of today spend hours in prayer.
3. There is little intercession among Christians of today.
 - All Christians should have names of their friends, neighbors, church family, and the lost, the wicked beside them in their prayer time.
 - How little Christians pray for their pastors, for the gift of the Holy Spirit for opportunities of service for the conversion of the lost.
 - Christians are selfish in their prayers.
4. There is little joint prayer among Christians of today.
 - ***"...If two of you shall agree on earth, touching something that ye shall ask, it shall be done for you of my Father..."***
 - So many Christians neglect this promise.
 - In the early church, people were always praying together.
 - Sadly Christians of today do not pray together to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
 - How often do Christians get together to just pray?
 - Oh that Christians would get together and pour out their hearts in unison to God.

III. GOD IS A STRANGER TO THE LOST

1. Sinners, the lost of today have little knowledge or awareness that they are lost.
 - Many know that they have never believed in Jesus, yet are still happy.
 - Many know that they have never been born again, that they cannot see the kingdom of God, yet they go on about their lives as if nothing is wrong.
 - God is a stranger to them.
2. Sinners of today have no sense of their need of Jesus Christ.
 - No doubt Jesus Christ is a friend of sinners, yet countless people of today are happy and content to continue living their lives without knowing Him.
 - Sinners of today see little in the Christians that they know that would cause them to be interested in becoming a Christian.
3. There is a strong resistance of the Holy Spirit among people of today.
 - Many have had their hearts stirred by the Holy Spirit, yet have smothered their convictions.
 - Many have been brought to the point of decision but like Lot's wife, looked back and remained lost.

CONCLUSION:

1. God is not only a stranger in foreign countries who have never known God, but God, sadly, is a stranger in this country, our own land.
2. God has become a stranger in His own Church.
3. God has become a stranger among His preachers, ministers, pastors, evangelists, missionaries.
4. God has become a stranger to the average Christian.
5. God remains a stranger to the lost.
6. Is God a stranger to YOU? You say "NO!" but take a good look at your attitude toward His Word, what is your prayer life like? Do you join other Christians for hours of prayer? What do you look for when you attend worship services? How often do you think of God through the week?
7. Bring back God!