

# **BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT** Sermon by Ed Bousman

When the children of Israel were on their way to the promised land, the tribe of Reuben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh, told Moses they wanted to inherit on the east side of Jordan. Moses opposed this at first on the grounds that it would discourage the other tribes from crossing the Jordan, if two and a half tribes stayed on the east side and did not join in the battles that would surely come. Reuben and Gad told Moses that the other tribes had nothing to fear. They would go over Jordan with their brothers and help them take the promised land and not return 'til they had conquered the enemy. At this point Moses uttered these famous words, "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT." *Numbers 32:23.* 

Many and varied have been the sermons preached from this verse. I used to preach a sermon early in my ministry where I pointed out that the sin of a nation would find them out. I used the illustration of how as a boy I saw the coal cars lined up as far as the eye could see with scrap iron that we were selling to Japan. As high school boys we often said, "One of these days they will shoot that stuff back at us," and they did at Pearl Harbor. BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT.

Paul said to Timothy, "Some men's sin are even going before them into judgment and some will follow after. It is evident from the way some live that they are headed for hell. Some men's sin are evidently going before them into judgment. One servant of the devil asked a certain elder, "Where is hell?" The elder answered, "Just keep on going the way you are going and you can't miss it." In the lives of some people we never suspect a thing. They bribe the jury, outrun the sheriff, or are otherwise very adroit in covering up but the day will come. BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT.

However, true though these words may be, Moses was

not talking about any of these sin when he addressed the children of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh. He said "If you don't fight the Lord's battles, Be sure your sin will find you out." It was not a sin of doing something wrong. It was the sin of not doing something they should do. "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord, and Be sure your sin will find you out." Is it not true that the Israel of God today has been given a commission? We call it the Great Commission. Jesus has given us our marching orders, and if we do not carry them out, we have sinned against the Lord. BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT.

While it is true that not all of us can be preachers or teachers, it is equally true that there is work for all. There are no drones in the Kingdom of God. If ye do not, ye have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out. Let us draw some practical conclusions to this warning of Moses.

#### ATTENDANCE

One of the commands to the Israel of God on their way to the Eternal Promised Land is in regards to attendance. Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together is the divine injunction. Is it right for some of God's people to be faithful week after week in attendance and for others to take their ease and come when they feel like it, and stay home when they don't? If they are not faithful in this area, they have sinned against the Lord, and BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT.

I once knew a girl who had expressed a desire to be a missionary. She was faithful to the Lord and His Table for years. As a college student she was involved in a play where one practice was to take place on Sunday morning. She never missed the church services, and did not intend to miss this time, but someone said that it would not hurt just this one time. She missed that one service and on that day she met a young Jewish fellow; it was love at first sight. She married him and the last time I saw her she told me she had not been to services for over a year. This was the result of missing one service - just one absence from the Lord's Table. If ye do not, ye have sinned against the Lord and be sure your sin will find you out. Make no mistake your sin also will track you down. There is no way to escape. You have sinned against the Lord and BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT.

#### BIBLE

Another area of service for the Israel of God in their march to the Promised Land is in the statement of Paul to study to show ourselves approved unto God. Is it right for people to give their life's blood that we might have an unlimited supply of Bibles and for us to spend such little time in the study of them?

In the past three months I have read the Old Testament through three times and hope to read it through nine more times before the year comes to a close. I mention this in hopes that it may provide a more diligent reading on the part of those who read this statement. I can bear witness to Bible school teachers and preachers especially, that if you read the Old as well as the New Testaments in such large slabs, they will provide a rich source of sermonic and teaching ideas and materials. I urge you to dig deep into the springs of the Old Testament scriptures. Is it right for a person who claims to be a Christian to neglect a book that has such insights into the human race?

#### **EVANGELIZE**

Remember the Great Commission of the Lord—Go -Teach - Baptize - Teach. Not all can serve the Lord in the same way, everyone understands this, but what have you done? I am not asking this question to those who are still in mystic Babylon - those who are enslaved in a denominational system. I am asking it of those who are washed in the Blood-those who believed, repented, who were immersed for the remission of sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit. What have you done lately to enlarge the borders of Zion? What have you done to expand the Kingdom of God? What have you done to build the Church of Christ? What have you done to convert the lost? A recent poll shows that 61% of Americans are unchurched. But what does that mean? According to the pollsters it means that if you go to church on Christmas and Easter and two other times during the year, you are considered a churched person (come to think of it, that is the way most members of the Church of Christ look at it too). It makes no difference to me personally, (I don't know what you think) whether they go four times a year or twice every Sunday or once every day in the week; if they have not obeyed the gospel plan of salvation as found in Acts 2:38 they are unchurched. In the second chapter of Acts it is also stated that the Lord added to them daily such as should be saved. This is quite simple to me: those who have not obeyed are unchurched, no matter how many times they show up for services. So let me ask you again: "What have you done to advance the Kingdom of God? Is it right for others to work and invite and teach and lead others to the Lord and for you to do nothing?" In this area, like the others, it is not what you do that is wrong, but what you don't do. IF YOU DO

#### NOT, YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD, AND BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT. PLAN OF SALVATION

Now a word to the folk who are not members of the Lord's church. Peter on the day of Pentecost told those who inquired, "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sin; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." We are told that three thousand people of that crowd, and on that day, did exactly what Peter said. Is it right for them to obey what the Lord said through Peter and for you to say I am saved first and then baptized? Listen to these solemn words again - burn them into your brain. IF YOU DO NOT, YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD, AND BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT.

Consider also the eighth chapter of Acts as far as the mode is concerned. They went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him, and when they came up out of the water. Is it right for this man to be required to go down into the water and for you to submit only to the wet finger of a misguided preacher? Is it right? I believe we can say in all seriousness and candor: IF YOU DO NOT, YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD, AND BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT.

We have said many times on the radio, find a Christian who will immerse you into Christ for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. As we have said it there, we say it to you now. Do it now. Do it today. Wait no longer. One man wrote recently and said that it was amazing to him how many times he had listened to me preach on the air and he was still a sinner. He said; "Send me the book of sermons and maybe by one big jolt I will make the decision." We are waiting for his answer. Remember God has made it plain and IF YOU DO NOT, YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD AND BE SURE YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT.

#### A FINAL WORD

Let me remind you once more that the sin Moses was speaking about was not the sin of doing something wrong, but the sin of doing nothing. The vocabulary of those who don't, and those who do, is vastly different. Those who don't will say, "How many times do I have to go to services? How many times do I have to read the Bible? How many times do I have to pray? How many people do I have to win to Christ? How much money do I have to give?" This is the way the people who do nothing speak. Those who do are the ones who speak in a different vocabulary. They say, "How many times will I be given the opportunity to go up to the House of God this week? How many times will I be able to read the Bible? How many opportunities will I be given to win a soul to Christ? How many chances will I have to witness this week for my Lord and Savior?" This is the difference in the vocabulary of those who do, and those who don't.

> Must I be wafted to the skies on flowery beds of ease? While others fought to gain the prize and sailed through bloody seas?

Remember, IF YE DO NOT, YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD AND BE SURE YOUR SIN

WILL FIND YOU OUT. When I was going through some papers on Ed's desk, I ran across this sermon. It appeared in a early edition of GIJAPA's monthly newsletter written in 1977. It sound like it could have been written in 2012. Not a lot of changes have been made in people's attitude towards sin over the past 33 years.



#### Dear Mrs. Bousman,

Please find the enclosed tithe so that many more my come to know God. Thank you for continuing to inform us of the needs of your ministry. It is very encouraging to read about what I can do to help those in need. It is hard to believe that Ed has been gone from us here on earth for over a year now. I listen to his sermons each and every Sunday and am comforted and guided by his words. He has not left us, just as God and Jesus Christ will never forsake us. Hallelujah!

Sincerely, Mark from Richmond, VA

### Hi There,

My name is Robert and I am serving a life W/O parole sentence in Arkansas. I have been in prison for 21 straight years; I am 43 years old. I am a believer in God and study the Bible every day. The prison here provides me with a paperback Bible but I wear them out in about six months they begin to fall apart and then I lose all my notes and things I have underlined and have to start all over again. A fellow inmate gave me your address and said that you send large print Bibles to inmates. Mrs. Bousman, if you will please send me one of those Bibles I will be very grateful and it will get put to good and often use in my studies. Please send your Bible studies also. I never have enough to do.

# God bless, Robert from Grady, Arkansas

I thank you again for the Bible, I've made it very useful doing my Bible studies and I'm finishing "The Christian Way" as of now. I also thank you for the Old and New Testament Sermon books of Ed Bousman's. I also would like to ask you to put my family in the church prayers. I have a lot of pain in my life for letting god and the Church and my family down. I've got four grown children and 16 year old and Isaiah the baby he's with DHS because of all of this. I also have 10 grandchildren I love and miss so much. I'll be 50 this month and I've got three years of prison left. I'm doing a ten year sentence for meth.

Love, Frederick from Dermott, TX

I just received the New Testament Sermon book. (When a prisoner completes the 30 lesson - Studies in the Bible - covering Genesis thru Revelation, we send them a copy of Ed's NT Sermon Book Vol. 3). I cannot put it down. Acts is not my favorite subject but Ed makes it funny. I can't wait to receive another book of his. Thank you for the Bible, the Bible Studies and the book. I also love the song "God Is Just A Prayer Away." What books has he written? *Jennifer from Newport, AR* 

My Dear Sister Naomi.

We have received other two boxes of Bibles. Thank you so much. On last Sunday in August, God willing, I will visit Kyansange Church of Christ, in chief Mujimanzovu, 85 km away from Solwezi town, our first church to open after our graduation. Please pray for us during this period. Naomi and all our children are doing well and the church is fine. Thank you . Peace be with you. *JOHN MASEKA Church minister / Evangelist of Messenger Church of Christ in Zambia* 

# Dear Sister Naomi,

I do hope you are fine with the children. Praise be to God. Thanks be to God for your life on earth, we have received the two boxes of Bibles you posted to us. We are very grateful, sister. Please keep on assisting us here on this hard soil this way, with clothes and Bibles for without you we don't know how to move on with the work over here. Our God is indeed good for us here. We now have a new congregation at Brikama a Muslim strong hold town. We are going to use these Bibles there for our new converts and prospects, thanks so much in the Lord. We have started with those baptized and rented a place for that. It is my wish we plant one more congregation before the end of the year. The amount of people we have got through that Pentecostal Church is great and I prefer we plant a congregation there for them for they come from far to join us in worship all the time Please keep on praying for us, surely, our God is great.

Thanks. Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God. London Corner Church of Christ, The Gambia



Worship Day at Londno Corner Church (the eastern roll)



Alexander Ofori with the children of London Corner Congregation

# ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE.

Ed began the GIJAPA ministry with this scripture from Matthew 7:7 and 50 years later we remember the Lord's promise: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

I've struggled with writing this article since August 10th when I paid the July radio bills (5 Sundays) that totaled \$27, 498, bringing our monthly balance to its lowest level in three years! Here is GIJAPA's income and expenses for this year:

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES
January	\$42,000	\$45,900
February	\$31,743	\$39,980
March	\$40,095	\$48,222
April	\$31,483	\$43,716
May	\$34,153	\$39,621
June	\$29,856	\$34,672
July	\$37,227	\$40,366

I've been in daily contact with Eric, Melanie and the rest of the trustees. We are all in agreement that you faithful supporters and regular listeners need to know that GIJAPA needs your help!

Here's some things we want you to know: I am not currently taking a salary from GIJAPA. The cost of the additional stations KDWN and KRVN added this year that took us coast to coast are half covered by an anonymous listener who is giving \$600 a month. In addition to the 11 broadcasts heard in the US every Lord's Day plus the international broadcast ministry through five shortwave broadcasts heard in 61 countries; we have these ministries: Sending Bibles and Bible Studies to over 1600 prisoners. Shipping shoes, clothes, and Bibles to several of our Churches in Zambia, The Gambia, Philippines, Liberia and India.

Because of your prayers, faithfulness and generosity over the past 3 months we have sent 200 large print Bibles to prisoners for a total of \$2,662. We have shipped 146 pew Bibles to our Churches out of the US for a total \$1547. And we have also shipped 35 boxes of clothes - baby and children's - to The Gambia, Zambia, Philippines, and India for a total of \$2,219. I have 42 more boxes of baby and children's clothes ready to ship and 117 requests from prisoners for large print Bibles and Bible studies when the funds are available.

Thanks to all of you who send your regular gifts faithfully and for the special gifts designated for Bibles/postage for baby clothes and children's clothes. But we must point out that at it's heart GIJAPA is a radio evangelism ministry and these special ministries will have to decrease before the radio broadcasts decrease. We will continue to keep you informed as we continue to labor with Ed's last request: Keep GIJAPA going for as long as you can." I leave you with these words of Solomon and Paul: "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established" (Prov 16:3). "And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28). Naomi, Eric, Melanie, Joe, Bob Stevens and Robert Feathers, GIJAPA's Trustees.



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