



Up Words # 24

Sudden Destruction



This week we will soberly remember the 11th anniversary of 9-11. Almost all of us vividly remember where we were and what we were doing when we realized that New York City and Washington, D.C. were being attacked by Islamic terrorists on September 11, 2001. Thousands died in these assaults and many thousands more were forever affected by the devastation of those days. Sadly sudden destruction struck.

More recently and thankfully less severely our nation has faced other destructive forces. Wild fires, tornados and hurricanes unfortunately bring loss of life and turmoil in their wake. In addition many sadly suffer at the hands of violent criminals who callously take the lives of others. Adding to this, auto accidents claim thousands of lives each year.

The fact is, sudden destruction is out there and that is really rather scary.

You might be surprised to know that God uses the term, "sudden destruction," only one time in all of the Bible. In I Thessalonians 5:2-3 the King James Version of the Bible says, "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." There is coming a day of great Tribulation when the just and righteous wrath of God will be unleashed on this unsuspecting world. It will be frightfully awful.

Sadly the Bible indicates that the day of the Lord will come at a time when men and women are celebrating peace and safety. People and politicians may think they can improve the human condition but ultimately their efforts will fail.

Fortunately there is salvation from sudden destruction. A few verses further down in the I Thessalonians passage we read, "For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us" (I Thessalonians 5:9-10a).

The fact is, available salvation is out there and that is really rather amazing!

No one can predict when terrible or violent things may come. No one knows what tomorrow may bring and none of us are certain we'll be living next week. What we can thankfully know is where we will spend eternity. Because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross for me, I know that I will never face His wrath and the sudden destruction of hell. I've chosen to receive God's gracious gift of salvation ... Have you?

Looking Up!

Pastor Chuck Circle