

We are Never Alone

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Joshua 1:1-9
- B. We live in the most prosperous nation in the history of the planet, and yet we are a lonely people living in isolation in a crowd
 - 1. At \$23,000 per year, our poverty level is higher than the living standard of the wealthy in many nations.
 - 2. The average American family holdings is worth \$125,000
 - 3. The average American family owes \$15,000 in credit card debt.
- C. All of this wealth has not cured our social ills nor made us satisfied.
 - 1. We average 5,500,000 robberies each year.
 - 2. As of June 2017, the American criminal justice system holds more than 2.3 million people in 5,961 prison facilities; 7,000,000 people on probation or parole; 3% of the US population, the highest in the world
- D. Great wealth has not made Americans a happy people.
 - 1. 750,000 people attempt suicide each year and 30,000 succeed.
 - 2. 1 out of every 9 people are being treated for depression; depression accounts for 61% of suicides
 - 3. And estimated 18% of Americans are alcohol or drug addicted
- E. Even in this era of social media, loneliness is one of American's most commonly reported anxieties.
 - 1. It is believed that social media actually adds to the feelings of isolation and loneliness. (Indirect com)
 - 2. Loneliness contributes to materialism. People often try to replace people with things and stuff. When we are down, we go shopping instead of turning to a family member or a friend.
 - 3. People are forgetting how to make and to maintain close relationships.
 - a. It takes time to build relationships and we are too busy for others.
 - b. We move more often than any other country.
 - c. In a nation of 327,000,000 people with more financial liberty, leisure time, communications technology, and freedom to use all three, we report that we feel more alone than any other generation before us in any other nation of the world.

I. CHRISTIANS NEVER FACE HARDSHIPS ALONE

- A. God never leaves His people alone - Heb. 13:5
 - 1. When Israel entered the Promised Land - Deut. 31:6
 - 2. When Elijah thought he was alone in Israel - 1Kings 1:14, 18
 - 3. When Israel thought God abandoned them - Isa. 49:14-16
- B. God gives Christians the same reassurance - Heb. 13:5-6, 8
 - 1. Living as Christians means that one will stand out, and standing out often translates into standing apart as the crowd distances itself
 - a. Matt. 5:14; John 3:20; Eph. 5:11; 2Tim. 3:12

2. "When Moses says, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?' God answers not by telling Moses who he is, but by telling him who God is, saying, 'I will be with you' (Ex. 3:12)." (Harold S. Kushner)
3. "A God wise enough to create me and the world I live in is wise enough to watch out for me." (Philip Yancey)

II. SATAN HUNTS CHRISTIANS WHEN THEY ARE ALONE

- A. Like packs of predatory animals who try to isolate the vulnerable and attack them when they are separated and alone, so the Adversary tries to overwhelm the faithful when they are alone
 1. Satan tempted Jesus when He was alone and hungry in the wilderness
 - a. Matt. 4:1-2
- B. Job's resistance to questioning God's justice was weakened by being alone
 1. His children were dead, his servants were driven off or killed, his wife told him to curse God and die, and his three friends accused him of being a sinner and living in denial
 2. Job did not understand why he was suffering, God had not told him, and no one seemed to be on his side; he was alone and began to complain.
- C. Even in his darkest hour, God was with Elisha - 2Kings 6:14-17
 1. Jesus Who can't lie promised He would always be with us - Matt. 28:20
- D. Satan will never have enough power separate us from God - Rom. 8:31-39

III. GOD ENABLES US TO STAND

- A. God promised Joshua that He would be with him all the way - Joshua 1:9
- B. Solomon was promised that God would be with him until the temple was built.
 1. 1Chron. 28:20
- C. In the body, God is with us in this world; out of the body, we will be with the Lord in the world to come. We will never be alone - 2Cor. 5:1-9
- D. "The closer you are to the end of your temporal trials, the louder the voice of critics. Close your ears to the heavy downpours of their discouragements. God whispers; 'I am with you.'" (Israelmore Ayivor)