

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE (S)WORD.

Our reading of the Word of God has become very selective and it is precisely this that makes our Christian foundation shaky. We hang on to one verse and are determined that God makes it come true. But God is not bound by one verse or one doctrine. When we trust God, we should trust His Word in all its entirety. That is why I want to simply highlight pairs of verses which do not complement each other. And most of the times we want to claim and own only the ones with the promise but not the condition or the reprimand. I also ask you to read the context of all these verses.

We know this,

Psalms 50:15 (NASB) ¹⁵ Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.”

But this

Isaiah 1:15 (NASB) ¹⁵ “So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*,
I will hide My eyes from you;
Yes, even though you multiply prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are covered with blood.

We know this

Psalms 37:4 (NASB) ⁴ Delight yourself in the LORD;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.

But this

1 John 5:14 (NASB) ¹⁴This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

(The corollary is, if we do not ask according to His will, He will not hear even if it is the desire of our heart. But this is only when you ask Him, to grant your petition according to His will.)

We know this

Matthew 10:41 (NASB) ⁴¹“He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.

But this

Ezekiel 14:10-11 (RSV) ¹⁰And they shall bear their punishment—the punishment of the prophet and the punishment of the inquirer shall be alike— ¹¹that the house of Israel may go no more astray from me, nor defile themselves any more with all their transgressions, but that they may be my people and I may be their God, says the Lord GOD.”

(The danger lies with us, do we know the prophet we are inquiring is the one approved by God or speaks whatever he feels like. In recent days, most of the prophets do not come anywhere near the godly prophets.)

The reason why I’ve chosen these verses is to question the prevalent one sided perception of God. Today’s Christians think that however they live, God’s only job is to bless them and make them glad with material blessings. But we see it is not always the case. Jesus says very clearly that on the Last Day, He will judge according to His word,

(John 12:48 (RSV) ⁴⁸He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings has a judge; the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day. John 12,48).

With which Word He will judge, is solely the Decision of the Judge. We also see there is the Other side of the Sword, His word. But Jesus Christ, who will return as the Judge will have the Final Word.

Let us read the Word of God in its entirety and abide by it. God bless.