BROKEN CISTERNS

Jeremiah 2:13

INTRODUCTION:

1. "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." Jeremiah 2:13

2. God, through Jeremiah, charges His people with having committed two evils:
   A. They had forsaken God, the fountain of living waters.
   B. They had hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that could hold no water.

3. They had joined themselves to idols, which were like broken cisterns that could hold no water.

4. They had forsaken God, a fountain of living water for these old dry and broken cisterns which could not satisfy the thirsty soul.

5. Christ today gives us "LIVING WATER" to satisfy the thirsty soul -- John 4:10 - 14.

6. Many today, like Israel of old, have forsaken God and Christ who gives living water for old dry and broken cisterns which cannot satisfy the thirsty soul.

7. Let us look at some of the broken cisterns.

I. MANY HAVE TURNED TO THE BROKEN CISTERNS OF MATERIALISM.

1. Many seem to think that material things can satisfy the soul in our day.

2. The rich farmer of Lk. 12:16 - 21 made this mistake.

3. The Rich man of Lk. 16:19 - 31 made this mistake.

4. Jesus warns in Matt. 6:
   A. Matt. 6:19 - 21
   B. Matt. 6:24

5. Paul warns in I Tim. 6:
   A. I Tim. 6:6 - 10
   B. I Tim. 6:17 - 19


7. To trust in material things instead of the living God, is to trust in a broken cistern.

II. MANY TURN TO THE BROKEN CISTERN OF DENOMINATIONALISM.

1. They have rejected the church of the New Testament, and trusted in churches of human origin.

2. Such churches are broken cisterns -- Psa. 127:1; Matt. 15:9, 13
3. Christ has but one church -- Matt. 16: 18; Eph. 4:4

4. The saved are added to it -- Acts 2:47.

5. Why denominationalism is a broken cistern:
   A. It exists without Christ’s Authority -- Matt. 28:18
      a. Christ condemned division, false teachers, and false doctrines -- John 17: 20 -21; Matt. 7:15; Matt. 15:9
   B. It is carnality -- I Cor. 3:3
   C. It mocks the prayer of Jesus -- John 17: 20 - 21
   D. It keeps many people from believing in Christ -- John 17:21
   E. It makes Christ a contradictory Lord -- if He has one man denying what He has another affirming.
      a. One teaches pouring and sprinkling for baptism and another immersion.
   F. It makes Christ a hypocritical Lord, if He endorses contradictory doctrines.
   G. It makes Christ a polygamous Lord, if He has many brides -- Eph. 5:23.
   H. It exalts men above Christ.
   I. It holds to the traditions of men above the Word of God -- Matt. 3 - 9
   J. It is a compromise with error -- II Cor. 6: 14 - 17

6. Denominationalism is a broken cistern.

III. MORALITY ALONE IS A BROKEN CISTERN.
   1. There is an idea prevalent in the world today that a man is saved by his morality.
   2. Morality alone will not save anybody.
   3. Cornelius was morally good, but he was a sinner and needed salvation -- Acts 10:1 - 2; Acts 11: 13 - 14
   4. Morality alone is a broken cistern.

IV. BEING A "NOMINAL" CHRISTIAN IS A BROKEN CISTERN.
   1. "Nominal" means: "existing in name only; not real or actual; hence, so small, slight, or the like as to be hardly worth the name;"...
   3. Many members of the church today are only NOMINAL Christians.
      A. They do not study their Bibles at home -- II Tim. 2:15
      B. They don’t attend Bible study.
C. They only come to the worship period on Sunday morning.
D. They don’t come back on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights.
E. They only give sparingly -- II Cor. 9:6
F. They go to Worldly places.
G. They dress Worldly.
H. They don’t attend gospel meetings.
I. They can hardly sit through a 45 minute sermon.
J. They never try to convert anybody.
k. They are always unhappy with the congregation.

4. Being a nominal Christian is a broken cistern.

V. THE LIVING WATER THAT CHRIST PROVIDES FOR MAN IS THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

1. The gospel, like water, is refreshing -- Rev. 22:17.
   A. Water only will revive vegetation from drought.
   B. The gospel only will revive men spiritually -- Rom. 1:16; Eph. 2:1-6; Acts 3:19

2. Water is a universal necessity.
   A. The gospel is a universal necessity for all nations -- Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16

CONCLUSION:

1. Won’t you come in obedience to Christ now, that your thirst might be quenched? Rev. 22:17

2. Broken cisterns cannot quench the thirst of the soul.