

BROKEN CISTERNS

Lesson 2

Jeremiah 2:13

Introduction:

1. Jeremiah spent over forty years preaching to people who never listened and never heeded his preaching.
2. Here in Jeremiah 2:13, God charged His people with having committed TWO EVILS:
 - (1) They had forsaken God, the fountain of living waters.
 - (2) They had hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that could hold no water.
3. They had forsaken God, the Chief and only source of the soul's refreshment.
 - (1) God's refreshing grace is ever flowing to His obedient children.
 - (2) God is a refreshing spring (Psa. 36:9) "*For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light*"...
4. Israel had deserted God who could satisfy their every need, and had turned to idols, which were like broken cisterns that could hold no water (Jer. 2:11).
5. Christ today gives "living water" to satisfy the thirsty soul (John 4:10, 14; Rev. 22:17).
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 CISTERN OF MODERNISM

1. WHAT IS MODERNISM? "It is a general looseness in attitude toward conformity; a non-strictness in regard to essentials; It is a trend of thinking, an attitude toward things divine; in varying degrees it consists of irreverence for that which is holy and sacred, and puts trust and reliance upon human wisdom and individual experience.
2. It is an attitude and trend of thinking that has manifest itself in all ages.
 - (1) CAIN was a modernist -- Gen. 4: 1 - 5; Heb. 11:4
 - (2) NADAB and ABIHU -- Lev. 10: 1 - 2; 16:12
 - (3) SAUL -- I Sam. 15: 3, 9, 22
3. Modernism is based upon several things:
 - (1) Man's high opinion of himself; his faith in his own wisdom and knowledge; things must be explained in light of human reasoning (Prov. 3: 5 - 6; Isa. 55: 8 - 9; Jer. 10:23; I Cor. 3:18; Rom. 12:3).

(2) Man's lack of TRUST and FAITH in the infallible Word of God as the absolute standard of Truth in all religious matters -- II Tim. 3: 16 - 17; II Pet. 1:3; James 1:25; I Cor. 13: 10

(3) The desire to please one's self.

(1) Many things are done in religion to please the individual without regard for God's Will -- Col. 2:23

(2) "I like it"; "We like it and we are going to have it"

1. "I like instrumental music"

2. " I like church furnished entertainment

3. " I like the sponsoring church"

4. "I like the social gospel"

5. " I like to drink"

6. " I like human institutions to do the work of the church"

(4) It appeals to the emotions

(1) Man's emotions have caused him to set aside God's Law down through time.

(2) Man's emotions causes him to set aside God's law to save man.

(3) To set aside God's Law on divorce and remarriage

(4) To set aside God's Law on the Orphan's home

(5) IT IS POPULAR

(1) Israel wanted a king to be popular -- I Sam. 8: 5

(2) The chief rulers would not confess Christ to be popular -- John 12: 42 - 43; 9:22

(3) Many churches will not preach ALL the TRUTH to be popular.

II. SOME OF THE RESULTS OF MODERNISM

1. Modernism takes the "BACKBONE" out of the religion of Christ.

(1) When one is afflicted with modernism he loses his CONVICTIONS ABOUT GOD'S PLAN for lost man.

(2) He is more interested in man in this life.

2. A result of Modernism is a WATERED DOWN GOSPEL.

(1) SIN in the LIVES of Christians is NO LONGER FOUGHT.

(2) Sweet, soothing messages, and philosophical sermonettes are the order of the day in too many pulpits -- Isa. 30: 9 - 10; Jer. 5: 31

3. Modernism saps the strength out of religion.

- (1) Members influenced by modernism lose zeal and courage to fight the good fight of faith -- I Tim. 6:12

4. Modernism produces the SOCIAL GOSPEL

- (1) The Social Gospel's goal is to bring man to a full life in this world.
- (2) The Social Gospel is concerned with social problems.
- (3) Human organizations formed to better man in this life are supported from the church treasury.
 - (1) Schools and colleges
 - (2) Summer camps
 - (3) Benevolent Societies
 - (4) Life centers and kitchens

5. A RESULT of Modernism is to MINIMIZE THE AUTHORITY of the written Word of God -- John 12: 48

- (1) With some brethren, if a thing fits into the scheme of human reason, no other authority is needed.
- (2) Many have abandoned the plea for New Testament authority (BOOK, CHAPTER and VERSE IS NO LONGER ASKED FOR) -- I Pet. 4:11; Matt. 28:18
- (3) We see everywhere today the contaminating influence of Modernism.
 - (1) The Unity-in-diversity movement
 - (2) Rom. 14 deals with doctrine movement
 - (3) The social gospel

6. It causes the very nature of the church to be QUESTIONED.

- (1) Those influenced by liberal concepts look upon the church as "just another denomination".
- (2) The church is NOT A DENOMINATION
- (3) The church of the New Testament:
 - (1) Was prophesied in the Old Testament -- Isa. 2: 2 - 4
 - (2) Was built by Christ -- Matt. 16:18
 - (3) Was bought with the blood of Christ -- Acts 20:28
 - (4) Was established on Pentecost -- Acts 2:47
 - (5) Only those who are in His church will be saved in the end -- Eph. 5: 23,27

7. Modernism causes men to teach:

- (1) Baptism is not essential to salvation -- Acts 2:38
- (2) It causes men to change the worship of the church

- (1) Introduce special music
- (2) Introduce instrumental music
- (3) Emotionalism
- (3) To give women a leadership role in the church -- I Tim. 2:11 - 14
- (4) To teach "doctrine does not matter" -- I Tim. 1:3
- (5) To teach the direct operation of the Holy Spirit, and that men are guided by the Spirit today.

III. THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF MODERNISM

1. LOYALTY to the Word of God

(1) Book, Chapter, and Verse -- I Pet. 4:11

2. Emphasis on the Restoration Plea -- to go back to the First Century

3. We must have a willingness to stand on our convictions -- Eph. 6: 16 - 17

~Donald Townsley

(River Bend 1997)