

A Preacher of Righteousness
By Trey Sullins

What if you were tasked with preaching to entire world that was dying in sin? Your work would definitely be cut out for you! You would probably feel the constant burden of this upon you night and day. This is the exact situation Noah found himself in. However, in 2 Peter 2:4-9 the Bible says that He was a preacher of righteousness. Christians must see how through all the hardship and resistance he maintained his faith and continued to serve God always.

The world Noah lived in was engulfed in sin. After the sin of Adam and Eve two types of people developed: followers of God and followers of men. However, the latter quickly took the majority. Evil and wickedness took so much of a majority that in Genesis 6:5 God determines that every thought and intent of men was evil. In fact, it was so bad that God decided to destroy the entire earth and inhabitants (Genesis 6:6-7).

Consider how the world got to this condition. It was not that everyone woke up one day and said, "hey let's be evil from now on!" It was not that the leaders of the earth gathered together and decided wickedness was the way to go. It was a gradual process over generations of people choosing to give themselves over to sin and not teaching the next generation to serve God. Rinse and repeat for hundreds of years and you have a world nearly completely devoted to evil. This gradual decline in morality and godliness has happened numerous times throughout history. We can see this same pattern today as well. Notice in our own country how even the basic principles of morality have declined.

Through all this Noah remained faithful due to his excellent character. His faith was sincere. So sincere that whenever God asked him to do something he did, "according to all that God has commanded him" (Genesis 6:22). This was the attitude that he has when building that great ship prescribed by God. Imagine if you were told to build a massive ship right here in the Ozarks. You might be confused at first seeing that there is not a need that you can see yet. You might find it difficult to dedicate years of your life to this construction. These were realities that Noah faced; Yet in all instances he served God perfectly (Genesis 6:9).

We too must be preachers of righteousness. The word preacher means a herald. The task of the herald is to deliver a message on behalf of the authority, God. Although the ancient world certainly appears to have been worse, our world parallels Noah's in many ways. We must declare the warning and good news of Christ to all around us. Jesus compares His coming to the flood in Mathew 24:38-39, "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Jesus' point is that in the days of Noah no one paid attention to the warning. When Christ comes back to this earth there will also be very few who are ready. That is why our job is so important! We must bring the righteousness of Christ to these people and hopefully help more of them be prepared.

When we examine our lives, have we been heralds of righteousness as we should be? Looking to the life of Noah we can find great encouragement and evidence that even in the hardest of times we can remain righteous. Could it be said of us that we "found grace in the eyes of the Lord"

(Genesis 6:8). It only comes down to whether we choose to serve or not. Let us have a faith like Noah and proclaim God's word to the world every day!