

NEW YEAR'S DAY
"CEASE YE FROM MAN"

Introduction

1. This whole passage is deeply humbling
2. The text comes as an inevitable result
3. Modern religion goes wrong in that it does not create the fear of God in people

1. WE MUST LOOK AT SOCIETY AS GOD LOOKS AT IT

- 1) We are told here how society thought + behaved:
 - (i) v.6: Eastern religions finding a home where before only God's religion had been.
 - (ii) v.6: "soothsayers" – superstitious horoscopes
 - (iii) v.6: allowed people who were heathen to influence them – gave them an improper place
 - (iv) v.7+8: wealth – fast transport – bad religion
OBSERVE: It has a very modern ring to it.
- 2) How do you suppose Society felt about all this?
 - (i) They boasted of it: v.11: "lofty looks", "haughty".
 These terms occur more than one here.
 - (ii) Proud of: their economy / tolerance / broad-mindedness.
- 3) But God's attitude was not so: v.6-v.9
APPLICATION: So many modern Christians say, "Do not judge".

2. WE MUST BE ABSOLUTELY PERSUADED THAT THE BIBLE IS RIGHT THOUGH ALL THE WORLD DENIES IT

- 1) This is why God has given us His word – it is to correct our wrong ways of thinking / judging.
ILLUSTRATION: The days of the Judges – Elijah – the prophets – Christ – the Apostles – the Reformers.

- 2) The position is exactly the same today – too many say, "There is no harm in this + that".
 e.g. Changes coming into the Church – new attitudes towards worship / keeping the Lord's Day / bringing up children, etc. etc.
- 3) So, many pay lip-service to the Bible but their actual practice entirely the opposite: they follow man's ideas.
DOCTRINE: Christ said, "Judge righteous judgement".
- 4) This "righteous judgement" means: Form all your opinions and judgements by the Bible.
- 5) The alternative is entirely wrong: to go by what people are saying:
 - (i) "Genesis 1 is myth"
 - (ii) "The Moral law is now out of date"
 - (iii) "We must keep the unity of the church"
 But what if the visible church has departed from the Bible.
- 6) So, you have a choice:
 - (i) Do you go by men's opinion
 - (ii) or by God's?
APPLICATION: "Cease ye from man..."

3. WE NEED TO REMIND OURSELVES CONTINUALLY OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE WORLD WILL END

- 1) This is the supreme + ultimate reason why we cannot follow man: look how it will all end:
 - (i) v.19: mankind in terror before God when He comes finally to judge.
APPLICATION: This is so for temporal judgements like Sennacherib's invasion – much more so when the end of the world comes.
 - (ii) v.20: they will cast away all their idols when God rises up to judgement
 - (iii) v.21: they will cover away in terror in the Great Day – see Rev. 6 also.
- 2) True Christianity always instills the fear of God in us – it is an absolutely essential element in our religion.

CONCLUSION

So, in the light of all this, "Cease ye from man"!

PSALM
106: 1 – 6
99: 1 – 5
97: 10 - 12