

"BLESSING OR CURSE"**Introduction**

1. There are "Warning Passages" in Hebrews
2. This is to be understood in their case
3. But it has a relevance to us all

1. THE PASSAGE IS A VIVID ILLUSTRATION

- 1) The passage explained
- 2) How we should interpret this:
 - (i) It is perfectly reasonable
 - (ii) It is in full accord with justice
 - (iii) It is what God elsewhere tells us:
- 3) The other examples are:
 - (i) The Parable of the Vineyard (Isaiah 5)
 - (ii) The Barren Fig-Tree (Matthew 21)
 - (iii) The principle at work in the Seven Letters to Asian Churches (Revelation 2-3)
OBSERVE: God expects that his blessings should have a good effect on our lives

2. WHAT IS SYMBOLISED BY THE "RAIN" HERE?

- 1) It is an illustration of God's Word
 - (i) The reading of God's Word
 - (ii) The preaching of it
- 2) It conveys the most important message (Details)
- 3) Such great truths are given by God to have a powerful effect on us:
 - (i) On some they do: John 1, 4, 9, 20
 - (ii) But not on all: "Woe unto thee..." (Matthew 11)
APPLICATION: We are answerable for what we hear.

- 4) The Illustration here has fearful warnings in it:
 - (i) People may grow hard under the gospel
 - (ii) This gospel-hardening may happen to regular hearers: v.7 ("oft")
 - (iii) Hence the warnings of Hebrews 6, 10.
APPLICATION: Could words be more fearful?

3. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT HOW WE HEAR

- 1) Every false gospel deceives men: "You will be alright...God is love" ("Peace...when there is no peace")
- 2) The true gospel has both sides:
 - (i) a blessing if we repent and believe
 - (ii) a curse if we ignore, reject it
- 3) What, therefore, God looks for is FRUIT:
 - (i) This is explained in Galatians 5:22
 - (ii) It is the evidence of real faith
- 4) But it is possible just to hear and never to believe the gospel message:
 - (i) "end is to be burnt"
 - (ii) "nigh unto cursing"
APPLICATION: Could words be clearer? Are they not right, fair, perfectly reasonable?

APPLICATION

1. "The way to hell is paved...good intentions".
2. Are you still asleep when the house is on fire? Wake up!
3. God will bless you if you repent.

PSALM**95: 1 – 6****119: 116 – 120****50: 21 - 23**