

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT ON THE VIEW OF MAN

Ready For The Coming Of Christ

As usual with Berean conferences over the past years, I came with high expectancy. So did everyone who has ever sat under the ministry of Professor Chinyere Onwubiko and all our invitees as they were informed.

Thank God it's another April and here comes the erudite prophet-teacher and expository exegete of the timeless word of God. For me, it was another world altogether as he greeted me on the first day on the first section in the opening speech with an answer that reinforced its enigmatic hold on me over a month.

Twenty minutes before this time I discussed this matter of how does God ever mean to say He created us in his image and likeness? With so much difference, incalculably, immeasurably, distancing us from one another! Last year alone, my little village lost 44 souls to death. I lost 9 on my immediate father's line and 17 on my matrilineal extended family within and outside the village in addition. O God, why me?

The air was cleared when the man of God spoke forth to establish that the matter of our being made in the likeness and image of God remains an unsalted theological issue. He cited the statement of our Lord Jesus that God is a Spirit and from Prophet Samuel who learnt that God looks on the inside man while man looks on the outside man. Jon 4:24 and 1 Sam 16:7. At best we should see these image and likeness from the spiritual and morality of man and such like. Relieved I was and sat eagerly to consume the rest of the messages that would process from his mouth.

He truly did more than justice in the selections, presentations on this years topic of 'VIEW OF MAN' under the thematic of subject of how a Christian 'DARE TO BE DIFFERENT' started since three years ago. From the fact that man was made not innocent as the traditional view but obedience neutral to the fall and the current depraved state of man and his redeemable state one stood enthralled as he wove the subjects together to produce healing in our ears.

What a hope for us, what a merciful God amidst the disastrous consequences of the fall in Eden. It takes a creationist to believe this. Against the false philosophies man can be regenerated, transformed, reformed and rehabilitated from sinfulness, curses of the law and lifestyle incompatible with the nature of God. False religions deny the fall of man. No creationist will seek to blur the male and female roles ordained of God. No place for a bisexual in God.

This loss of faith in the spiritual nature in man has created problematic marriages. Men settle rather on the animalistic features than spiritual characteristics as preconditions. All our humanitarian good is mere face saving before the face of the holy God. It is no good in His sight and standard.

So he move on challenging us to "DARE TO BE DIFFERENT" and took us on a trip to "HIGHER UNDERSTANDING OF MORALITY." He established the great difference between the believers view of sin and that of the moralist from the Sermon on the Mount. While the moralist sees murder from the physical sense only, Jesus taught us otherwise. We should be ware of abusive speeches, calling of names and from hatred which are precursors to and are murder from divine stand point.

Lust on its own is sexual sin and revenge is forbidden. As for 'eye for eye' it simply speaks of proportionality of punishment to crime in the judicial process. Turning the other cheek when smitten means you don't avenge yourself. When smitten at his trial, he demanded for the why.

He challenged us to be discreet in relationship and beware of sex before marriage for God will avenge every illicit sex affair. The words of the law of holiness runs through all generations no matter what dispensationalist try. Racism has just entered humanity in the seventeenth century C.E.

He taught men have to love their wives and women to submit to their own husbands as unto the Lord. Wives should be ware of seeking lordship over their husbands as inferred from Gen 3: 16b. They both should rear up their children under absolute morality and defer the principles of human philosophy as seen in some Western and developed nations today.

He challenged us to 'dare to be different' in avoiding falsehood in our dealings with one another, in word and in deed. He reiterated that falsehood leads to chaos as in Nigeria society for one.

This trumpeter of divine oracle was agog at Grace Doctrine Church warning us of the love of money. Said he, "MONEY CREATES ITS OWN PROBLEMS" for those who have it are plagued with insatiation. The more they have it, the more they want to have more.

At the sermon launch of the New Chapter of Berean International Ministries at Ohafia, Abia North, he led us on "RUNNING THE RACE". It was as if we sat at the foot of the Master physically being prepared for the soon Second Coming of the Lord.

We highly appreciate all the people who are behind the Ministry of Prof. to us this year again. How can we thank of enough for such sacrifices of letting out your resident pastor to take such a long trip across the continents to a people that you have never seen. This courtesy is due to your wonderful magnanimity shown in your contributions. It is too high to be underrated. See what a smile you put on our faces.

Widows, the motherless babies, less privileged, received monetary assistance even me who come all the way from Lagos State running across many states to attend the programme. Who also doubles as unofficial yet official photographer and reporter to the conference? Everybody went home smiling with a Bible and many other books written by the Professor whose cost runs into millions of naira.

We hope for a continued fellowship in the Lord till travelling days are done
God bless you all.

Even so come Lord Jesus.

Maranatha!
Pastor Peter Chima
(Berean correspondent)