**May 6, 2018 “Light in the Lord” Ephesians 5:8**

I was speaking with Rolland on Thursday morning as we were preparing to participate with other Christians in observing the National Day of Prayer by praying together for our nation. We too, like many of you are very concerned about the spiritual state of our nation and to be quite honest with you, I voiced my concern as well over the spiritual state of the Church in America. The reason I had mentioned this to Rolland was that I had been reading and re-reading the book of Jude this week and verses 3-4 really stopped me in my tracks and those verses became the basis of many of my thoughts this week.

Note Jude 3-4…

Note the progression

1. Common salvation
2. You contend earnestly
3. Turned the grace of God
4. Into licentiousness
5. Deny the Lord Jesus Christ as Master

Stay with me on this… do you see the interaction between God and man?

1. Common salvation
   1. Do you believe
      1. Salvation is from God?
         1. Yes… no man comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6)
         2. Yes… no one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit   
            (I Corinthians 12:3)
   2. Do you believe
      1. That we are chosen by God
         1. Absolutely… Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world… (Ephesians 2:4
      2. Do you believe that we are predestined?
         1. Absolutely… He predestined us to adoption as sons… (Ephesians 2:5) In Him predestined according to His purpose (Ephesians 2:11)
   3. Do you believe
      1. That whosoever may come?
         1. Absolutely… And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely… (Revelation 22:17)
   4. Do you believe
      1. That Jesus wants all men to be saved?
         1. Absolutely… For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all men (Titus 2:11)
         2. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires **all men** to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:4)
   5. Do you believe
      1. that God wants all men to repent?
         1. Absolutely… God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:30)
2. Contend earnestly
   1. Who is doing the contending?
      1. You or God?
   2. Who is Jude writing to?
      1. You
      2. Illustration… young man who felt God wanted him to quit smoking
         1. Will you pray for me?
            1. Follow through on the desire you put in his heart
         2. Also pray God will take away the urge to smoke
            1. Why?
            2. What he really wanted to follow was God’s leading without any discomfort
            3. I asked him… who do you want to quit smoking? You or God?
         3. John 6:53-56; 66
   3. Result
      1. Turn the grace of God into licentiousness
         1. Brings us back to Acts 17:30… God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness
      2. Illustration of 26 year old who had a heart attack?
         1. He went up front when he was 12
         2. How many of you think that man was saved?
      3. How do we reconcile that with
         1. Matthew 3:7-12
   4. Luke 6:46-49
      1. Denying Jesus as our Master
      2. What is He saying to us today?
      3. Ephesians 5:8-14
      4. I Peter 2:12

As I told you before, I spoke with Rolland on Thursday as we were preparing to pray for our nation, about how much I need repentance to be an on-going aspect of my life.

I firmly believe that God has showed me this week, how necessary true and genuine repentance is needed in my life to help me to have a realistic view of how mind-boggling the grace of God is.

When repentance has taken hold of me how can I not extend God’s grace to all those around me? How can I place myself on a pedestal? How can I not marvel at the Cross?

Maybe these are the questions, we should all ask?