

Imperatives for Days of Judgment

Zephaniah Series – Part 2

Scripture text – Zephaniah 1:1-2:3

Introduction

- Marcion taught that the God of the OT & God of the NT are _____ different Gods
 - We don't remove Zephaniah from the Bible like he did; we just _____ it
- We tend to prefer a God of _____ love
 - The reality is that God has a _____ love

Review

- Zephaniah was a prophecy of _____ in the event the people of Judah did not respond _____ to King Josiah's reforms
 - Last week, we wondered out loud whether the American church is under _____

Imperative #1: Be Silent

- The people of Judah were no longer in _____ of God & did not _____ him
 - They feared Baal, the Canaanite god of _____
- Large segments of the American church (and millions of Christians), not only ignore, but scoff at God's boundaries for _____ behavior
 - This is our way of saying we don't _____ him

Imperative #2: Wail

- For Judah, judgment began with _____ collapse
- So too with the pandemic; before it became a full-blown _____ crisis, it was an economic crisis
- Our response should be to cry out in sorrow
 - Not over our _____, but over our _____
- Even in a crisis, there can be a spirit of _____

Imperative #3: Gather Together

- God's people have always been a _____ people
- This is a tough issue: The elderly & those with underlying health problems need to be extremely _____
- But no believer should ever be _____ not gathering
- Perhaps we need to get more _____

Imperative #4: Seek

- It is counter-intuitive to seek the One who is so _____
 - This implies that if we do, we will receive _____
- God's people today live under the _____ covenant
 - When a person believes in Christ, an _____ takes place
 - This means the believer is _____ with the perfect righteousness of Christ
 - This is how God the Father forever _____ the believer

Conclusion

- God's people _____ be sheltered on the great & final Day of the LORD
- For *these* days, if we seek the Lord, we have every reason to expect God will turn back his _____