

## **THERE'S A FIRE COMING** **(2 Peter 3:7-11)**

### **When the alarm sounds:**

#### **I. We need to change states.**

- A. If the fire alarm goes off in the middle of the night, we will generally be asleep.
  - 1. We better changes states.
  - 2. We need to change from asleep to awake and get out of bed.
  - 3. We would never hear the alarm go off and allow it to wake us up and say to ourselves that it will be alright and go back to sleep.
  - 4. I remember being in a hotel in Pidgeon Forge, TN and the alarm going off.
  - 5. Everyone of us there changed states in a hurry.
- B. Maybe this alarm goes off while we are in the house laying around doing nothing.
  - 1. We may be watching TV, reading a book, taking a bath or any other number of things.
  - 2. We would change states and get active.
- C. The truth is, there are those in this room who are spiritually asleep or inactive.
  - 1. Paul talked about those that sleep (1 Corinthians 11:29-30; 1 Thessalonians 5:6).
  - 2. There a some of us who are asleep in sin.
  - 3. There are some of us who are inactive, laying around the house doing nothing to help the Lord's kingdom.
- D. I'll be honest, I have hit a spell in my preaching where I haven't been doing what I need to be doing and I needed to be shook up and to get active.
  - 1. I needed to do more, be more and I had to repent.
  - 2. As I look around, I don't believe that I'm the only one about whom that can be said.
- E. I'm not your judge, but, like you, I am a fruit inspector.
  - 1. Jesus said, by their fruits you will know.
  - 2. When people are inactive, not doing what they can and should be doing, not involved, it doesn't take a judge to see that.
- F. We have some in this room who need to change states.

#### **II. We need to challenge others.**

- A. If you hear a fire alarm and know there are others that are in the same state as you just were, do you let them know or is it every man for himself?
  - 1. You would yell at the top of your lungs to get people awake or moving.
  - 2. You would shake them awake, pull them out of bed, jerk a book out of their hands, or whatever you had to do to challenge them to get out of the house.

- B. This fire that is coming, is going to consume the whole earth.
  - 1. Everything is going to be dissolved.
    - a. The words melt and dissolved are the same Greek word.
    - b. It means to be destroyed.
  - 2. Each element is going to be destroyed.
    - a. That word is interesting because it comes from a word that means to put in a row.
    - b. This word literally means the elements or first principles of matter from which other things proceed in order of which they are composed.”
    - c. The very basic building blocks of life and matter are going to be burned up, indicating absolutely nothing left.
- C. We need to be challenging people to wake up spiritually or to be active spiritually.
  - 1. How many people do we know that are lost right now?
  - 2. Are we doing anything to warn them of what is coming?
  - 3. Their house is on fire and they may not even realize it or they might not know what to do.
- D. Emergency preparedness people teach everyone to have a fire escape plan for your home.
  - 1. While I realize the fire that is coming is unavoidable, we can avoid the second death of fire and brimstone.
  - 2. There is an escape plan for that and we must tell people about it.
  - 3. They need to awaken out of spiritual sleep or get active for Christ the way they were in the past.
- E. We must challenge people out of love for their souls.
  - 1. We have the ability to save a soul from death (James 5:19-20).
  - 2. We have the ability to keep people from going to hell and we must use that ability if we are going to please God.

### III. **We need to charge towards heaven.**

- A. You've seen the fire escape plans in buildings before I am sure.
  - 1. They have the “you are here” spot on the map and a line that goes to the nearest fire escape to which you should proceed in case of fire.
  - 2. All the exits and ways to the exits are contained on those plans.
- B. Would you casually stroll towards those exits if there was a fire?
- C. Would you take the time to look at things that are along the way to your place of escape?
  - 1. If you were at the house, would you take the time to water the plants?
  - 2. Would you take the time to shut off the TV and send a couple of emails?
- D. You and I all know we would go as fast as we could to the nearest exit.
  - 1. We wouldn't let unimportant things hinder us in any way.
  - 2. The only thing we would do is try to save someone else along the way.

- E. There is a way to heaven (Matthew 7:13-14).
  - 1. Admittedly, it is not an easy way.
  - 2. The Lord was plain about that by calling it a strait way.
  - 3. It is narrow, difficult to pass through and confined.
  - 4. There are a lot of things to look at along the side of that way.
    - a. There are things that will take our attention if we allow them.
    - b. This life offers a lot of distractions.
- F. On that way to heaven, we must have the mindset and focus of Paul (Philippians 3:13-14).
- G. Dave Ramsey talks about having “gazelle-like intensity” on getting out of debt.
  - 1. The idea is that a gazelle, when being chased by a predator, focuses on nothing else but escape.
  - 2. He says we need to be that way about escaping debt.
- H. Friends, we need “gazelle-like intensity” when it comes to escaping hell.
- I. We need to be charging towards heaven and not letting anything get in our way.
  - 1. Too many of us are charging away from heaven instead of towards it.
  - 2. We are letting too many things get in our way of going to heaven.