

WARNING

During the Revolutionary War, a loyalist spy brought an urgent message to the camp of the English commander. Washington and his army had secretly crossed the Delaware River that morning and were advancing on their location. The loyalist spy was not allowed to see the commander of the English army and instead was told to write a note on a piece of paper. The note was taken to the commander who was involved in a poker game. He took the small piece of paper and slid it into his pocket without reading it. When the guards at the camp began firing their muskets, the commander was still playing cards. Without time to organize, the post and the remaining soldiers were captured. The reality is in this situation, the English didn't lose the battle because they were not capable or outnumbered. Neither did they lose the battle because they weren't warned of the coming danger. They lost the battle because they just didn't read the warning that they were handed.

Ironically many in the world are in the same position spiritually. God has given us a warning through His word. God has warned us that Christ will return one day (I Thessalonians 1:7-9) and that when Christ does return we will be judged by the word of God (John 12:48). He has warned that God is a righteous and just judge and that when Christ returns He will render to every man according to their deeds. The righteous will receive eternal life and the unrighteous will receive indignation and wrath (Romans 2:5-11). Yet there are so many in the world who have taken this eternally serious warning and have stuck it up on a shelf to collect dust. It is almost like some think that if they don't read it, then it won't affect them.

So...the truth of the matter is...judgment is coming and the vast majority of people are not prepared (Matthew 7:13-14). Can you imagine being the loyalist spy? Can you imagine how frustrated he must have been since he knew that he was carrying information that was vital to their lives? I can only imagine that he tried everything he could to get the commander to see him. Then, when he commander wouldn't see him, he wrote a message to him sure that his message had been delivered. Then in frustration he probably watched as the camp was overrun and captured by enemy soldiers. Christians have the

warning message that can save the lost, Are we frantically working to spread this message to warn people of their pending eternal doom? Many times, even when we have done everything that we can there will be people who will refuse to hear the truth. However most of the time we have not tried with all of our might to spread the word.

Ezekiel was told in Ezekiel 33:7, "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me." He was the watchman with the responsibility to warn Israel. Notice what God went on to tell Ezekiel in the next few verses. "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. [9] Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul".

We need to realize that we have a responsibility to heed the warning that God has given and to warn the wicked of the coming judgment. We have the warning...what will we do with it?

By: Daniel Dalton, "The Defender of Truth" January 11, 2015.

Editor's note: Though I have read the above story of the spy and the never read warning, I have never seen any proof that the event actually occurred. I do not doubt it at all, just cannot confirm it. Either way, the lesson is certainly a valid one and a much needed one, both for those responsible for carrying the warning and for those who have the warning brought to them. If either of the two fall down on their responsibilities, the end result will be as it was for the English army in the story, destruction.

To paraphrase and apply words of former President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, "If not us, who? and if not now, when? Rest assured, neither Satan, the atheist, the infidel nor the untaught will be carrying the gospel to the world. It all rest upon the shoulders of those who have first learned the gospel and obeyed it from the heart themselves. Paul understood the concept of the guilt of the messenger to fail to carry the message. He said, "...I am pure from the blood of all men, For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:26-27).

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