

WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING

Dan.5:27

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The words of our text were spoken of and to Belshazzar – give the background.
 - a. He made a great feast before 1,000 of his lords.
 - b. It was a drinking feast.
 - c. They drank wine from the sacred vessels of the temple.
 - d. Praised their heathen gods while doing so.
 - e. Same hour, handwriting on the wall!
 - f. Countenance changed.
 - g. Thoughts troubled him.
 - h. Loins loosed, knees knocked together.
 - i. His wise men could not read the writing, nor interpret it for the king.
 - j. Daniel is called, offered great reward, which he refused.
 - k. Daniel's rebuke and interpretation, vv.18-31, emphasize v.27.
2. This heathen king had not lived up to God's standards.
3. We, like Belshazzar, often times, have not lived up to God's standards, Rom.3:23.
4. Furthermore, all of us will be "weighed in the balances" – be judged at the last day, Ac.17:31; Rom.14:10b; 2Cor.5:10.
5. God's law will be the weight or standard, Jno.12:48.
6. And, like Belshazzar, many will be found wanting, Mt.7:13,14; Jno.5:28,29.
7. Let us note some of the things in which many will be found wanting.

II. DISCUSSION

A. MANY WILL BE FOUND WANTING IN KNOWLEDGE

1. This is caused by a lack of study because men are fully capable of knowing and understanding, Eph.3:1-5; 5:17; 2Tim.2:15; 3:15; 1Tim.4:13,16.
2. If one never studies God's word, he will never know God's will, therefore cannot obey it, which is absolutely necessary in order to be saved, Mt.7:21; Lk.6:46; Heb.5:9; Rev.22:14.
3. Each one must study to know:
 - a. God, 1Cor.1:21; Heb.11:6; Jno.6:44,45; Heb.8:11; cf. Jno.17:3; 1Jno.2:3-5.
 - b. Christ, Jno.5:39,40; Rom.10:11-17.

- c. About heaven, hell, Plan of Salvation, duties of Christians.
- 4. Take note of Hos.4:6; Heb.5:11-14.
- 5. Incidents and experiences are numerous which have brought home to people, both in and out of the church, their lack of knowledge and their need for it.
 - a. Fortunately, some realized it in time.
 - b. Unfortunately, some realized it too late.

B. SOME WILL BE FOUND WANTING IN THE MATTER OF INFLUENCE.

- 1. Every person influences someone to some degree and wields either a good or a bad influence.
 - a. Question: Which do you wield? I wield?
- 2. The Bible stresses the importance of a good influence, Mt.5:13-16; 1Cor.9:19-23; 11:1; Phil.2:3-8,14,15; 1Tim.4:12,16; Tit.2:1-12; 1Pet.2:21-23.
- 3. Don't be a stumbling block because of a bad influence.
 - a. Remember Belshazzar.
 - b. Follow Paul's example, 1Cor.8:13; 9:19-23.
 - c. We are called to follow Jesus' example, 1Pet.2:19-23.

C. MANY WILL BE FOUND WANTING IN LOVE.

- 1. God loved and manifested it. Oh, the ways he manifested it, starting with the gift of his Son. But certainly not ending there. Jno.3:16; Rom.5:8; 1Jno.4:9,10.
- 2. Christ loved and manifested it, Mt.20:28; 2Cor.8:9; Rev.1:5.
- 3. Paul declared the importance of love and teaches us what it is by revealing what it does, 1Cor.12:31; 13:1-7, 13.
- 4. We must love, for we are reprobate without it; we must love:
 - a. God – and when we do we reverence, worship and serve him
 - b. Christ – and when we do we call on him for forgiveness by believing and obeying the gospel and walking in his footsteps and by honoring his authority in all things we say and do.
 - (1) Obviously, love of both the Father and the Son is conditional!
 - c. The truth of God's word – and if we do, we study it, believe it, obey it, practice it, teach it, defend it!
 - d. The brethren – and if we do, we manifest it in all the ways the Bible teaches it must be manifested.

- e. Our fellowman – and if we do, we will be found treating him with “active good will.” Cf. Mt.7:12.

D. MANY WILL BE LACKING IN ZEAL.

1. The Israelites of the O.T. became indifferent and were taken into captivity, Amos 6:1-6; 2Chr.; Jer.; Ezek.
2. The Laodiceans are the most infamous example of this that can be found in the N.T., Rev.3:14-19.
3. The church at Sardis is not far behind as an infamous example, Rev.3:1-7.
4. We must be “zealous of good works,” Tit.2:14,15; 2Tim.3:16,17; Cf. Rom.10:1-3.
5. If one were in the path of an approaching automobile, he would be zealous enough to get out of the way; but knowing that the judgment is approaching many are yet indifferent spiritually.
6. Consider it from this viewpoint: How many of us would keep a person in our employ if that person worked for us like we work for God? What makes us think God is different in such matters?!

E. MANY WILL BE LACKING IN SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.

1. All want physical strength, why not spiritual strength?
2. The apostle Paul teaches us what it means to be spiritually strong in the words of 1Cor.15:58; Eph.6:11-18.
3. There is an obvious need to be strong:
 - a. Because the Lord said for us to be and why, Eph.6:10ff; 1Cor.16:13. If for no other reason, this would be enough!
 - b. Because we have the greatest work to perform, Mt.28:19,20; 2Tim.2:1-3.
 - c. Because we have the worst enemy to fight, 1Pet.5:8; Eph.6:11-13.
 - d. Because we have the greatest possession to protect and save, Mt.16:24-26.
 - e. Because we have the greatest reward at stake, Rev.2:10; 2Tim.4:6-8.
4. To be strong in the Lord and the power of his might, certain fundamental laws must be observed:
 - a. We must eat proper food, 1Pet.2:1,2; Ac.20:32.
 - b. We must take proper exercise, 1Tim.4:7,8; Jas.1:19-25.
 - c. We must live in the proper atmosphere, 1Cor.15:33.

F. SOME WILL BE FOUND WANTING IN FORGIVENESS.

1. The example of Christ is the perfect example, Lk.23:34.

2. The example of Stephen serves to encourage us and to show that we, as men, can do what Jesus did, Ac.7:59,60; Cf. 1Pet.2:21-23.
3. Consider also the following two examples:
 - a. Joseph, in the O.T., regarding the evil treatment by his brothers, Gen.50:15-21.
 - b. Paul, in the N.T., 2Tim.4:16.
4. We must not simply pay lip service to the duty to forgive; we must do it, or else, Mt.6:14,15; 18:21-35; cf. Lk.15:25-31 and the elder brother.

G. SOME WILL BE FOUND WANTING IN PURITY OF LIFE.

1. All of us want purity in food, medicine, water, air, spouse, etc.
2. The Bible warns that we must be pure in:
 - a. Doctrine, Tit.2:7,8; 1Tim.1:3; 2Jno.9-11; Gal.1:6-12.
 - b. Speech, Eph.4:29; Mt.5:37; 12:36,37.
 - c. Life, 1Tim.5:22; 2Cor.6:17,18; 7:1; 1Pet.1:14-16; Rom.12:1,2.
 - d. Heart, Prov.4:23; 23:7; Mt.5:8; 15:19,20; Phil.4:8.

Song: "Purer In Heart O God"

H. MANY WILL BE FOUND WANTING IN THE WORK OF SPREADING THE WORD.

1. Ac.8:4; 11:19-21; 18:24-28; Rom.1:14-17; 1Cor.9:16,19-23; Phil.1:3-5; 4:15,16; 1Th.1:7,8.
2. By such N.T. passages we are impressed with the evangelistic spirit which moved these N.T. Christians in the early church.
3. We appreciate it, know it is right and that we ought to follow their example.
4. Yet, some churches ignore their responsibility of sending the gospel.
5. Many professed Christians will not even support a gospel meeting in their home congregation.
6. Some members of a local church make no effort to support the edification program and work (the Bible classes, etc.) of the local church of which they are members.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Let us get busy:
 - a. Studying, lest we be found wanting in knowledge.
 - b. Mending our fences, lest we be found wanting in influence.
 - c. Filling our hearts with love, lest we be convicted of envy, jealousy, hate.

- d. On our zeal, lest we lose all because of indifference and apathy.
 - e. Building up ourselves spiritually, lest Satan take advantage of our weaknesses and destroy us.
 - f. And learn to forgive, lest we be unforgiven.
 - g. On personal purity in doctrine, speech, life and heart, lest we be denied entrance into heaven, where no impurities can enter.
 - h. Spreading the word, lest we lose that for which we strive, as well as fail to save the souls of others.
2. Let us busy ourselves with these and others, lest we be like Belshazzar in the last day – “weighed in the balances and found wanting.”