

The Clarion Call of God

Separate Yourself, Save Others

Foreword – The Meaning of Clarion

Oxford's dictionary describes a clarion as a shrill, narrow-tubed war trumpet. War trumpets were used to blast commands to an army over the noise and din of war. Soldiers knew when to attack, flank left or right, or even to retreat by the clarion's call.

It was paramount for the trumpeter to know the right blasts for each command, and those blasts, above all, had to be loud and clear, which is the meaning of the adjective clarion...to be loud and clear. Paul referred to this in 1 Cor. 14:7-8:

1 Cor. 14:7-8

7 Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? 8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?

God's Clarion Call was Retroactive So We Could Be Proactive

Our God has sent out a loud and clear, clarion, universal call to His people in every generation, retreat from the evil of the world and fall back to Me. But in this message we will see that God's call was retroactive so Christians could be proactive.

God's Logic for Separation from Sin

If we think of the world of sin as a pit of deep, sticky clay, we get a graphic sense of our own helpless condition. We also get a compassionate sense of others who are stuck in it too.

When the day came that we recognized God's outstretched hand, grasped it, and felt Him pull us from the suction of sin, did we also realize God wanted us to help others still struggling in it? But can we jump back into the clay to save them? If we do, they will scratch their head and ask, "How can you save me from the clay you're stuck in too?" God needs us free. God needs us strong. God needs us separate to save others.

God's Logic of Separation from Unequal Yoking

The concept of not being inseparably yoked with unbelievers was explained by Paul in 2 Cor. 6:14-18.

2 Cor. 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." 17 Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

To be yoked is to be inseparably bound to another. When two oxen are yoked to plow a field, if one pulls to the left for an old ear of corn, the other must follow. God would have us not be yoked or partnered with unbelievers in any inseparable arrangements, since their atheism could pull us away.

In terms of a human illustration, yoking is not so much side by side as it is up and down. The Christian legally yoked with an unbeliever in a business will try to pull the partner and business up to God's standards, but the resistance of the unbeliever will have "gravity" on their side to employ business standards that are not circumspect.

By our new nature, our new affections, our new direction, our new choices, our new prohibitions, our new lifestyle, we are naturally separate from the old us and from those who are still as we were. Paul illustrates this separation so clearly in Eph. 2:1-5:

Eph. 2:1-5

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

God's Logic of Us Dedicating Ourselves to Him

The Scriptures reveal God's desire for us to come to Him, and the results of that devotion.

Prov. 2:1-13

*"...if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you,
² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding;
³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding,
⁴ If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures;
⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.
⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding;
⁷ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;
⁸ He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints.
⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.
¹⁰ When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul,
¹¹ Discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you,
¹² To deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things,
¹³ From those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness;*

God's clarion call to Christians is to turn their faces, hearts, and minds to Him...to seek Him. He promised over and over in Scripture to be found of any who truly seek Him.

Isa. 55:6

Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

Jer. 29:13

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jer. 33:2

Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

Matt. 7:7

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

But more than just calling us to seek Him, Jesus said He will even come to our heart's door, seeking us.

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Afterword

God has declared to us that He has a field of people out in the world who are ready for harvest into His eternal kingdom, but the laborers are few. They must be confused over the COVID pandemic, and searching for answers. They must wonder if this is of God and has any "end-time" significance.

Do they have anyone in the circle of their life that can give them guidance and peace in the midst of their fear and turmoil? If God has separated you and me to the solid ground of salvation, ought we not to reach out with compassion to others who are just as we once were?

Too many of us just hear the first half of God's clarion call, separate from them. In the relief of our own eternal safety we don't hear the call of desperation of those from whom we've separated, "Turn around, reach to me your hand, save me!" Indeed, the clarion call of God is a three-part call...separate, seek Me, save them.