

THE REST OF THE STORY (Nahum...Jonah Series)

Last week America said goodbye to an icon as Paul Harvey died. "He captivated millions of listeners for nearly six decades with his homespun radio news reports and conservative commentaries." His line, "the rest of the story..."

As we conclude our series on Jonah, we must take a quick look at the book of Nahum for it gives us "the rest of the story." Jonah tells of the greatest revival in history through a reluctant prophet. It tells of the wideness of the mercy of God. Nahum wrote his book about 100 years after Jonah and tells us of the end of God's mercy.

Nahum tells of God's judgment and paints a picture of the day that the grandkids went to hell.

TWO COMMON MYTHS DISPELLED BY NAHUM DIRECTING US TO NEVER MISREAD GOD'S LONGSUFFERING.

I. The First Myth: God Does Not Care If We Sin. (1:1-15)

The cross of Jesus paints for us in brilliant colors God's holy hatred of sin. How much does God hate... Here the certainty of God's judgment of Nineveh is foretold. She was the largest city in the world...

A. The Lord is pictured as the judge, who zealously doles out justice. (vv1-11)

1. He alone has the power to judge...He is awesome. (vv1-6) Look at creation...
2. His judgment is fair. (vv7-11)

To those who trust Him, He provides a refuge. (v7)

But to Nineveh, "an overwhelming flood would make an end of her."(v8) Judgment!!

God had spared her through Jonah, but now His mercy was over.

God is against any no matter how wealthy, powerful, or self-sufficient who disregard His authority and trample on human life.

B. The Lord issues His sentence on Nineveh...she would be obliterated. (vv12-14)

1. Nineveh would disappear from history. "cut off" (12), "no descendants" (14)
2. Nineveh was to learn that sin arouses the wrath and holy anger of God.
Though she was mighty, she would be swept into the ashes of history.
This would happen even though they had once experienced the blessing of God.
3. Such a thing reminds us that God is the one who controls history...He had raised up the Assyrians(Nineveh) for the purpose of spanking His people.
Israel...was no more. Due to her sin, Nineveh had defeated and deported her.

