

The River's Ravages

by Martin Knapp

The sermon warns of the dire consequences of sin, emphasizing the need for repentance and the urgency of turning back to God before it's too late.

Scripture: Ezekiel 18:30, Mark 8:36, Romans 6:23, James 4:7, Revelation 20:15

Topics: "Eternal Consequences", "Repentance"

Description

Martin Knapp delivers a powerful sermon warning about the terrible consequences of sailing on the 'River of Death,' highlighting the guilt of sin that leads to everlasting doom, separation from God, bondage to Satan, the disease of the soul caused by sin, and the eternal punishment awaiting those who persist in sinful ways. He emphasizes the urgent need to heed the warnings and turn away from the destructive path before it's too late, drawing parallels to individuals drifting towards eternal destruction like those swept over Niagara Falls, emphasizing the importance of repentance and turning back to God before facing the irreversible consequences.

Transcript

The following are some of the terrible results which all must suffer who sail on the "River of Death:"

1. The Guilt of Sin. -- God has forbidden Sin; hence the awful guilt which disobedience brings-guilt so heavy that it will sink the soul into the burning Sea of Everlasting Doom; guilt so deep that no one can fathom it, and so black that no artist can paint it, and yet so deceptive that its victims, unawakened by the Spirit's power, often seem unconscious that it is fixed upon them.
2. Separation. -- Sin not only brings guilt, but it separates from Heaven and God, so that His presence is no more enjoyed, nor a glad and final union with Him in Eternity anticipated, and indifference or hatred and rebellion possess the soul.
3. Bondage. -- Satan throws a fascinating spell over all who follow his counsels and sail upon this awful Stream. He imparts a love for sin and for sinful society which binds them with such mighty cords that none but God Himself can break them.

"To whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness." -- Rom. vi, 16.

4. Disease. -- If people had never ventured upon these Rivers, there never would have been an ache or pain or disease on earth; but worse than any disease of the body is the dreadful leprosy of the soul which the fatal atmosphere and waters of these Rivers give. All who drift thereon, not only have the stubborn soul-disease of sin which Paul calls "the body of this death," "the old man," inherited from Adam down, but the disease is awfully aggravated by the personal sins of those who suffer from it. Another name for this disease is Selfishness. It is seated deeper than the skin, or the blood, or the nerves, away in the deep soul-center of the spiritual being, and, like the measles and the smallpox, it breaks out on the outside in the form of sinful anger, wicked words, stubborn and haughty expressions and demeanor, disobedience to parents, and many other sins, although in some persons the main outward mark may be one kind of sin, and in others different; but any outer mark proves that the disease is in the soul.

5. Eternal Punishment. -- Another of the certain and fearful consequences of yielding to Satan and sailing on these Rivers is Eternal Punishment, which God declares all must suffer who persist in this sinful course. The River of Death, with its mighty, resistless tides, flows over the Falls of Eternal Despair, and bears its victims out into the burning Sea of Everlasting Destruction, from the "presence of God" and the "glory of His power.

The King of Heaven is warning all who are upon its waters of their fearful danger and of the doom into which they are rushing.

All along the shore He has Gospel messengers, shouting, "Turn ye, turn ye, for why will ye die?" But many are like the young men who drifted down Niagara's awful current over its Falls. Friends shouted to them repeatedly: "The rapids are before you! Turn! turn! the rapids are before you!" but they laughed and sang, and continued to drift, thinking they would ply their oars and stop their boat before it was too late, but passed on from one danger point to another, until, when they would turn, it was too late, they could not, for the current was too strong, and they were lost.

Others, asleep on this River, in some of the fatal Boats of Sin, are like the poor Indian. An enemy saw him sleeping on the bank of Niagara River above the Falls, cut the rope which tied his canoe to the shore, and pushed it out into the surging, rushing tide. The Indian slept on until awakened by the roar of the cataract, too late to stop the boat or turn his course, and was swiftly swept over its merciless brink to certain death. A forceful picture of the fate of all who do not heed the warning cry which echoes in their ears, but sweep down the Rivers of Sin into the Lake of Fire, where they shall be "tormented day and night, for ever and ever,"

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