

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Yesterday I read an interesting article in an Aceh Paper, “Serambi Indonesia”, that the Earthquake and the following Tsunami is but an example of what will happen at the Last Day when the world will end. A certain Haji Ibrahim Barden was speaking to a group of 134 people about to leave for Mecca for a pilgrimage. This man is the head of an Islamic Boarding School in Tanah Jambo Aye, Aceh.

He went on to say that Allah gave an example of His power to Aceh because the Aceh province is the first area in South East Asia that received Islam as a state religion under Sharia Islamic Law. However Allah sees that the people have closed their eyes, closed their ears, closed their mouths, closed their conscience and closed their feelings to wrongdoing and sin. If the people of Aceh do not open their eyes, open their hearts and open their feelings against wrongdoings and live according to the Sharia Islamic Law, they can only wait for more calamities and disasters even 100 times greater than the recent earthquake and tsunami.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we know that God has revealed a demonstration of His power as a warning to the entire world to repent from sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as explained in John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER ABOUT THE RETURN OF OUR LORD

It is true that earthquakes are a sign of the Return to Earth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are told in the Bible that we must comfort each other with words about the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18,

“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage (comfort, KJV) each other with these words.”

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER TO FULLY COMMIT TO SERVE THE LORD, WHILE WAITING FOR THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51-58

“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Therefore, my dear brothers,
Stand firm.*

Let nothing move you.

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”