

Jeremiah ii.13

First RPC Durham

I. The need for reformation is brought about by the presence of sin.**A. Preliminary Definitions and Principles**

- 1) Reformation: When the Visible Church corporately repents of sin and grows in sanctification as a covenanted body.
- 2) Revival: When the Spirit of God blesses a particularly society by converting many, and out of the overflow of the Gospel going forth, the Law also goes forth thru that land.
- 3) An important general principle.
 - a) God judges individuals eternally.
 - b) God judges corporate bodies temporally.

B. The Context of our Passage (Jer 1:14)**C. The Ongoing Application of our Passage (WCF xxv.4, 5; Rev 2:5; Lam 4:6; Jer 48:13)****D. Preliminary Uses from the Text**

- 1) Beware the presupposition of pride:
 - a) As if we are free from sin.
 - b) As if we are free from complicity and culpability.
- 2) Be on guard against the early signs of spiritual decline:
 - a) Complacency: (Amos 6:1)
 - b) Examining external obedience without evaluating the internal belief.
- 3) Be comforted that God offers freely His grace that we should repent.

II. In reformation, the Lord first convicts His people of sin.**A. The people have forsaken God**

- 1) Their former state of fellowship with God (Ex 19:8).
- 2) The faithfulness of God.
- 3) The excellency of God (Jms 1:17; Jn 4:14, NKJV; Isa 55:1).
- 4) The unfaithfulness of man (Jer 2:11).

B. The people look to idols

- 1) It is a religion of our own doing (Ex 20:25).
- 2) The quality of man-made religion.

3) The result of man-made religion.

- a) False religion and corruptions of the true faith are internally unstable and logically incohesive.
- b) False religion and corruptions of the true faith are unsatisfying (Jn 4:13b-14a, NKJV).
- c) False religion will not bring life.

C. Further Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to be faithful to the Lord.
- 2) We are to turn from idolatry (1 Jn 5:21).
- 3) We are to delight in the means of grace.

III. In reformation, the Lord then corrects His people in righteousness.**A. The summary of such work (Jer 1:10; Rom 2:4; Jonah 3:4-5, 10).****B. Correction in Doctrine (Jb 42:1-6)**

- 1) Recognition of sin
- 2) Rejection error
- 3) Confessing truth
- 4) Believing truth

C. Correction in Life (2 Kgs 22-23)

- 1) Recognition of Sin
- 2) Putting sin to death
- 3) Walking in obedience

D. Further Uses from the Point

- 1) All things must be measured by Scripture (Isa 8:20)
- 2) We are to submit to the chastisement of the Lord (Lev 26:40-42)
- 3) We are take the long view of sanctification, reformation and revival (Psa 12:6-7)
- 4) We are to persevere in righteousness (Phil 3:1b)
- 5) We are to be constant in training to war (Jdg 3:2)
- 6) We are to be persistent in righteousness (Micah 2:1)
- 7) We are to be insistent in holiness (Titus 1:10-11)
- 8) We must be bold in conviction
- 9) We may not neglect the Church (Psa 22:6-9)
- 10) We must depend upon God in prayer (Lam 5:21)