

- > **Great Day**.... We are glad that you've joined us today, to hear another message segment – brought to you by "**Discovery Crossroads Ministries**".... Our ministry believes that:
"with God, Dead ends, become alive again!" – there's No doubt that: "God can do the miraculous, in & thru us!"

- > The message title today: "**To Woe or Not To Woe?**", is a question that is meant for us to answer. It asks us, "Should I be worried about Woe, or does Woe not affect me?"

- When the Covid outbreak happened, the big worry to people was: "Did I get too close to someone who had Covid?"
Point: If you stayed home and away from other people, you generally didn't have to worry about contracting Covid.
But when you had to be around other people, who possibly had Covid – you really did **have to worry about** getting it!

-**So,** We all need to take the question today ("**To Woe or Not To Woe?**") seriously, and answer it for ourselves! Apart from KNOWING God's Word, none of us will be able to confidently answer it - *and I will cover that issue shortly!*

- Most of us say "**Whoa**" when we are amazed by something, and there is really Nothing bad about that word. **But,** there are serious implications to the word "**Woe**".

- So you ask me, "**Gary, are you saying that USING the word "Whoa" is bad?** I tell you **No**, as long as you **USE** the word spelled "**Whoa**" in expressing amazement! But I rather say, "**It is Not good to HAVE "Woe" – spelled "Woe"!**"
- **USING** the term "**Whoa**" is fine, But **HAVING** the term "**Woe**" is Not good at all. The difference comes down to the "**follow-up**". The follow-up for "**Whoa**" is extreme **amazement**, But the follow-up for "**Woe**" is **disheartening!**
- **Biblical "Woe"** means: "**Alas**"; "**an interjection expressing deep grief or calamity.**" It can also signal, "**impending danger or loss**" - "**a warning of impending Divine-judgement.**"..../.... Maybe now you can see **Why** you don't want to **HAVE "Woe"!** **HAVING "God's Woe"** upon your life, is by far worse than having Covid....(**Covid can kill you once, but God's Woe could go on for eternity!**)

> **This gets us into** the Main-message today, and **WHO** might need to fear God's WOE.... **So, let's dive in:**

- The Bible clearly says that: there are **two different kinds people** on the earth: **1)** The **righteous**, and **2)** the **wicked**. The righteous who **believe & obey** God & His Word - and the wicked who will **NOT believe & obey** Him!

- A) **"The wicked"** will eat of the **"fruit of Unrighteousness"** - **meaning**: they will eat of the fruit of their **evil** deeds. They will know the **misery** that comes from the **negative** outcomes of their **bad** conduct. Their stomachs will **sour** with **"Bitterroot"** - which is the flavor of their **unrighteous** deeds!
- B) **"The righteous"** will eat of the **"Fruit of Righteousness"** - **meaning**: they will eat of the fruit of their **good** deeds. They will enjoy the **blessings** that come from the **positive** outcomes of their **good** conduct. Their stomachs will enjoy **"Honey"** - which is the flavor of their **righteous** deeds!
- > **Receiving God's "Woe"**, is a **perilous** (*dangerous/risky*) issue - one that humans shouldn't toy with! [Isaiah 5:20-21](#), "20 **Woe to those who call evil good and good evil** - who put **darkness for light and light for darkness** - who put **bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter**. 21 **Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and clever in their own sight.**" NIV **Do you see the "twisting" of narratives?**
- Here one person says that *"good is actually evil"* - and yet another person says *"evil is actually good"*. Here again: One person says that *"Light (God's Truths), is actually darkness" (or false)* - But another person says that *"darkness (the world's truths), is actually Light"*. (**Twisty**)

-- **In Context** to this passage.... the people living in Judah (before Jesus arrived on earth), just up & decided to “*disrespect & disobey*” the Word of The Lord.... they even “**reveled in**” (or “*took pleasure in*”) their waywardness & sins – *they had no shame!* They did not see that their sins, were accounted as being “*wickedness*” by God! **Rather**, they decided to call their sins “**good**”, since calling them “**evil**” would have meant that they were really sinful/wicked people.

-- **You need to know this:** **Confusion** reigns in the darkness. In the darkness, *reality is twisted*. Immorality is called good, in-place of Morality. Vice is hailed good, over Virtue. Impiety (*corruption*) is labeled good, over Piety (*reverence*).

* **Evil will always Pervert** what is **good** – it **swaps the realities** of what is really good, with what is really bad. Those who Lack the knowledge & wisdom of the Lord, will **Stay** in the darkness - dazed & confused & confusing others!

> **So, The “Woe of The Lord”, goes out to:**

1) those who “**Pervert & Confound**” the way of truth!

a) they “*approve & justify*” the actions of the wicked....

b) they “*condemn & judge*” the actions of the righteous....

* **The immoral person:** **Blurs** the lines of moral issues, and even **Excuses** their own sins!

2) those who "**will receive God's judgement**", when their soul comes before Him – for having **Perverted & Confounded** the world, **against** God's Word & Truths!

a) that judgement of God, means: "**inconsolable grief, sorrow, distress or despair - the coming of severe calamity & deep suffering to a person - the coming of God's Divine Justice.**"

- **Proverbs 17:15**, "He who **justifies** the wicked, and he who **condemns** the righteous, are both alike - an **abomination to the Lord.**" ESV

* **This is Big..... Woe comes before Wrath!** **Woe** is often a "**Warning**", that comes BEFORE God acts – like a **tornado siren** going off, BEFORE it hits. **Wrath** is God's "**Response**", that happens AFTER His Woe has Not been heeded!

God operates like our parents did, when they "**Warned**" us of getting in trouble, if we didn't stop doing what was wrong. And if we didn't stop messing up, then our parents gave us a good "**Spanking**", because we disobeyed them and kept doing what we were told to stop doing!

- **God functions the same way... Lovingly**, He tries to Warn us, about a bad road that we are trying to take. If we Don't listen, then God will turn up the volume within us, and **Warn** us of **impending Woe**.

However, if we **persist** in disobeying Him and hard-headedly stay on the bad road, He WILL **Spank** us! **Worse yet**, those who will Never accept the Mercy that He offers, for the forgiveness of their sins (*thru all that Jesus accomplished on & off the cross*), He will "**Woe first, then Punish**" eternally.

-- **Please understand** that **God's Woe**, is meant to **shake our soul**, and cause it to agree with God.... agree that we need to change our disobedient, sinful, course/way towards Him - and steer a better, more obedient & sinless, course/way towards Him! God's Woe to us is **doing all it can, to save us** from God's Wrath to come! **Matthew 3:7** states, "*But when he (John The Baptist) saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?"*" NLT

- When God's "Cup of Woe" pours out onto us, it **signals us** to: "**Stop, Listen & Correct**" our wayward/evil, speech or actions - **ASAP!** **How do you KNOW when He is pouring His Cup of Woe on you?** **Things start going bad!** Peace departs from your soul...(your soul just feels heavy) - you feel a sense of dread or depression on you - relationship problems occur, between you & other people - appliances break down - money just dries up - unexpected bills arise - the car falls

apart - the house falls apart - health issues just appear -
your job doesn't seem as secure as it once was - and on & on.

- * **Do Not tell me**, *that God doesn't speak thru things!* When these things happen "**back to back**" (**compounded**), it means that: God is doing all He can to: **WAKE US UP** from our spiritual slumber! When all these signals just start happening, **in unison** - is when you want to scream out (*like the prophet Isaiah*) who said, "**Woe is me!**"....(Isa. 6:5)
- God's Woe, upon our soul is like "**His Big Thumb**", pressing down on our very being – the Pressure is Great!

> **Listen**.....

- A people/world, that are **in rebellion** to God's Word, will always have a "**skewed**" (**distorted, deformed**) **perspective** of **their** life ways – **AND**, they will live immorality, out of **their twisted** thinking! **Look**, calling good evil and evil good, is a **sure sign** of someone's **blind, lost, immoral** soul-condition – **AND sadly**, people who have good & evil **twisted**, don't even know that they are: blind, lost, twisted, or immoral.
- **It is true**, **2 Corinthians 4:4** tells us, "the god of this world (*speaking of satan*), **has blinded the minds of unbelievers** – **to KEEP THEM FROM SEEING the light** of the Gospel, of the Glory of Christ, Who is the Image of God." ESV

Satan blinds the spiritual-eyes, of those who are his... those who live a life, in Disobedience to God & His Word!

-- **However**, there is **Good News** today.... The blind-fold, that resides over our unspiritual-eyes, CAN be removed.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 says, "**16** **whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.** *17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 **But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*" NASB

....**Verse 16** is **BIG**.... "**Whenever someone TURNS TO THE LORD, the veil is taken away**". God's Spiritual, hidden, Truths, are always **ready to be "revealed"** to us, **IF** we won't "**revile**" (***hate, criticize, or condemn***) them – and **IF** we will TURN TO THE LORD, in Faith!

-- **So**, **What can you do?**

a) Look within your soul (***being still & quiet***), listening to your conscience & the Holy Spirit's conviction. They will speak God's Truths to you, **IF** you will really listen!

b) Then you have to ASK God to open your eyes, to His Truths. He will be glad to help you, **IF** you will believe in Him & His Word, and **IF** you will honestly ask Him, to

open your closed, spiritual, eyes! [James 4:2](#) says, "***You do not have, because you do not ask God.***" NIV

c) You need to study His abiding Word, as found in The Bible. Study & Pray, and God will enlighten your mind, spirit & soul, day by day. [Psalm 119:105](#) says that: ***God's Word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path*** – **BUT**, without His Word, we stumble in the darkness, and even call the things in the darkness good. Adhering to God's Word, and following the instructions of His Spirit, is the only way out of the darkness, and into the good light – only then can you really SEE what is evil, and what is good!

> **Let me push a last thought**, as I move towards closing....

The Bible says that "**God is Love**".... **therefore**, when God has to bring Woe to us, to awaken us - He is ***doing it out of His Love for us!*** **Look**, God could easily sit back and watch us all drop straight into the pit of hell - ***but He doesn't!***

He responds to our lostness, by lovingly sending us woes of danger ahead - so that WE will turn the steering wheel of our life, away from the dangerous course that we put our life on!

[2 Peter 3:9](#), "***The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.***" NIV

....**God loves us so much**, that He gave His One & Only Son, to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins...(and all we have to do is: believe & accept this truth)! **With the same Deep Love**, He WILL send **signals of Woe** to us, so that we will turn our life around, towards Him, and towards His Goodness & Righteousness. **It's all about**: God loving us enough to care about us!

....**Remember**, God's Woe is **Not punishment** (*that belongs to His Wrath*). His Woe is His **warning of impending punishment**, if things don't change! — **Truly**, God's Woe is really a part of His tender **Mercy & Grace** to us... it is God trying to divert us away any from punishment, that we could incur, or become subject to! **Now, that's Love!**

-- Those who promote evil **should worry**.... **But** the **righteous** have nothing to worry about. The wicked **THINK** that they are a part of good & rightness, **but** they are deceived since their eyes are still closed/blind to God's Truths! **However**, the **righteous** **KNOW** that they are part of good & rightness, having had their eyes open by God. **Isaiah 3:10**, "**Tell the righteous, it will be well with them - for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds. Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them! They will be paid back, for what their hands have done!**" NIV

- > **Back to** the opening question today: **"To Woe, or Not To Woe?"** – **"Should I be worried about Woe, or does Woe not affect me?"**. **Only thru** the **"Confident-Peace"**, that the Holy Spirit gives to your soul – will you **KNOW** how to answer this question! **Does your soul "Condemn you" towards wickedness, that you are being a part of it - or Does your soul "Acquit you" of such convictions, that you are NOT being a part of evil?** **"Soul-peace"** reigns in the **blessed** of **Jesus Christ** – but **"Soul-chaos"** reigns in the **unblessed** of the **worldly!**
- **What STIRS within YOUR soul?** **Better be STILL** with yourself, **and KNOW** what is stirring in your soul – **"Peace or Chaos"** – **"Condemnation or Acquittal"**? **Woe to those** who find **"Chaos & Condemnation"** (**"Rebellion" towards God**), in their heart/soul.... **turn quickly now to God, and Repent (turn from your wayward/evil ways) – and seek His forgiveness & eternal salvation!**
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Discovery questions:

- 1)** The message opening question asked, **"To Woe or Not To Woe"** – but what does that mean to you, or someone close to you?

- 2) [Isaiah 5:20-21](#) spoke about how there is Woe to those who flip-flop God's Truths – But what were the “3 truths”, in that passage, that wicked people flip-flop?
- 3) How is it that some people see good & evil as “God” sees them, while other people have them flipped around as “they” see them? You might revisit [2 Cor. 4:4](#) to help answer this one!
- 4) Can you explain how there are “two different people” in the world, both having different perspectives on Truth? (*now: how & why is it, that people see “two different truths” in the world – so flip-flopped from each other?*)
- 5) Is there a difference between God's “Woe” & God's “Wrath”? Define what God's Woe means - then define what His Wrath means.
- 6) *Just asking here...* But, if you heard a tornado siren going off, would you seek shelter or would you blow it off as no big thing? Isn't this how it is when God is calling His Woe out to us, and we just opt to not listen to Him?
- 7) What is God really doing, when He pours Woe into our soul - I mean: what is His point?
- 8) Is God's Woe intended to be “punitive”?

- 9)** How many of you disobeyed your parents, and got a spanking?
Hum... should God act any different towards us?
- 10)** Is God's Discipline meant to "hurt" us or "help" us?
- 11)** Is it possible that "God's Woe", is the same as "His Discipline" toward us – meant to correct us? Our parents spanked us to correct us (*out of love*)... So, isn't God's Woe to us, a call to get us to TURN from some danger that we are about to get into - *done out of His Great Love* for us?
- 12)** Jesus often said to the religious leaders of Israel, "*Wow to you hypocrites*". So, just what did Jesus want them to do, when He said Woe to them?
- 13)** How does God "*make you aware*", that He is looking on you with Woe? (*How: that He's wanting you to correct some bad aspect of your life?*)
- 14)** Do you know "*right now*", if God is pouring Woe into your heart? How are you going to "know" if He is or is not?