

## Crisis In North Georgia!

Here lately every day you hear something in the news about our current drought and water crisis. Radio, TV and newspapers run story after story seeking to draw attention to the predicament in which we have found ourselves. Even our representatives in congress have jumped on board to help deal with the issue that appears to be plaguing our region. Last week Governor Sonny Perdue asked Georgians to cut their indoor use of water by ten percent, suggesting that fixing leaking faucets and faulty toilets would contribute heavily. In any case, citizens are being placed on high alert to conserve! Certainly Christians should want to do their part in helping to avert a serious disaster.

Oh, that we were as committed to get the spiritual drought in this country seen to and fixed. We are living in a severe drought of spiritual awareness and lack of commitment to Christ all around us. Church leaders seek to highlight the need to draw nearer to God and rely on Him, yet often times it falls on deaf ears. Appeals from preachers to be aware of the dangers and pitfalls of faithlessness produce somewhat of a good response, but the best way to get the message out is for the people of God to do their part.

Some live in denial that there is a water crisis. It is not the purpose of this article to argue one way or another about it, except to say that some deny it exists. The same could be said of spiritual crisis. Some think that just because they attend the occasion worship service, that "crisis" has no place in their present spiritual condition. Yet if you asked them what a person must do to be saved, instead of looking for a book, chapter and verse, they are looking for the name, email address, or phone number for one of the elders. The Old Testament prophet well said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge," Hosea 4:6a.

Yet serious times call for serious actions. If helping the water crisis can be brought about by fixing leaky taps, what can you do at home to help fix a leaky faith? Children are bombarded daily by a steady diet of ungodly ethical practices by their peers, yet how often are they given a parental ear to help them receive spiritual reinforcement?

Undoubtedly some will ignore the water crisis outright. They might be thinking that the neighbors around them will probably do twice as much, so they will not need to give it another thought. Sounds a lot like what some Christians do when it comes to promoting spiritual awareness in the community. Is there any crisis that can be ignored by those who are in it? Try washing your car or watering your lawn these days, and see how long you get ignored. Yet some

Christians think that by going through the visible motions on Sunday morning they can cover what is really amiss in their private lives. "No one will see me," they think. It should not be forgotten that three times Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount, that we serve a "Father who sees in secret," Matthew 6:4,6,18.

What about violations of the outdoor watering ban in North Georgia right now? Initially violators who are caught will be fined, and continuous violations will bring about having the water cut off. Sounds serious! But what about spiritual crisis violators? Certainly the Scriptures give detailed descriptions of the frivolity of continuously ignoring faith and obedience to Christ. The Bible says, "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins," Hebrews 10:26. Peter said, "For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them," 2 Peter 2:21. Sounds even more serious!

Nature will someday restore the lack of rain. Many are praying every day for it to happen soon. Not a bad idea! Spiritual renewal however will not drop from the sky like the rain. The Lord has given you all you need, 2 Peter 1:3. The rest comes from you. Remember Paul's encouragement to Timothy, "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God," 2 Timothy 1:6a.

Do not neglect your spiritual gift from God!

—Scott