

## **“Hurricane Warnings vs Biblical Warnings”**

As I begin to write this Focus, here in Florida, we are preparing for yet another powerful hurricane headed our way. We just survived “Helene” and now “Milton” is becoming a Cat 5 storm headed right for the central Florida coast! I am starting this Focus on Monday, and this is due to hit on Wednesday, and already traffic is backing up on I-75 northbound as evacuation orders have been issued.

In the past, many of us have gotten hurricane and/or tornado warnings and have done a fair amount of preparation fearing the worst, and often the storms weaken or head in other directions, and because of that, the next time we get warnings, we tend to sluff them off and only make half-hearted preparations. I think Hurricane Helene might have been a divine wake up call for all of us, and Milton could possibly deliver the knockout punch!

How about Biblical warnings? Romans 3:23 says *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* and Romans 6:23 says: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 10b-12 says: *“For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: “As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.” So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”* And again in 2 Corinthians it says: *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

The good news is, Jesus gave Nicodemus the key to eternal life in John 3:3 when He said *“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”* Jesus said to a very distraught Martha when Lazarus had died: *“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”*

We prepare for hurricanes by getting our generators ready, making sure everything around our house is secure, storing up food and water supplies, and then hoping for the best. We prepare for God’s numerous warnings about eternity when we surrender our lives in a prayer of repentance, confessing we are a sinner, and asking God to forgive us, and receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!

We never know how bad the weather related storms in life are going to be, but it’s a FACT that one day we will ALL stand before God, and He is only going to ask one question about our preparation for eternity - did you accept My Son as your Savior, or did you reject Him? If you’re not prepared, you are guaranteed to spend eternity separated from God in hell! Be wholeheartedly prepared - He has given us sufficient warnings! Amen! (stay tuned for more next week)

