Increase in Mental Illness in the Latter Days pt. 1

Charles Feinberg

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The ID on this tape is MT 37. The increase in mental illness in the latter days. This study is on the increase in mental illness in the latter days. A study by Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg dean emeritus and professor of Old Testament at Talbot Theological Seminary in La Mirada, California. I'd like for you to take your bibles and follow me as I read a very important passage in the book of the Revelation Chapter 11 the first 13 verses and there was given me a reed like unto a rod. And one said rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and them that worship therein and the court, which is without the temple, leave without. And measure it not for it hath been given unto the nations and the Holy City shall they tread under foot 40 and two months and I will give unto my two witnesses and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the Lord of the earth.

And if any man desires to hurt them. Fire proceeded out of their mouth and devoured their enemies. And if any man should desire to hurt them in this manner must he be killed. These have the power to shut the heaven that it rained not during the days of their prophecy and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to smite the earth with every plague. As often as they shall desire and when they shall have finished their testimony the beast that cometh up out of the abyss shall make war with them. Notice this first seven and when they shall have
finished their testimony the beast that cometh up out of the abyss shall make war with them and overcome them and kill them and their dead bodies lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt where also their Lord was crucified and from among the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations do men look upon their dead bodies three days and a half and suffer not their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. In the Orient, that is an indignity of tremendous proportions.

Verse ten, and they that dwell on the earth rejoice over them and make merry and they shall send gifts one to another because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth and after the three days and a half the breath of life from God entered into them and they stood upon their feet and great fear fell upon them that beheld them and they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them come up hither and they went up into heaven in the cloud and their enemies beheld them and in that hour there was a great earthquake and the tenth part of the city fell and there were killed in the earthquake. Seven thousand persons and the rest were affrighted and gave glory to the God of Heaven. Friends there is no possible denial of the increase in mental illness in recent years and it is due. You may be sure it is due to increase yet more in the days ahead. What is seen in the last days of the church age will be heightened and intensified in the last days of Israel's age. In other words in the Great Tribulation. Did you notice that we do not use the less accurate term insanity but the more proper and exact terms mental illness we live in a day when there are drives for polio aid March of Dimes for Heart Fund for multiple sclerosis for muscular dystrophy for mental health. And the managers of Kansas have been on nationwide telecast to acquaint the public with the causes the treatment and possible cure of mentally sick.

The government our government is spending great sums on research care and rehabilitation in the armed forces. Also medical schools and medical societies are turning much
of their research into this field and it seems to be just the course of the day. Situation that is taken for granted. I remember a dear friend of mine who worked with us on a Bible Project who said he was eating in a department store in New York City and the table next to them had a group of ladies who were visiting and they were speaking fairly loudly because there was a number of them and they had no fear of being overheard and there was no eavesdropping in the question. There's no question about that. It wasn't involved at all. But whereas ladies eating out like that in other days would have been talking about furnishings in the home or new dresses or new apparel or things of that nature or their next appointment at the hairdresser every one of these ladies was talking about her next appointment with the psychiatrist. What are the facts of the case? Well according to figures released by the National Institute of Mental Health there has been a steady increase from World War II. They've got the statistics from that time on the World Almanac from 1945. Each decade has seen a steady increase.

They give the figures for patients in mental hospitals for mental disease. For year after year. And remember that's a small portion of the total when we consider how many are not hospitalized. The figures show the average daily number of resident patients some have computed it to be about one tenth of our population. And that takes a total of between a half million and a million people to care for them. There are persons employed in these institutions to care for them. And the total of the ill goes up to a tremendous figure Encyclopedia Britannica said not long ago that psychiatric disorders of later life were a major growing problem. Were responsible for overcrowding in psychiatric hospitals. Christian doctor has said about 9 million. And these figures are all nine million Americans suffer from emotional and mental illness. If it's one tenth of our population. It's double that is double that said he as many hospital beds are filled by the mentally deranged as are occupied by all medical and surgical patients combined. In fact
one out of every 20 Americans will have a psychotic disturbance severe enough to confined him in a hospital for the insane mental disease is indeed says this Christian doctor the nation's number one health problem what does it cost to take care of the patients in mental hospitals.

Why the annual cost is more than a billion dollars. Besides outside the asylums you have a vast number who do not need confinement but who are incapable of supporting themselves. They work little or not at all. And they constitute a great burden on the taxpayer said the great psychiatrist Dr. Carl Jung. He recognized the importance of this problem and the importance of God in healing the ills of mankind. Hear him and he's not a preacher. He said among all my patients in the second half of life that is to say over 35. There has not been one underscore that there has not been one who's problem in the last resort was not that of finding a religious outlook on life. It seems to me that side by side with the decline of religious life the neuroses these neuroses grow noticeably more frequent. Think of it. Now the question is and it's not out of place to ask why this increase in mental illness. Does the Bible especially the prophetic scriptures throw light on this situation. Well a study of the word of God does give us much needed light and information. The increase in mental illness can be traced to at least three basic causes. These may not be all but these are three basic causes and I've talked to Christian physicians and they have confirmed these elements that I'm speaking of.

The first is fear F E A R. We know that fears appear early in human life they increase as the years pass. Now some fears help preserve life. They keep us for instance from jumping from a building for fear of injury or death. That's good. But most fears are detrimental for instance very early in life with babies it's not detrimental. There are the fears of falling. Then we know there's the fear of punishment physical punishment or divine punishment. There's the fear of the unknown. There's the fear of death and scores of others. Dr. George W. Truett for a long while
pastor of the first Baptist Church whom I heard many times with much blessing. Dr. Truett was much sought after to speak to students of a university. And one time when students in a certain Christian school asked him to speak to them he asked them what the subject they'd like to have dealt with and their answer in great measure was on fear. Fear not is found scores of times in the Bible. The unbelieving have many fears Israel in unbelief, Deuteronomy 28 66 and 67 tells us that in the morning they'll fear the things of the day in the evening they'll fear the things that come after that day. Eddie Cantor during the Hitler persecutions was in fear speaking at a banquet in Southern California and he said we are now afraid that it could happen here. Now the scriptures tell us something of these fears.

For instance in Psalm 14 a very very noted Psalm because you'll remember that Psalm begins with the Fool has said in his heart there is no God. They are corrupt. They've done abominable works. There's none that doeth good. Now that psalm that begins that way in verse five, if verse one is true then verse five must obtain Psalm 14 verse 5. There were they in great fear for God is in the generation he is in the generation of the righteous. You remember President Roosevelt said in World War II. We have nothing to fear but fear itself. There were they in great fear. But this is not the only place where scriptures talk about fear. There are some fears that are warranted. Then there are some fears that are not warranted at all. They have no basis. Psalm 53:5 talks about that. There were they in great fear were no fear was people afraid when there was no cause for their fear at all. Such fears then can be imagined fears. Atheism breeds fear. Probably the greatest fear of all for the unbeliever is the fear of death. Hebrews 2:15 Satan has kept the unbelieving all their lifetime in fear fear of death. Yet Christ died to break that terrible fear. In the period of travail ahead for the world and the Great Tribulation. Fear is going to work its havoc. Isaiah 2 tells us 10 19 and 21st verses.
They're going to be afraid they're going to flee to the caves and the rocks. Chapter 24 of Isaiah 17 and 18. Jeremiah as well in verse 5 of Chapter 30 a voice of fear not of joy a voice of trembling revelation 11:11. Remember we heard of their fear in that chapter that we read at the beginning of our study in Revelation 18:10 and the believers testimony is altogether different. I will not fear even though a host and camps about me because the Lord is my light and my salvation of whom shall I be afraid. Psalm 27 1 to 3 and Psalm 34:4 is in point to there's no bondage of fear intended for the believer. We've not been given a spirit of fear. We've been liberated from it. We've been given a spirit of soberness and of sound mind and a freedom of joy. Romans 8 15 second Timothy one and verse seven. But you say how can all this be so. Preacher when I read many times in the Old Testament that we are to seek the fear of the Lord ah the fear of the Lord in the Old Testament is an altogether different matter. That's not terror. That's not trembling that's not a matter of being frightened. Oh no it means piety and godliness for instance.

Notice here in Psalm 110 verse ten is a good example of Psalm One hundred and eleven rather not some hundred and ten but some 111. And it's in verse ten the last verse. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom proverbs tells us that so many times the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom a good understanding have all they that do his commandments his praise endureth forever. Proverbs 1:7 as well the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. How many times I heard that as a lad as we were studying our Hebrew Bible in the original [inaudible Hebrew] the beginning of wisdom [inaudible Hebrew] the beginning. Wisdom is the fear of the Lord [inaudible Hebrew] that's the theme of Proverbs. Today we are in the foreshadowing of a very very frightening period and that we have in the book of Luke Chapter 21 and verse 26 here this important word. Men are going to be fainting for fear. There's the word in the last days when there's perplexity and like the roaring of the sea and the billows Earth's distress of nature. Men
fainting for fear their hearts failing them for fear you have there in the translation. Men's hearts failing them for fear because of the things that are taking place that are happening on Earth.

Yes, my dear friends fear is disastrous. Fear is devastating to mental health. It is now and as a matter of fact it always has been. Dr. Reed minister of the gospel of Christ said I remember once lying in bed and I took fright. I heard my own heart beat but I took it to be someone knocking was so loud. Think of it I took it to be someone knocking at the door and I arose and opened the door more than once before I discovered that the sound was in my own breast. The Emperor Domitian what a vile one he was one of the finest of men and a diabolical persecutor of the early church. He lived in fear. He made it his boast that he had steeled his face against a blush yet from fear of assassination. Hear it. He was so afraid of being assassinated by one of his own household or one of his subjects that he had the ends of the hall. The corridor in which he used to take exercise he had both ends of the corridor lined with polished marble to reflect the image of anyone creeping up behind him.

No question about it my dear friends. Anyone who has studied the subject any physician will certainly tell you that fear can work tremendous havoc. The increase in mental illness in the latter days is directly attributable to the great increase in fear. But that's not all. There is another reason another basic cause for mental illness and that is because of undisciplined, undisciplined living living that knows no bounds living that takes its own way its own course regardless of what God has set down as limits as guidelines undisciplined living. In Second Timothy 3 1 to 4 we have one of the most remarkable pictures of events and conditions and circumstances in the end of the age of the church the church's last days on earth. But know this. Notice the Apostle isn't surmising. Paul writing to Timothy second Timothy 3. He isn't guessing. He's talking about what we know and he wants Timothy to know it for a certainty but know this that in the last days
grievous times difficult times shall come why for men shall be lovers of self lovers of money boastful haughty regular's disobedient to parents unthankful unholy without natural affection implacable unreasonable slanders without self-control fierce no lovers of good boasters headstrong puffed up lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Notice that second Timothy 3: 1-4. That's a most unusual and revealing analysis that the spirit of God has given us. Show me anything parallel to it in the Bible or out of it and since it's true of the professing church that's reverting practically back to the conditions of Romans one how much more of the world outside is it true that makes no profession at all. That doesn’t pretend to want a disciplined life a structured life. You know what the all characterizing phrase is in this awful list. It is this expression this phrase without self-control that summarizes the entire gamut of undisciplined behavior. We see it on every hand. We see multiple assassinations these multiple slaughters this dismembering of bodies. The vilest and the most fearful actions that have ever been heard of. See how numerous the enumeration is here how numerous are the ramifications undisciplined as to what self lovers of self lovers of pleasure haughty, seemed to love everything but God lovers of self lovers of pleasure lovers of this and lovers of that but not lovers of God. Does the scriptures say that their lovers of pleasure.

Statistics tell us how America spends her money gambling in the billions. Crime in the billions. Alcoholic beverages. About half the amount of billions that you have in crime tobacco in the billions. Foreign missions scarcely two hundred million dollars undisciplined as to possessions lovers of money undisciplined as to speech boastful railers, slanderers they don't know how to hold their tongues. They don't know how to conduct themselves in proper society. You remember the Chicago 7 they could scarcely carry on the court case because the judge was shouted down. He was overridden. They had to bind them. They had to restrain them and then
finally some of them had to be taken out of the courtroom altogether undisciplined as to speech. Nobody seems to want to be responsible when he starts speaking. They allow themselves the uttermost latitude and then undisciplined as to home authority disobedient to parents why obedience to parents some feel has gone out of style just as the old horse and buggy and discipline as to home authority undisciplined as to affections without natural affection there's a lot of affection going on in the world today. But it's not the right kind. It's unnatural affection not affection a man for his wife but a man for someone else's wife.

Oh these are terrible things and without natural affection and fierce of undisciplined affection emotions gone absolutely riot. And then undisciplined as to reason they can't keep their minds within bounds implacable. These are impossible to reason with them. They can't make their minds rivet on anything. Little girl was asked by her mother once this is in another connection. She was asked why she hadn't gone to bed yet. Why is it she hadn't gone to sleep? She'd been put to bed about a half hour before she says well mother I can't make my mind sit down with a lot of folk grownups can't make their minds sit down in reasonable areas and undisciplined as to what to reason they're headstrong and undisciplined as to loyalties traders. Think of it our country has been sold out by some of the greatest scientific minds our country has ever trained or our country has ever afforded or boasted of. And do you remember why one of them sold atomic secrets to Russia. Or have you forgotten it. They asked him why did you do it. Why did you do it. What was there in it for you. And the most idiotic the most idiotic answer. Talk about undiscipline as to loyalties he said. I was promised unlimited rides on vehicles and transportation in Russia. Think of it that's the kind of talk you'd expect from a child that hasn't even gone to school yet. Happy about getting a ride on a train or a car or the like.
Undisciplined as to loyalties selling out the greatest loyalties for a pittance for nothing and worse than nothing. And then the saddest of all beloved in this catalogue. Second Timothy 3 1 to 4 is undisciplined as to God. Unthankful knowing God they were not thankful, Romans 1 unholy that's undisciplined as to God no lovers of God they've never heeded the word from elders from parents or otherwise to realize that good is to be loved. The beautiful is to be loved instead of evil. The more gruesome the more debased the more degenerate thing is the greater love is shown today. No lovers of good and not lovers of God certainly no rather than lovers of God the one who created them the one who redeemed them the one who has sustained them and preserved them the present of the universe for them that one is certainly certainly worthy but no not one single bit of it.

They are not lovers of God oh friends what I’m speaking of in this study. I'm speaking of the increase in mental illness in the latter days the latter days of the church age and will go into the latter days of Israel’s age after the church is gone and the tribulation. The same thing will hold over Satan will be running rampant. Fear will be their undisciplined living. We are not finished with this. Therefore, we shall proceed with this tremendous theme of without self-control. Believe me friend it is one of the tremendous fearful causes of the increase in mental illness. The mind cannot long sustain itself rightly once it has gone out of control. Once the Monitor once the mechanism that God has put there is completely shut off and put aside. [End]