**Jeremiah: It’s the Last Hour**

**The Ruin of America**

**Jeremiah 9:12-24**

**July 26, 2015**

Let's be honest about the **INSUFFICIENCY OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY**.

…**Romans 7:18 — *18*** *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*

When Self-Sufficiency Shows Up…

1. Answer the **OBSTINATE**. Jeremiah 9:12-16

**Jeremiah 9:12–24 — 12** *Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the Lord spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through?*

Intellectual & Theological Pursuits

***13*** *And the Lord says: “Because they have forsaken my law that I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice or walked in accord with it,*  ***14*** *but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them.*  ***15*** *Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink.*  ***16*** *I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.”*

Stubborn Hearts & Painful Consequences

**Romans 6:23 — *23*** *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Galatians 6:7 — *7*** *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*

1. Accept the **OBVIOUS**. Jeremiah 9:17-22

…**Romans 1:24 — *24*** *God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,*

**Romans 1:26 — 26** *God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;*

**Romans 1:28 — 28** *God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.*

**Romans 1:32 — 32** *Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*

***17*** *Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider, and call for the mourning women to come; send for the skillful women to come;*  ***18*** *let them make haste and raise a wailing over us, that our eyes may run down with tears and our eyelids flow with water.*  ***19*** *For a sound of wailing is heard from Zion: ‘How we are ruined! We are utterly shamed, because we have left the land, because they have cast down our dwellings.’ ”*

***20*** *Hear, O women, the word of the Lord, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth; teach to your daughters a lament, and each to her neighbor a dirge.*  ***21*** *For death has come up into our windows; it has entered our palaces, cutting off the children from the streets and the young men from the squares.*  ***22*** *Speak: “Thus declares the Lord, ‘The dead bodies of men shall fall like dung upon the open field, like sheaves after the reaper, and none shall gather them.’ ”*

1. Advertise the Lord’s **FAITHFULNESS**. Jeremiah 9:23-24

***23*** *Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,*  ***24*** *but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”*

The Insufficiency of Self-Sufficiency

The Sufficiency of the LORD

No one who is whole is **SELF-SUFFICIENT**!

Let’s talk about the ruin of America…

1. What is the “this” and the “it” that Jeremiah challenges the wise man to understand or the prophet to declare (v.12)?
2. How can we talk to people in our community about what we see happening in the culture today?
3. What was the LORD’s answer to Jeremiah’s challenge (v.13-14)?
4. How do you make sure that the Law of the LORD is set before you so that you obey it (v.13)?
5. How do we teach the children in our families and in our community to not go after the Baals (v.14)?
6. What should the relationship be between the Bible and Apologetics when addressing the moral issues of our day?
7. What are some examples of “bitter food” and “poisonous water” we are having to deal with in our country today that are ruining our country (v.15)?
8. What is the cry that would be heard throughout the land as they mourned over God’s judgment (v.19)?
9. What should we be teaching our children to mourn over (v.20)?
10. What is it that is “cutting off the children from the streets and the young men from the squares” in our country today (v.21)?
11. What are the things we tend to boast in today in our country (v.23)?
12. How do we boast in our knowledge of the LORD (v.24)?