

3/19/75

Chapel Message

Dr. Allan A. MacRae

Copy 1

Broken Cisterns and the Biblical Basis for BST

As we start the day I would like to read from Jeremiah the second chapter -- Jer. 2:12,13: "Be appalled, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord. For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

That is very strong language in that first verse, and indeed from God's viewpoint that strong language is fully justified. When men turn away from God and His will and hew them out broken cisterns indeed it is a horrible thing. From a human viewpoint it is hard to feel quite so strongly about it because it is so constantly done. We look at our world and we see people pursuing things that profit them nothing; pursuing after things that do not last; pursuing after all the lusts of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. We see it so commonly that we do not realize how horrible it is as the Lord said in this v. 12. But I think also we don't realize that among Christians also it is a very common thing to forsake the fountain of living waters and hew out our own little cisterns. We all fall into this from time to time.

One sad illustration of it is the matter I referred to two weeks ago when I spoke here, of people instead of spending their time taking the great doctrines of this Word -- salvation through Christ, the deity of Christ, the great things that mean so much to our lives now and hereafter -- and trying to make an argument that we must stick to one version of the language of 300 years ago or to the particular Greek