

Jonah gives us a picture of a number of things that I think are very important. In ch. 1 when the sailors called Jonah and when they found that Jonah said he was responsible, we read, The sailors cried to the Lord, O Lord please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man. You O Lord have done as you please . . . The men rowed hard and did their best not to have to do as Jonah said for them to do and throw him overboard.

The idea it is easy to get that Christians are mostly perfect and that all others are absolutely wicked is a false idea. The goodness of the unregenerate, the goodness of the lost, the goodness of so many people is something that is hard to realize. God has not allowed the world to dissolve into wickedness ~~xxx~~ zx as it could very easily do. God has preserved a remarkable ~~xxxx~~ amount of goodness in the unregenerate. The Lord wants us to have a balance in our attitude. To recognize good where we find it, and to appreciate it and to use it. But also to recognize the sin and wickedness that is in the world in general and that is in the Christian too.

I've had people come to me and say, My the way those people do in that church! You know the unregenerate would not do as these church people do! What a false idea they have. Christians are sinners, and you will find wickedness and error among them. It is time we recognized that in our dealings with Christians. Not simply trust them because they are Christians. But the wickedness and evil that you find in almost any group of Christians will not compare with the unregenerate world. When people talk like that they just know nothing about the sin that is in the world.

People that are very very nice, and very helpful to you and very kind when something comes that affects them personally you'll be amazed at the depth of wickedness to which they will descend in order to get an advantage for themselves. If== Yes we praise God for the goodness of the sailors. We praise God for the fact he has left so much goodness in the unregenerate world. But I think we should realize that Christians are a salt that keeps the world from dissolving into utter violence and debauchery and disintegration.

God wants us to realize that he has said to each one of us, Go. The word of the Lord came to Jonah. The word of the Lord came to us. He wants us to go where he wants us even though it is unpleasant to us. Often that which is most unpleasant is that which is nearest to you. But he wants us to go wherever we can make him known. That does not mean necessarily that we have to go to the wiles of Alaska, or the heart of ~~Assaze~~ Africa. But he wants many of us to do that. He wants everyone of us to be willing. The man who is not willing if God wants him to go to the most difficult field to work, I question whether God will really use him here.
to be willing to

God wants us to go wherever he leads us, and whether he leads one of us to go far away to preach the Gospel, he wants