

God's Plumb Line

There He showed me, and behold, the Lord stood upon a wall with a plumb line in His hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "a plumb line." Then said the Lord, "Behold I am setting a plumb line as a standard in the midst of My people Israel." Amos 7:7,8.

In these verses in Amos and in II Kings 21:13; Isaiah 28:17 and 34:11, God speaks of His plumb line. To understand why God uses the term "plumb line" we must first define it.

A plumb line is a cord with a stone or metal weight, used to ensure the straightness of a wall. A wall that is not built straight will eventually collapse. Plumb line and plummet are used figuratively of God's action in testing the uprightness of His people. To plumb is to make vertical, exactly, precisely.

"Plumb line" is symbolic. Israel had been built "true" to God's standard; now she will be measured by that same standard. Likewise, God has given us as believers a standard that we, too, will be measured by. That standard has two measuring devices: the Word of God and the life of Christ.

The Word is spoken of as a "sharp, two edged sword that divides between the soul and spirit and judges the very thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) Also, II Timothy 3:16 reminds us of the purpose of the Scripture: "for reproof of sin, for correction of error, training in righteousness and conforming to God's will."

Christ and His yielded will is always set as our goal and example: Romans 8:29 "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son," to be conformed to the image of Jesus means that we give up the self-life and yield our will to the will of God.

If we allow the Word of God to correct us and if we yield to God's will in thought, purpose, and action, then we will build straight, strong lives that will not collapse under stress.

Is your life true to God's standard; His divine plumb line? The measuring line is His Word and the life of Christ. Only through yielding to His will can we build straight and true.