The Welfare of The People

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Ieremiah 38:3-4, "Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it. Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the tened to God's warning. men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of hurt."

The prophet Jeremiah spoke the word of God to the people of Israel. He didn't, and couldn't, say whatenemy had attacked them and lay siege to their citrefused to consider that they had sinned against God they wanted to do. and so they didn't believe what Jeremiah told them was the truth.

lon they called him a traitor and wanted to kill him. times before. They couldn't see their sin and therefore when we need it. I do – how about you?

defenders and helped the enemy. Although they obeying God's message. They refused to do this and Jews, Jeremiah was working for the welfare of Israel. saw their city destroyed and thousands killed, along If they had repented of their sins and turned to God with many thousands carried away into captivity. All with a sincere hears they would have been blessed. of this would not have happened if they had only lis-

all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for what was good for the welfare of the people. Natuthis man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the rally they want things to be pleasant and good for the and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of emy didn't sound good at all. They couldn't see that to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am the sins that was common in their lives was causing set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithever he wanted to, he had to speak only what the Lord such troubles and would bring even more hardships standing, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, told him to say. The people of Israel were being pun- on them. They were living according to their own *Christ is preached,*" **Phil 1:15-18a**. It is still the same ished by God for their sinful ways. That was why the wants and thought, or at least told themselves, that today as Christ Jesus is preached in various ways. It is God was pleased with them. There was a big differ- up to us to search the scriptures and to know what is ies and especially the capital, Jerusalem. The People ence between what God wanted them to do and what true and what is in error.

They thought that if he was a true prophet he They would have been pleased if he had been able that it wasn't what God wanted us to hear. None of us would tell them that everything would be alright. to tell them that God was going to destroy the invad-lives so good that we don't need to hear the Lord cor-When he told them to surrender to the army of Baby- ers and bless them with victory just as he had many recting us at times. He loves us enough to correct us

They said that his words weakened the spirit of the didn't see where they needed to make any changes in their lives. Where they saw Jeremiah as a traitor didn't understand, or believe it, Jeremiah was telling who supported the Babylonians, he was actually dothe truth and their only hope lay in accepting and ing what God had called him to do. Unknown to the

Today there are many ministers who preach God's word. Some have great followings, and some It is sad to see that the people didn't really know are treated as troublemakers and are heard by few. "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; nation. Talking of war and being overcome by the en-contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction

Looking at the examples in the bible we should They saw Jeremiah as a troublemaker who said realize that just because a message is strong and as things to discourage the people, notably the soldiers. some have said, "It stepped on my toes," doesn't mean

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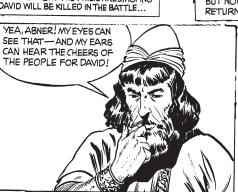
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