

I Resign

By Justin Morton

Have you ever resigned from a job because it wasn't what you thought it was going to be or you just couldn't take it anymore? As Christians, sometimes it might be easy to want to resign from the job God has called all of us to do (Matt. 28:19-20). More and more it seems we are living in a world that doesn't want to hear the Gospel message. This can be depressing and even cause us to resign from our God-given responsibility.

Jeremiah was a man who was called by God to prophesy to the wicked nation of Judah (Jer. 1:1-10). During his time as a prophet, Jeremiah suffered an incredible amount of persecution. Things were so bad for Jeremiah that the chief temple officer had him placed in an inhumane instrument (stocks) used to distort the body and inflict a great deal of pain on its victim (Jer. 20:1-6). It appeared this caused Jeremiah to finally reach his breaking point because he cried out, *"I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in his name"* (Jer. 20:9a).

Jeremiah, a man on a mission for God, suffered severely for the sake of the message he preached and it seemed was ready to resign from his God-appointed office. He was tired of preaching a message no one wanted to hear.

Have you ever felt this way? If so, you are not alone, Jeremiah was ready to resign. But, then something happened. Jeremiah realized why he couldn't resign from speaking the message of God. He said, *"But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not"* (Jer. 20:9b).

No matter how much he had to suffer or how often he was rejected, Jeremiah couldn't help but preach the message God had laid on his heart. God's word was like a burning fire he could not contain no matter how hard he tried.

Friends, if you have ever felt like resigning from God's call, let Jeremiah serve as a great example. When God's word truly burns in our hearts, we won't resign, but we will feel compelled to suffer whatever we must in order to share His message of hope and love with others.