



SAFE HARBOR
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When in the Course of Human Events...

There is much going on in our world. The Church stands challenged every day as culture wars and conflicts escalate and the influence of Christianity seemingly diminishes. So we look at the events of our human saga and respond as Christians to them. The question is "How?" This is especially important when we see those who try to read their own philosophies into the teaching of Scriptures which they have little or no comprehension of the truths being given. This spiritual warfare is intensifying almost daily. Our society tells us that we must compromise and leave behind the teachings that are seen as archaic in a modern world. Hence the body of believers is looked at as being out of touch or even insensitive to a world that has misinterpreted the true meaning of love and the necessity of having standards to live by.

We remember that we live in a fallen world which has at best only given lip service to any sense of deity. The truth is that human desires and passions have taken the place of God in the minds of most of the people we see. We are confronted by this fallen world and its deep rooted idolatry of the person. Each generation seems to move further away from the truth that centers in the Almighty Creator.

So we look for a world in which God reigns. On the seventh day God rested and charged his ultimate creation, humankind, to be faithful and obedient to him, sharing in fellowship with the Divine and bringing His glory to our world. In a fallen world, the first place where God must reign is in our hearts. It is a true repentance from sin and returning to the fellowship with God that we must strive for on a daily basis.

Too often the body of believers has relinquished the understanding of faith to the hands of theologians, pastors and church leaders who may be faithful guides or may not. If we are confronted by the question, "What is God's will and how can I conform myself to it?" then we must be able to respond ourselves. This is a task that each believer must strive to work

at daily. To respond responsibly requires Bible Study, prayer, meditation and being open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is necessary to understand fully the consequences of Jesus' prayer, "Not my will Father but thy will be done". The old gospel song speaks to this, "Sweet Will of God still fold me over until I am fully lost in thee". The path of the believer is to follow in the path of Jesus until the fallen world sees Jesus in His Church.

But this does not mean compromising the truth and standards of Scripture. Nor does it negate the statement, "God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son". This love that God has is an acceptance of the sinner coupled with a hatred for the action of sin that is being done. This world, as created, was given order and life. Those who would distort this truth wish to remove the natural order and impose their so called enlightened philosophies in a chaos of the fallen. Therefore we must become fully obedient to the will of God. For it is in the obedience that we become more human for the image of God that we had been created in can be restored and the light of Christ, the true light, may shine through his people. To quote R.R. Reno, "This obedience is contagious. It gives us the courage and humility and wisdom to contribute to the humanization of the world.

So in times like these Christians need to draw close to God, to worship, pray and be witnesses of the One who desires to use his children to accomplish the works of faith and perseverance.

It is not a time to wander aimlessly about touching the truth but denying the power thereof. Do we surrender to the falseness of popular culture or rise and stand tall against the storms of unbelief? "The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne". (Rev. 3:21)

Reflections

I shall thank You for in an Awesome Wondrous way I was fashioned, Your works are wondrous and my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:14 Literal Hebrew Translation)

These words of the Psalmist should speak volumes to our society, where the question of *what lives matter?*, is before us almost daily. We live where it seems that life is has no real value except to persons meaning to advance their own interest.

In the sight of God all lives matter. As the Creator of this world his crown of Creation is the making of persons in His image. His love has been the dam which has held back His judgement against our sin. His love made a way for that *Imago Dei* to be restored to his fallen creation. Yet we seem to ignore this in our continuance of a society and culture that mocks God and anything religious. In our mocking of God we open the way for evil to pervade our society until we wonder if there is any hope at all.

The solution will grate upon us for the absence of religion and its norms open a "free" society where "everyone did that which was right in their own eyes". This breeds the sins of society that are brazenly paraded before us in the media, by educators, politicians, the wealthy and every strata of society. In our efforts to accommodate everyone we destroy the dignity of all persons.

It is time for all to take a stand and say that the behaviors we are accepting are unacceptable. It is time for the political leeches to be removed and their megalomaniacal tendencies be contained. It is time for communities to say violence against anyone cannot be tolerated or excused any longer. It is time, especially for American society, to cease being driven by greed and avarice.

But such change might only come if there is a return to the Judeo-Christian morality which has served to stabilize Western Culture over the centuries. It is said that the Wesley Revival in 18th century England averted a situation that would have resulted in a revolution that would later encompass France. So it might be the only option for the western World to keep the barbarians from the gate.

Such a return is only possible if we stand up and reject the lies of the Tempter. For in those lies lay the whole crux of the greed which turns a child into a thug; a corporate CEO into a win at any cost mindset; a politician into a demigod.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for that is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment with every secret thing, whether good or evil. Eccl: 12:13-14

These words are the summation of one who tried wealth, hedonism and power.

Words of Promise

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2Chr. 7:14

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