

GOD SEES AND CARES

February 2, 2014

How many people have experienced situations that were not of their choosing? It would be safe to say that more have, than have not. Life is full of valleys of despair that push an individual to the brink of giving up and losing hope. Loved ones have passed, jobs have been lost, and marriages have crumbled; and never because a person wanted it to happen. How often has God been blamed and forsaken because a terrible event happened with which He had nothing to do? The answer is far more than can be counted. Satan, the enemy of both God and man, wants all people to believe that God endorses and causes everything that takes place in this life. Nothing could be further from the truth! James said, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights" (Js. 1:17). The bad things of this life happen because sin came into the world and disrupted the perfect paradise that God had created for mankind. In reality, Satan is the source of all the bad that this existence has to offer, not God. It is Satan toward whom we should show our anger and disgust.

It is easy, at times, to believe that God cannot see the problems that His creation endures in this life. It is easy to think that He is too busy or simply does not care for the plight of mankind, as the trials of this life mount up and seemingly take center stage in this physical existence. But He does see!

The wrong choices that are made in this life remove one from the presence of God. Too often, a person runs away from God into the desert of sin seeking relief only to find more sorrow. For example, the young maiden Hagar ran away from the home of Abram and Sarai into the desert. She was a young Egyptian girl, probably given to Abram by the king of Egypt, during his sojourn there (Gen. 12:16). Through no fault of her own, she was soon in the middle of a vicious triangle of family trouble and sin. Sarai gave her to Abram so that she might conceive and bring forth the son God had promised to give them, but like all "better plans," it did not work out the intended way. Just as with many people today, Hagar was in a situation over which she had no control.

Trying to make her situation better, Hagar ran into the dessert looking for relief, but all she found was the desert! She was likely trying to make her way back to her homeland, but instead she was in danger of her life and that of her unborn child. No doubt she felt abandoned and alone, but she was not. God was watching and knew the trials that Hagar faced; He sent an angel who asked her where she was from and where she was going (Gen. 16:7-8). Ultimately, Hagar returned to the home of Abram and gave birth to her son Ishmael, whom the Lord blessed greatly.

What really saved Hagar? Was it that God simply wanted to save her? NO! God wants all of humanity to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4), but that wasn't why she found salvation from the desert. Hagar learned to be submissive to Sarai, her mistress, and she returned to her (Gen. 16:9). One cannot run away from the trials of this life, they can only be faced. God will always be available to His followers, but they must have the necessary faith to know that He is there for them.

There is no life in the desert, there is only basic survival. No one plans to stay in the desert, but too often that is what happens. The desert of sin does not offer relief from trouble, it only offers more trouble in addition to that which is already being experienced. The Good news is that God never abandons His people, and like Hagar, He seeks us wherever we are. God wants us to come home and surrender to His will so we can allow Him to direct our lives as He see fit.

That doesn't mean that life and its hardships will no longer plague the faithful believer. It does mean that God sees all of us and cares for each one, and if we allow Him to, He will take care of us in this life (Mt. 6:33). More importantly, He will care for us in the next one! Make sure that you obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ before it is too late. If you have, but have run away, come back to Him from the desert to the safety of His home.