

GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL

June 8, 2014

We become discouraged sometimes when we look around the world and especially in our own country, as we see the direction in which it is going. The high ideals of yesteryear have given way to the, “I deserve to be happy,” contingent that is growing in our society. More and more people want to do what feels good to them no matter what it is. Most television programs deride and make fun of God and those that believe in Him. Movies and music are chocked full of irreverent phrases and actions, and many people laugh when they hear them. The beliefs of faithful followers of God are now deemed “old fashioned” and outdated. If one does not embrace homosexuality, “shacking up” instead of marriage, abortion on demand, drug and alcohol use, socialist tenets such as receiving a welfare check when one is able to work for a living, and a myriad of other practices that are foreign to Bible teaching, then he is labeled a hate monger and a bigot! Our very own President of the United States has virtually done everything except for the right thing in almost every aspect of the office.

BUT guess what? God is still in control, and He does not endorse any of the above practices, either! Rest assured that the fight is worthwhile and that it will never end as long as the world stands. The first century Christian, during John’s last days, was facing all these terrible things, plus many more that we can’t even imagine. Christ’s message to them was that they should not lose their faith or their desire to fight against the “unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11), no matter how bleak it looked at the time.

It matters not that God’s faithful are in the distinct minority in this world and nation, He still expects us to live the Christian life and stand against the evils and sins of this world. Though we may become discouraged at times, we need to remember that God is still in control, and He will continue to bless the faithful that fight on the side of truth and stand against the “wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11).

Christ revealed to John these same sentiments as he suffered the punishment of Patmos at the hands of Domitian, the Emperor of Rome. In the fourth chapter of Revelation, John was privileged to see into the very throne room of God. Guess what he saw? He saw God sitting on His throne ruling all of creation! I wonder if John was surprised by what he saw? Sometimes Christians take the position, “Well we can’t do anything about it anyway,” and act as if God has been replaced by the wicked of this world. This is not what God wants us to do! He wants us to be faithful under any and all circumstances that happen to come our way (Rev. 2:10) and to behave ourselves as He has directed us to do in the face of adversity.

The persecuted, in Revelation, were going to have to stand against the most powerful nation the world had ever seen up to that point in history. Yet, they were ordered to remain faithful no matter what happened to them or their families. Yes! There would be terrible things that would happen to them, but they were given the encouragement needed to be able to continue the fight against sin. Chapters four and five gave the comfort and encouragement needed to those who would soon see persecution the likes of which had never existed before. They would learn that God is still in His throne room controlling all things (chapter 4) and that Christ is still the Lamb that redeemed man from sin (chapter 5).

Hopefully, we can all learn from those valiant soldiers of the cross that gave their lives for the greatest cause the world has ever known (Rev. 6:9) so we can continue to remain positive even when those

around us become discouraged and weary of the fight. As Christ walked toward Golgotha, the cross became heavy, and He fell to the ground under its weight. It would have been easy for Him to call upon the Father and have Him send the legions of angels at His disposal so He could find rest and comfort (Mt. 26:53) from the great task He faced. However, He continued to press forward and fulfill the will of the Father.

Never allow discouragement or Satan to cause us to detour from the work God has allowed us the privilege of fulfilling. We all need to remember that God is still in control and that we do not have to fight the battle of the righteous alone!