

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Be Still . . . Before Me Be still and know that I AM God.

A few nights ago, my colleague awakened with these words reverberating within her being: "Be still and know that I AM God" (Ps 46.10).

It is difficult sometimes to be at peace in the midst of chaos. We are living in the enemy's territory, and Satan is on the rampage. He is attacking God's people with all of his forces in an attempt to eradicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God. He has attempted to eradicate the Truth of the Lord Jesus Christ over the years by making us more comfortable with sin in the schools, the churches, the homes. It is said that the more present sin is, the more accepting of it we become, and the more we become comfortable with it.

Homes have been torn asunder today, and the government has entered into the home life by making decisions that override the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is true in the churches as well – of which now most are aligned with the government making them the State Church(es).

When we allowed miniscule steps to be taken, thinking them not to come back to bite us, we lost our strength as members of Christ's Holy Church, as members of His Body. The members are not standing together, but are fighting each other which also takes from us the strength of the Lord. The old adage, "united we stand; divided we fall" is true even in the body of Christ.

We are living in a day in which sin is rampant in the world. A sexual relationship outside of marriage, living with a "partner" before marriage, is acceptable in society and churches today. Homosexuality is considered "normal" in society and some churches. The family structure is broken, abortions are advertized. Children are disobedient out of the lack of the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ (Deut 6.4-9), out of lack of parents who know Jesus Christ as **Lord and Savior** and worship Him daily in their lives, who walk in obedience to His Word when at home, when away from home, when lying down, and when rising.

There is no longer separation of church and state. Listen up! Hear! (שמעו shâma') The state decides what the churches can do and believe; therefore, we have many of the "churches" following the state to appease them, to look good, and to become places of worship of other gods (including self): feel good theology. No longer do we hear preaching of repentance, salvation through Jesus Christ by

Only a people who are still before the Lord can do as did Jehoshaphat facing the battle (verse 18).

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with [his] face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

Beloved, when we are still before the Lord, we will hear Him; and we will walk in obedience to Him; and we will rest in Him, trusting Him, believing His Word. We will "Have Faith in God," for our God shall bring us through it all.

I want to be able to tell Satan how insignificant he is in comparison with God – our God, our refuge, our strength, our protector . . . Our God, He is **mighty God**. Beloved, walk with Him, obey Him, trust Him: Be still before Him.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

the blood of the Lamb, how Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Many of the most revered “preachers” are accepting pagan gods and saying there are more ways to heaven than through Jesus Christ. America, once known as a Christian nation, has been declared in recent times by the government as **not** a Christian nation, and, indeed, is **not**.

In fulfillment of Scriptures, nations are rising up against nations. Terrorists are raping, torturing and killing, burning houses, and automobiles. National disasters are taking place in rapid succession: earthquakes and tsunamis, nuclear meltdowns, devastating storms . . .

Fear has gripped the hearts of even the born again Christians. We cry, Lord, where are You? Save us from the grip of the enemy, from the onslaught of evil that permeates the world.

Will the next disaster claim us? Will it cause wide spread collapse of the economy and all that we know as a means of survival? How will we live with no electric power, polluted water, shortages in food supply?

I do not have specific answers for these questions, for all that is going on in our nation, in the churches and homes, but God has the answer for those who love Him with their whole heart, with all their soul, and with all their might (Deut 6.4-9) – and serve Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 46, verses 1-3, 6, 10, and 11 follows:

God *[is]* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

[Though] the waters thereof roar *[and]* be troubled, *[though]* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

Be still, and know that I *[am]* God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

The LORD of hosts *[is]* with us; the God of Jacob *[is]* our refuge. Selah.

God gives peace to His people – not peace that the world knows, but a calm trust in the Lord Jesus to bring us triumphantly with Him through every attack of Satan (Jn 14.27). God’s people are not exempt; many will suffer persecution and death (and do in other countries already), but we will know the shelter of God Who is our refuge (Isa 43.1-3).

We must quiet our spirits and calm our hearts by being in the presence of the Lord. We need to know how to sit quietly in the presence of the Lord, not speaking, just listening – not listening with the ears but with the heart as one’s spirit receives from the Spirit of the Lord. It is as we sit quietly in His presence that His peace dispels the fears and the doubts of the enemy.

Prayer is not only making our petitions known to the Lord; it includes quietly listening to the voice of the Lord. It is as we are still before the Lord that He strengthens us. The Lord wants us to have that stillness inside even as we go about daily activities.

Read all of Psalm 46. It speaks of the power of God and His presence with us, then read Psalm 37. Notice these commandments in the first eight verses:

Fret not because of evildoers

Trust in the Lord

Delight thyself in the Lord

Commit thy way unto the Lord

Rest in the Lord, and

Wait patiently for Him

Cease from anger, and

Forsake wrath

We must keep a constant vigil on our thoughts and emotions being aware of and enjoying the Lord’s presence and communing with Him as we trust Him with our lives. This atmosphere lends itself to stillness and rest in the Lord.

Let us refer again to Psalm 46.10. Not only are we to be still in God’s presence, but we also are to know that **HE IS GOD**. As our inner being becomes still in Him, we begin to experience the “knowing” that He is God. He is all powerful; He is in control – He **will** have the ultimate word in the world. He is the I AM, God, and He cares for us.

As Christians, we are soldiers in God’s army (II Tim 2.1-4); we face the enemy, an enemy on the rampage, an enemy devoted to the overthrow of God’s Kingdom in the earth – and in us. As soldiers we must know God as our Captain and help in the battle against Satan. We must move forward in great confidence knowing that He is fighting the battle for us (II Chr 20.12-24). Remember Exodus 14.13-14? God has always fought the battle for His people when they are still before Him, when they trust in Him, when they walk with Him daily.

In II Chronicles notice that Jehoshaphat appoints singers to go **before** the army of the Lord into battle. Only a people who are still before the Lord, can have that kind of peace – to go on trusting the Lord in the midst of the battle. Only a people who are still before the Lord can hear the words in II Chronicles 20.14-17:

Then upon Jahaziel . . . came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle *[is]* not yours, but God's.

To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

Ye shall not *[need]* to fight in this *[battle]*: set yourselves, stand ye *[still]*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD *[will be]* with you.