



THE TROUBLED SEA

Have you ever looked at life around you and become perplexed and frustrated? Doesn't it seem as though things go well for non-Christians? Doesn't it seem like the very people who have turned their backs upon God, displaying little or no interest in Him, are also the ones who "have it all together?" They seem to really be getting a lot out of life and enjoying a prosperous existence. Many, many righteous persons have felt these feelings. Job cried out in anguish of his soul, "Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?" (Job 21:7). The Psalmist observed, "Behold, these are the wicked; and being always at ease, they increase in riches." (Psalm 73:12). Jeremiah moaned, "Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? Wherefore are all at ease that deal very treacherously?" (Jeremiah 12:1).

It's not so much out of envy that we look with astonishment at the apparent well-being of unbelievers around us. After all, the essence of a person's life does not reside in his possessions (Luke 12:15). But absence of envy does not squelch the burning desire to know WHY! What's going on? Why do they seem to be doing so well?

God answers these frettings. He wants us to be relieved of our perplexed and frustrated feelings. Here's how: "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against them that work unrighteousness. For they soon shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb." (Psalm 37:1-2).

In other words, the battle may seem to be going their way, but the war is not over! There is a time frame to take into account that transcends the immediate and monetary! And think about the following divine insight: "But the wicked are like the troubled sea: for it cannot rest, and its waters cast up mire and dirt. For there is not peace, saith my God, to the wicked." (Isaiah 57:20).

There's the answer to our bewilderment! All of this hustle and going on around us is nothing more than futile restlessness! The frantically kicking a lot of mud up on the shore. They cannot experience the peace which the Christian has. (Philippians 4:7).

So, the next time you observe what seems to be "the advantages" of the non-Christian lifestyle, just stop for a moment and remember "the troubled sea!"

-Beech Grove Church of Christ, Spring Hill, TN, via *Bulletin Digest*

You should never let adversity get you down...except on your knees.

News & Notes

CARE & SHARE BEARS: RESUMES this Tuesday, Jan. 26th. All the ladies are invited to participate. Also, money donations are needed for supplies—see Donna Stevens.

ELDERS TO SPEAK: Next Sunday evening, Jan. 31st, our Elders will speak to us concerning the work of the church. Plan to be present for this annual event.

SPEAKERS FOR FEB. 7TH: Our speakers for this date will be Glenn Logston and Jeremy Main.

PANTRY ITEM: Canned soup.

THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS: Geraldine Barrett, Marilyn Miller, Nancy Hadley, Crystal Baker, Betty Carlin, Leo Cameron, Harry Nice. Check the bulletin board for others who are shut in.

Are You Hitting The Mark?



An old evangelist was telling another man how he might improve his lifestyle. "You know," answered the wayward fellow, "I've been aiming to do that." "Well," said the preacher, "quit aiming and start shooting."

The Bible says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). This literally means to miss the mark. Honestly now, are you hitting the mark of righteousness? The life you are living today, how close are you to what God desires? Good intentions are good, but no matter how good the intention is it will never replace the act itself. Good intentions will not get us to heaven! Read Matthew 7:21.

- Matt Richardson, Church of Christ, Hooker, OK - via *Bulletin Digest*

THE STORY OF TWO BEARS

In a village there lived an old couple who often had sharp quarrels. Everybody in town knew how much they quarreled. Suddenly they quit quarreling, and they were never heard to dispute after that. The town folk wondered what made the change. Finally one brave woman asked, "Two bears did it," said the wife. "Two bears?" "Yes, two bears we found in the Bible."

"Bear ye one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2), and "Forbearing one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2).

- Author Unknown, via *Bulletin Digest*