

Hold To God's Unchanging Hand

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Prayerfully, we are thankful to God as we enter into a new year. A year, like all others, that will have ups and downs, good days and bad days, births and deaths, but nonetheless, a new year. Many have resolved to turn over a new leaf and start the year out right! We pray that the Lord will serve a crucial role in your life as this journey begins. A very clear and vivid picture of God is stated in James 1:17-18, which reads: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

Apostasies, or an abandoning of the 'true' faith, normally take a half century to run their course. We are about midway in the battle to protect and preserve the 'cause' of our Lord from rebels throughout the world. They would destroy the one true church that we have grown to love and, from the rubble, create or establish something quite different from what we can read about and can support solely with the Bible. Some of us will not likely live to see the end of the tactics being used by Satan to infiltrate and dilute the 'truth', but Jesus gave us direct words of encouragement in Revelation 2:10, which states: "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

In time, we know that Jesus will prevail. False teachers and practitioners are never satisfied just to leave and go their own way. They want to capture and control members, and in turn, entire congregations, throughout the brotherhood and world. They will try to inject their poison into every Christian's heart and in every congregation. We must have conviction, courage and zeal to surpass their evil intent. If they will not repent, they need to leave our ranks and return from whence they came. Jesus said it best: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." This is no time for slackers or compromisers, we all must stand (1 Corinthians 16:13)! Every Christian must take his or her position in the army of Christ and fight the good fight of the faith in order to lay hold on eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12). Rest assured, the victory is ours, because we are more than conquerors through our Lord (Romans 8:37). When all is said and done, will you rest your fate on a hang up, or will you be holding on to the Master's hand?