

God Is In Control

When the Israelites were escaping from slavery with the Egyptians in hot pursuit, they stopped at the Red Sea. It seemed they were now between a rock and a hard place. But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today" (Exod. 14:13). God then parted the Red Sea so that the Israelites crossed it safely and then it closed on the advancing Egyptians. In essence, Moses' words to them were: "Don't worry. We are right where God wants us to be. God is in control. Trust in Him. Just you wait and see."

Friends, this is a message that needs to resonate well within us today - God is in control. It doesn't matter what is happening in the economy. It doesn't matter what the election results are. It doesn't matter what immoralities are now being allowed by law. God is in control.

As children of God, we need to rest assured that our destiny is secure if we are faithful to Him. God is powerful and very much in control. He will never have a shortage of strength or need a bail out from the government. He will protect His own and guide them properly. Nothing can change that - and nothing else should matter.

And still we fret and worry about our lives. But Jesus said, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life" (Matt. 6:25). And still we grumble and complain about things not going to our liking. But Paul said through inspiration, "Do all things without complaining" (Phil. 2:14). And still we waste time and resources trying to rectify matters beyond our control. And God says, "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand" (Isa. 14:24).

Look at it this way. God's job is to keep control of the situation - and He's always on the job. Our job is to trust in Him and praise Him all the day long. Someone once noted "Things don't always go our way, but they always go God's way - and His way is best."

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Pro. 3:5-6).

- Edd Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"

- Daniel 4:35 -

It's ours to obey His commands, not to direct His counsels.

News & Notes

BAPTISM: Lisa Sparks, 358 Carolina Ave., Chester, WV 26034. Phone: (304) 919-6025.

CONFESSIONS: Rob Hopwood and Chris Lamb.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Tyler & Rachel Kelly on the birth of a daughter, **Harper Lee, July 13th.** Grandparents are Mike & Tammy West. Great Grandmother is Donna Stevens. Best wishes to all.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY: To **Anita Hopwood.** Her birthday was last Wednesday, **July 19th.**

GRIEF WORKSHOP & LUNCHEON: Next **Saturday, July 29th, 11:30 a.m.** at our Fellowship Building. Sign-up sheet in the foyer for food items needed.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Columbiana Church of Christ, **next Saturday, July 29th. 6:00 p.m.** Fellowship; **7:00 p.m.** Church History; **7:30 p.m.** Gospel Sing, followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

LADIES DAY: **Saturday, Aug. 5th, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,** Columbiana Church of Christ. Topic: *"Let's Taco-Bout GRACE!"* Lunch provided. **RSVP by Friday, July 28th.** Additional details on the bulletin board.

PANTRY: Toothpaste and brushes.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Mike West, Peggy Williams, Randy Beagle, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Becky McKitrick, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **Fox, Pepperry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **In Ohio:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon OH 44432.

Life, Time, Faith, Love and Hope

Mark N. Posey

- 1. Life is precious.** In a world filled with racism, abortion, murder and hatred, we need to stress the sanctity of life.
- 2. Time is fleeting.** Every moment is important! May the cares of this world never cloud our vision and steal the simple moments that bring about the bigger picture.
- 3. Faith is powerful.** Faith makes things possible! Strong faith in Jesus Christ is **the rock** upon which to build a happy, successful and peaceful existence.
- 4. Love is needed.** The world is starving for love. Since, "God is Love," the truth is the world is starving for God. Remember, love is the "greatest" and love never fails!
- 5. Hope is strong.** Hope is strong enough to anchor our souls in rough seas and calm waters. Hope is the greatest of all things.

- Gospel Gazette online