

## The great deception

The world says you are a number and count for little or nothing. Do not be deceived as this takes away our motivation to be something that effects the universe and all man kind. We are reduced to feeling we can only survive and enjoy the few meager rations this life serves up. The masses get up go their way and pass their day without thinking or acknowledging God even once. You are an important issue in this world as you acknowledge the creator of the universe in what you live for and what you are every passing moment of the day. Or you should be doing this if you are not you are joining the crowd that thinks little or nothing on the righteousness of a Holy God. We as children of God effect the universe because we are the only thing created that can acknowledge God as we are his children.

Is it absurd to believe that one little dot on the planet can make a difference? What was Paul saying when he said: we have been made a spectacle to the whole universe. Do you not know we will be judging angels. Faith of one human means very much indeed. What we do here effects the whole universe. Natural creation is groaning for and can only be set free by the transformation of human beings.

Will humans choose for Me or against me? From God's point of view that has been the central question in history. We have freedom to descend or ascend. Will we trust God? Even when tragedy strikes or He seems far away and doesn't care for us. In these times of testing we can say as many have, "At least because of Jesus, God understands how I feel." He was tempted and suffered just as we are.

Look at the heroes of Hebrews 11, these men honored God and never saw the promise. Faith means that we learn to trust no matter how the situation may seem or appear. That's right, even if we don't see the promises or answers in this life. You are not the first to cry out, "God have you abandoned me, are you there"? Even Jesus asked this question on the cross. We are not abandoned even though it may seem that way at times. God still reins and I want to live out that reality at any cost.. He will vindicate those who love Him and walk with Him. If not in this very short life, the next. WE WILL BE IN HIS BELOVED HANDS FOREVER!

Many feel disappointed with God because of trials and suffering that are upon them. They pray and all they hear is silence. They feel alone and that God has abandoned them. Job felt that way and after much debate with God he finally saw a much bigger picture of what God really is. He, as Jesus and Paul, saw that as people of God suffer great trials of disappointment and discouragement there are great lessons learned that last for eternity and change everything we once thought was of value. We realize that there are other values that are of much greater importance that the world is blind of. How wonderful it is when our eye's are opened and we see Jesus and faith in Him as the reason for life. The world will also find this truth but it will be too late, as all who trust in Egypt (the world system) will not have faith in the time of greatest need.

Now we can see because of what we went through. We understand the earthly distractions to an eternal plan God has for us and we know we have the light. Job prayed (Job 19:25-27) I despise myself! He repented in ashes. Note that this was said before he was restored and all his wealth was returned. He truly had understood because of his sorrow and confusion that life was not his little world around himself. The real battle ended when Job refused to give up on God. He learned that something much more than being happy and content was important in this life. Knowing the reality of the creator was a greater priority for him than any object or past security. God now found not just a friend, but a son. That is God's desire for all of us. Job could now walk in the light even though he was in the ashes.

We can learn to trust God even with all the unfairness of this life. Was life fair for Jesus. The cross destroyed all assumption that life is fair. God's own son suffered unfairness.

Many are deceived into thinking God revolves around them and their happiness is the most important thing in this life but that is the great deception. Gods pleasure because of our lives is the essence and reason for our short life on this planet, nothing else.

What can we expect from God? Let's look at Paul's life. He lived and passed incredible trails and persecution. He was on the run his whole life. From animals, Jews, Romans, and even brethren, but never from God. He prayed for a healing and never received it. He was rejected by many brethren and put out of churches. He suffered at the hands of many and at the end he died a martyr. We say, "What a disappointment after such commitment". He must have felt disappointment with God! Did he loose heart? Let's read: "Even though we are wasting away yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day". For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that out weighs them all. So we fix our eyes on not on what is seen but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal. What can we expect from God? This is a sweet satisfying symbol of our future.

Dear brethren, we do suffer from many things. Sorrows are plentiful all around us, even as believers loneliness and heartache are common. People that are closest to us can hurt us the most and desperation can over take any of us. We call out to God and receive only silence. We 'Ask where are you"? Sickness or the loss of our most beloved and even betrayal by brothers. This is the reality of this life and we must look beyond to the time that will come shortly where only justice reins.

Our spirits are usually grieved much more than they are edified. We all suffer from a sickness 'called home sickness'. We in the team, as we pass so many trials at time, we many times feel so very unwelcome everywhere we go. We long to be home! A place where our heart can find peace and real security. We will only experience true satisfaction, security and joy in the eternal city of God. OUR TRUE HOME!

For a home and city not made of human hands but prepared for us by God. That is what inspired Paul to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith". Oh, I long to be able to say those words. There will be sorrows and death in this life, but in the end all will be finally good and we will be with God forever. IF ONLY IN THIS LIFE WE HAVE HOPE WE ARE TO BE PITIED MORE THAN ALL MEN.

The faith we need to get home is not seeing signs and miracles, if that were true the children of Israel would have been the most faithful bunch in history as they saw great wonders, miracles and signs every day for forty years.

No, faith comes through trusting God even when you don't see a thing. Putting our life truly in His hands knowing He will care for us, we see that over and over and time and time again, in the team. How many times has it looked humanly that this show is over. You are fried, and you trusted a lie. The devil is right there saying "look they saved others, but can't save themselves." Then we see God in action through things we never imagined and provision when it seems hopeless. When this happens, I feel faith come over my tired and faithless bones, a faith that just doesn't take care of us, but that will take us to where we so long to be. HOME...

OH LORD COME AND TAKE US TO WHERE WE LONG TO BE.....

Brother Clark