

PEACEFUL THROUGH STANDING FIRM

(Peace continued...by standing firm in The Christ)

And he (Jesus) added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me."

Matthew 11:6 (NLT)

According to the words following and preceding Matthew 11:6, there will come a day when you and I get discouraged. There will be days when we want to give up. There will be days when we want to curse God. There will be days when we feel that there is no hope. Perhaps you, like me, feel the events in our world currently are taking an adversarial toll on our faith and desires. Perhaps we are already feeling what Jesus is speaking about to the disciples and people gathered around him. And today, I want you and me to agree that when in these days, and those days to come, we remember what Jesus says:

"God blesses those who do not fall away because of me."

For years I have been a huge fan of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I have read many books about him, listened to his speeches, and studied the connections between Dr. King and Mahatma Ghandi. I love the teachings of both men, and more than just the readings, I love the occasional quote that speaks to me at time like these. Dr. King wrote and then spoke these words,

"Even the most Starless midnight may herald the dawn of some great fulfillment."

The thought that just when we think we'll never get out of the darkness, out of troubling times, out of seasons of sickness or personal problems, we can absolutely believe a new day dawns and God brings us peace.

Together we can believe that we cannot leave all our problems at the feet of God and not take personal action. I believe once again that Jesus gave John hope by describing his actions and suggesting to John The Baptist that he should "Go and do likewise."

Salvianus of Marseilles (c. 400-470 CE) was a Christian priest who was an eyewitness to the end of Roman rule in Gaul. He wrote a book called "The Governance of God" in which he tried to explain the political and moral causes of the collapse of the Roman state in the west; he argued that the misfortunes of the time were divinely inflicted punishments which the people of the Empire had brought upon themselves by their corruption.

When we fulfill some or none of God's commands, why do we complain about God, who has more reason to complain about all of us? What is our reason for saying in sorrow that God does not regard us, when we ourselves do not heed Him? What is our reason for muttering that God does not look down towards earth, when we ourselves do not look up towards Heaven?

Considering this writing, I believe it is important for all of us to believe that when things are looking down, look up! Ask God for help! And praise God for his love! And then stand by. Stand by with arms open. Stand by with arms open ready to receive God's blessing! Hear me say that again – Stand by with arms open ready to receive God's blessings.

Peace Always

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