

Dear Friend,

I am writing this letter the morning after the certification of the electoral college votes making Joe Biden the official “president elect” of the United States. I will admit, that is not what I expected. It is not what I wanted. It is not what the prophets have predicted. However, this is not the first time in history that true followers of Christ have not completely understood what the Lord was actually doing. I am reminded of what the apostle Paul wrote during a very difficult period of his life:

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; [9] Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.

I believe many of us in the body of Christ can totally relate at this moment in history. We are perplexed. Strong’s Greek dictionary defines perplexed as meaning - *to have no way out that is to be at a loss mentally*. Thayer’s Greek dictionary defines perplexed as including the meaning - *to be left wanting, to not know which way to turn, to not know how to decide or what to do*. Our English dictionary defines perplexed as meaning - *to be completely baffled. Very puzzled*.

We are perplexed, but we are NEVER IN DESPAIR. The Greek definition of despair includes the meaning of - *to renounce all hope, to be utterly destitute of resources*. NEVER! I may not always understand what God is doing behind the scenes, but I am never without hope. Our heavenly Father is the God of HOPE! And FAITH is the substance of things HOPED for.

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him : for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

All of those verses were written during times when the church was experiencing intense persecution by the world. Many people quote Hebrews 11:6 like a mantra, but I have found precious few people who know the verse that comes next.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Noah lived during one of the most wicked time periods in human history. We live in wicked times also, but the way the Bible describes it, it must have been even worse in Noah’s day:

Genesis 6:5-6 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. [6] And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Every imagination and every thought of man ... only evil ... continually. It appears the world is headed in that same direction again because Jesus said:

Luke 17:26-30 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. [27] They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. [28] Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; [29] But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. [30] Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

As in the days of Noah ... continual wickedness. As in the days of Lot in Sodom ... complete sexual debauchery. So it will be when the Lord returns.

Noah suffered terrible persecution as a “preacher of righteousness” for over one hundred years as he and his sons built the ark. During that time of Noah faithfully doing what God commanded him to do, and faithfully preaching to the people to repent because “judgment was coming” ... Noah was not celebrated by the people. He was ridiculed and scorned as a fool. We know that not one single person believed him and repented of their wickedness. How do we know that? Because after over one hundred years of Noah preaching righteousness, not one single person got on the ark with him and his family. Not one convert in over a hundred years of preaching. Discouragement? Perplexed? I would think so, but Noah continued anyway. Why? Because Noah believed that GOD IS ... and that HE IS A REWARDER of them that diligently seek Him. Amen!

We are perplexed. We don't fully see or understand what God is doing behind the scenes right now. We may feel sometimes at a loss regarding what to do next. But one thing we must never do is allow DESPAIR to overtake us.

Like Noah, we must continue to faithfully do what God has called us to do in our generation, no matter how wicked and sinful it becomes. We must continue to be preachers of righteousness. We must continue to warn the people of the judgment to come. We must continue to worship, to pray and fast, to study the Word of God, to love our enemies, and to always seek first the kingdom and His righteousness. Our God is the great I AM ... and He is a REWARDER to us as we diligently seek him.

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY