

All In

What comes to mind when you see the people in the world? When you are visiting the local library, grocery, or coffee shop, what do you perceive? What do you perceive about the people in which you share the earth?

A common observation of a skeptic is to see the injustices, hardships, and calamities faced by the world. The skeptic, and/or the general “natural man” views the difficulties of life with a “If God is good, and has the power to change, remove, or heal the maladies’ of life, ‘why doesn’t He do so?’”

When pondering faith, the statements of Paul, regarding Abraham, help a great deal: “Who in hope believed against hope, to the end that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, So shall thy seed be. And without being weakened in faith he considered his own body now as good as dead (he being about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, looking unto the promise of God, he wavered not through unbelief, but waxed strong through faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what he had promised, he was able also to perform” (Rom. 4:18-21). So, Abraham’s faith did not rest upon his own observations, but in the power of God to fulfill that which was promised. Abraham’s faith “being tried, offered up Isaac: yea, he that had gladly received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; even he to whom it was said, In Isaac shall thy seed be called: accounting that God is able to raise up, even from the dead; from whence he did also in a figure receive him back” (Heb. 11:17-19).

What we know from the scriptures is that God holds the same attitude as many do today, saying, “As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” (Ezek. 33:11). Thus, “not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9).

God’s resolution? God “commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31). God has done His part!

Jesus said, “Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it.” (Matt. 7:13-14).

Faith requires that the godly, like Abraham, accept that, “He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him” (Jn. 3:36), “and being fully assured that what he had promised, he was able also to perform” (Ibid.). Let not our faith be overtaken with “an evil heart of unbelief” (Heb. 3:12). When it comes to your faith, are you “All in”? Ross Triplett, Sr.