

"Faithfulness in Pandemic?"

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. ~ Lamentations 3:22-26

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases? During times of disease and pandemic these can be difficult words to believe. As we see more and more businesses and schools close, we can wonder when the end to all the turmoil we see happening around us will end. Every morning we turn on the news and we hope to see some kind of miracle cure discussed or a switch to be flipped so we can return to some sense of normalcy in our lives. Many of us have worries that we haven't felt in a long time, if at all. We have worries about job security and the health of those around us. Maybe we're just tired of being cooped up indoors all the time and feeling generally listless. Yet, even in the midst of this uncertainty the author of Lamentations promises us that the Lord is good to those who wait for Him!

It may not seem evident, but we still have many things to be thankful for and many ways to see God's faithfulness in action. We have a new day given to us each morning. We have a shelter and food. Perhaps, for many of us, we have even more time around family, time that can be spent together studying God's Word and delving into our spiritual lives through prayer. And, as we wait quietly, we know that the salvation that is spoken of in Lamentations has been delivered and is already ours in Christ Jesus. Listen to what St. Paul has to say about this:

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ~ Romans 5:1-5

While those outside the Church may think it silly that Christians earnestly pray and hope for healing during times like this, we know that it isn't. We know this because Christ Jesus is the Lord of life and that He will continue to sustain and provide for His people even during difficult times such as this national disaster that we are all experiencing. Perhaps most surprisingly, the Church can still recognize that God is faithful even in the midst of trying times. We know that God is faithful because He fulfilled His promise to send a savior. In sending that Savior, we know that our sins have been paid for on the cross. Jesus, having given His life as a ransom for many, has secured our eternal salvation. If our Lord faithfully provided in order to save sinners then, He surely has and will continue to do so. So, during this time, I invite you to continue to dwell in the Word. Continue to study Scripture and when worries arise, take them to the Lord in prayer. And thanks be to God that in Christ Jesus our hope does not put us to shame, but instead grants us grace through faith.

In Christ,

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