

“PEACE AND TRUTH N MY DAYS”

Lee Moses
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

What will be the state of the church of Christ in the United States in 100 years? 50 years? 20 years? While it is difficult to know for sure, there are certainly some storm clouds on the horizon. Congregations considered to stand for the Truth twenty years ago no longer consider adherence to the New Testament pattern essential to fellowship or salvation. Congregations once considered to be the staunchest stalwarts of the faith are now teetering on the brink of apostasy. These and other warning signs should cause alarm to the saints. And many faithful brethren are indeed alarmed at the direction of many of the Lord's people. However, far too many, while not necessarily in agreement with the change agents, are turning a deaf ear to these problems.

Though generally considered one of the righteous kings of Judah, King Hezekiah sinned against God by proudly displaying all the treasures of his palace to a group of Babylonian ambassadors (**2 Kings 20:12-13; 2 Chronicles 32:31**). God told Hezekiah that He would punish him for this by sending the Babylonians to take away all his possessions, and to take away his descendants as eunuchs into captivity. However, none of this was to happen within Hezekiah's lifetime (**2 Kings 20:17-18**). Hezekiah responded to the pronouncement of God by saying: “GOOD IS THE WORD OF THE LORD WHICH THOU HAST SPOKEN. AND HE SAID, IS IT NOT GOOD, IF PEACE AND TRUTH BE IN MY DAYS? (**20:19**).

Hezekiah was right in saying that God's Word was “good.” As always, God's pronouncement was righteous and just (**Psalms 119:75**). However, Hezekiah's reasoning that it was good was because he would have “peace and truth in his days” smacks of selfishness and lack of vision. This may be a large part of the reason so many turn away from hearing about the problems facing the church today. They are not currently hearing any error preached from their pulpits, they are able to worship according to the Scriptural pattern, and visitors are able to hear what they must do to be saved. So as they perceive it, they have both “peace and truth.” However what about the church which they are leaving to their children, and to their children's children? They choose to be ignorant of the problems facing the church. Liberals and all false teachers feed on ignorance, because only knowledge can check their devious designs (**Acts 20:29-32; Colossians 2:3-4**; compare with **Hosea 4:6**). And as liberalism goes unchecked throughout various parts of the brotherhood, other congregations enjoy “peace and truth” in their own hidden little corners.

While storm clouds may be on the horizon, this does not mean that it is time to “hide in the storm cellar.” Christ knew that the gates of Hades would not be able to prevail against His church; that is, even His impending death would not stop the church's establishment (**Matthew 16:18**). We can be certain that as long as the church stands upon the solid rock of the Word of Christ, it will never fall (**7:24 - 27**). And as long as the church does this, all in it will be granted “**THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING**” (**Philippians 4:7**). But if it is not preparing itself for battle, it cannot long stand:

“PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD; THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES. WHEREFORE TAKE UNTO YOU THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD, THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND”
(Ephesians 6:11-13).

The church of our Lord cannot be selfish, and if vision was needed at any time, it is now. We need leaders who will set goals for the future and form plans to achieve those goals. We need uncompromising preachers and leaders who will identify and address problems; not only in their own congregations, but wherever they are seen and need to be addressed. We need brethren who will see the need to address and correct error. We should all desire and endeavor to see peace and truth—not only in our days, but until the Lord comes again.