



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Wednesday August 28, 2019

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. — Revelation 21:4

Our Blessed Hope

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Heaven is a great hope. Why is that?

The idea posits an eternal existence. It will be an eternity that is different from this one. It will be good compared to the evil of this world.

John the Revelator says in our verse above that God shall wipe away all tears ... no more death .. sorrow .. crying or pain. The former things are passed away, he says.

There is no doubt in anybody's mind that we have all these experiences in this world. And they are by definition unpleasant, difficult and unwanted. These realities will not exist in heaven.

Does that mean that eternity won't include struggle, adventure and achievement? It seems to me these worthwhile aspects of our worldly existence are part of human flourishing. I don't know how these exist without the risk of tears, death, sorrow, crying and pain. But as John says, the former things are passed away.

Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthian Christians, "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." I think of heaven as glorious ... full of wonder. I think I see what it will be like in the way that I admire the feminine beauty in my wife's face. That beauty is an echo, I believe, of what seeing God face to face in heaven will be like.

I love how Paul roots this metaphysical idea/mystery in a relationship with the God of the universe. "Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

We all yearn to know. More fundamental, however, is our passion to be known ... by God. And He is a good Father. He is the only force in the universe with the power to heal. The power to provide as a free gift hope with an eternal texture. And this, regardless of circumstance.

It is this confidence, this faith ... this hope that characterizes sainthood. The martyrs illustrate faith, hope and love. Their lives tell the old, old story.

The story of a man who is God being tortured by his people. Rejected but not rejecting. Despised but not despising. Jesus Christ choosing the cross over the throne. Jesus choosing suffering and death while holding the power to call down armies of angels in his defense.

Continued on the back

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Christianity will not be snuffed out by the atheist Left that now occupies the high ground inside and outside of the Church. God's truth is too real, too powerful, to be crushed by such a diabolical, and now transparently evil, force.

Sincere people are waking up all over the world. As they rub the annoying modernist and post-modernist sleepy seeds from their eyes they are starting to admire the sublime human verities of faith, hope and love. It may be that Jesus Christ is coming today or tomorrow. Surely, He will come a second time before He pulls back the curtain on space and time. But if He doesn't come today or tomorrow I am thinking that the world is moving away from the political and philosophical foundations imagined in the West these past five hundred years.

God is always on the move. He alone knows the future. Prophets are less fore tellers than they are forth tellers. That has always been the case. Our desire to know the future doesn't translate into any kind of real knowing. That's why we need faith ... the substance of things hoped for, the essence of things not seen.

I see and hear many prophets. They are forth telling the truth. Men like Tommy Robinson, Lavoy Finneccum, Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. They are sounding the trumpet of their people and their cultures in their language. People are starved for the nurture that can only come from a respect for their parents ... their ancestors ... their fathers and mothers.

I cannot see what role America will play in this future. I'm afraid it will be much diminished from what we've enjoyed since the middle of the twentieth century. It certainly deserves to be much diminished, that's for sure. We are no longer good. Our nation is rotten to the core.

Our institutions are thoroughly corrupt and most likely require destruction. Like a pretty building with a rotten foundation we're starting to see through the widening cracks in the walls to the outside. The building probably requires razing and reconstruction.

Does this mean war? Maybe. Does it mean revival? Perhaps. There is no doubt that America will not long endure as the world's most dedicated proponent of sodomy, gendering and baby murder. That's for absolutely sure. Either God will judge us, or our civilization ... our empire ... will collapse. As it should.

Would a national repentance be enough at this point? Yes, I believe it would be enough. But repentance requires knowledge of a law that's been broken. The evidence suggests that our population no longer has that necessary awareness. Our conscience is seared. It appears we've been given over to our desires.

God's law ... any law ... holds no power over us. Each day is merely an increasingly intense series of smart phone scroll induced dopamine rushes. As passive consumers we plug ourselves into the social matrix and conform ourselves to the latest fad and fashion. All this is created for us by an increasingly detached and tiny fraction of humanity that increasingly controls and manipulates our access to the social order, to civilization.

Authoritarianism is on the rise.

Having said this, I don't think it is necessarily a Godless version. Humanity cannot flourish without society, without civilization, without order — without rulers. I see God's fingerprints on the current rise of nationalist/populism in the world. I hope that things are getting better. I think they are.

Paul wrote, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Amen.