

NEWSLETTER 2021-1

To: My Fellow Saints

Date: February 8, 2021

Re: **Tranquility**

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” This greeting has been repeated in: 1 Cor.1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; Col. 1:2b; 1 Thess. 1:1b and other Pauline epistles.

The subject of “Tranquility” was strongly impressed on my mind for some days but it was during the wee hours of Thursday, January 21st when I saw just what God intended for me to present in this newsletter. This thought came from Lesson 16, Accept the Challenge and Move On, that I was in process of completing the first phase of that lesson. I will do my best to be as brief as possible, however, this newsletter will be more in contents than my original goal regarding all newsletters.

The world continues to be plagued with turmoil and troubled hearts (Luke 21:26) and as usual so many have been seeking solutions from the wrong sources. The solution for victorious living, living in peace, hope and assurance has long been extended to man by God (for example Matt. 11:25-30, NB Vv. 28-30); the sad reality is that man has repeatedly rejected the only workable solution, the real hope, the only answer (Matt. 13:58; John 3:16-21, NB Vv. 19-21)

Briefly defining “Tranquility”

1. General Definition:
 - (a) Tranquility: The state of being quiet and peaceful.
 - (b) Tranquil: To be free from disturbance or turmoil quiet.
2. KJV Dictionary
Tranquil: quiet calm, harmony, composure, not agitated. a tranquil mind is essential to happiness.
3. Synonyms: peacefulness, **serenity**, calm, harmony, composure, stillness, etc.

Think on this quote:

“A contented heart is a calm sea in the midst of all storms.”

In Scripture we have so many examples of “tranquility” as well as “turmoil”; I will **briefly** note one example of each, then note four ways the presence of God ensures peace and contentment (*these four points are not a presentation of an exhaustive listing and you may expand if you so desire*).

Israel was in a very difficult position and King Saul was overcome by dilemma and the reality of the imminent devastation plagued his mind. Samuel had already passed away and David was not in a position to help, actually David was housed among the Philistines (1 Sam. chapters 27,

29, etc.); David was seeking refuge because of the continued efforts by King Saul to slay him (example 1 Sam. 26). It should also be remembered that in Israel all forms of spiritualism and necromancy were forbidden by law (Deut. 18:9-14) and King Saul was vigilant in destroying the witches (1 Sam. 28:9).

With the Philistines gaining grounds and destruction was knocking on Israel's door, King Saul was disillusioned, distraught and disoriented; not sure what to do he sought to obtain advice through a witch (1 Sam. 28). You will observe that King Saul's effort by going through a witch didn't help his desperate situation because **God had departed from him** (1 Sam. 28:15). Note the final outcome of what Saul had sought to remedy in 1 Sam. 31.

In the account of Moses, we saw the very opposite because Moses realized the importance of not only having but, maintaining God's holy presence. Ex. 33 has much more than we can discuss at this time but I am bringing your attention to verses 12-17.

Going back to Ex. 32, will help to show the grave situation facing Israel because of their sinful conduct with the possible consequence of God withdrawing His presence (Ex. 33:3). Through Moses' prayer (***different approach in comparison to King Saul***), God relented, changed His resolve (v. 3) and agreed to go with Moses (v. 14). The text implies that Moses was not content with the promise that God's **presence** would accompany him alone. He insisted that God go **with us** (Vv. 15-16)—accompanying his fellow Israelites as well. And God agreed to his proposition (v. 17). Likewise, beloved, we all need the abiding presence of God and as the song writer puts it: "O Lord I can't even walk without You holding my hand."

The Presence of God Guarantees REST!!

A. Crusaders on Our Pilgrim's Journey Gen. 28:15

1. We are crusaders because we are actively engaged in a campaign for change!!
 - (a) This is not a political change or other temporal, earthly oriented causes but one with eternity in view!
 - (b) It is that which the world most urgently needs and we must continue to be ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20), be light and salt (Matt. 5:13-16); we must continue reaching out with the message of hope, peace and tranquility (Psa. 119:114; 147:11; Isa. 9:7; Luke 4:18).
 - (c) This campaign, for deliverance from Satan's bondage, will continue to experience fierce opposition.
 - (1) Our work is a spiritual warfare!! (Eph. 6:10-18)
 - (2) Our arch enemy is Satan (1 Peter 5:8)
 - (3) Etc.
 - (4) We campaign not in our own strength but by Him who is mighty in battles (Psa. 24:8; Zech. 14:3; etc.)
2. Jacob was fleeing from Esau and about to get the help needed for the road ahead of him (Gen. 27-33). God's presence was assured to Jacob through all the experiences that he would encounter (**Gen. 28:15**). (Note a few highlights)

- (a) God's message to Jacob was that the blessing promised to Abraham would be carried on through him (cf. Gen. 12:3; 13:14-17).
- (b) However, being Abraham's grandson was not sufficient, more was needed, and as a result it was necessary for Jacob to establish a **personal relationship with God!!**
 - (1) The fact is, God has no grandchildren, **each person must have a personal relationship with Him!!**
 - (2) It is not enough to hear wonderful stories about Christians in your family. Each person needs to become a part of the story, personally (**Gal. 3:6-7**; John 3:15-16 Rom. 10:9-10; etc.).
 - (3) What must be noted here is, when Jacob received this blessing, it was accompanied with the presence of God (**Note carefully Gen. 28:15**).

B. Courage in Life's Battles Deut. 20:1

1. As we saw before, we are in the midst of "spiritual warfare" (Eph. 6:10-18), and war is not a pleasant experience, nevertheless, we must never allow fear, doubts, etc. to intimidate us (Isa. 43:1; 1 John 4:18; etc.).
 - (a) Satan has always been fighting and will continue until he is bound eternally (Rev. 20, NB v. 10).
 - (1) His act as a "roaring lion" (1 Peter 5:8) is to intimidate but we must overcome fear (Psa. 23:4; 27:1; 46:1-3; etc.)
 - (2) Satan's main goal is to destroy (John 10:10), but God is there for us (1 Cor. 10:13) and our victory is assured (Isa. 54:17).
 - (b) The great army of Israel panicked because of Goliath (1 Sam. 17) but there was a youth who had a personal relationship with God and was not overcome by fear (NB 1 Sam. 17:32-54, highlight Vv. 45-47)
 - (c) Beloved, God's protection of His people is guaranteed and limitless (Deut. 7:24; 28:7; Psa. 34:7; 125:2).
2. God's presence is assured in the battles of life! Deut. 20:1
 - (a) **"Do not be afraid!"** (Deut. 20:1-9, NB Vv. 1-3); just as God delivered Israel from Egypt (v. 1), even so He will deliver from any foe who rise up against them (Deut. 7:24; 28:7; Isa. 54:17).
 - (b) **Similarly, like the Israelites, we sometimes face overwhelming opposition.**
 - (1) It may come from anywhere: school, work, home, church, etc. and we may feel outnumbered and helpless.
 - (2) As noted in our text (Deut. 20), God reinforced the Israelites' confidence by reminding them that He was always with them and just as he had delivered them before, He is able to deliver from any danger!
 - (3) Beloved, we too should feel secure when we consider that God is with us and is able to overcome even the most formidable enemy!!
 - There is none like God!! (Ex. 15:11; **Deut. 33:26-29**; 2 Sam. 7:22-29; Psa. 89:5-18; etc.).

- While the devil comes up against us like a raging consuming flood we can rest assured in God!!

Psa. 42:5 Amplified Bible

“Why are you cast down, O my inner self? And why should you moan over me and be disquieted within me? Hope in God and wait expectantly for Him, for I shall yet praise Him, my help and my God.”

(Also v. 11 and 43:5).

C. Comfort in Trials Isa. 43:2

1. Main Points Review;
 - (a) First we saw: God’s presence assures . . .
 - (1) Crusaders on their pilgrim’s journey ... guaranteed rest (Gen. 28:15)
 - (2) Courage in Life’s Battles must be maintained (Deut. 20:1)
 - (b) Currently: Comfort in Trials is guaranteed (Isa. 43:2)
 - (c) The final point will be: Continuous Companionship of God is guaranteed (Matt. 28:20)
2. Beloved, there are many hurts, pains, challenges, seemingly prevailing situations, etc. and while some down-play or deny the reality of these situations, they do exist (Psa. 34:19; John 16:33).
3. As discussed so many times, “the Church is a called-out community in a hostile world” (John 15:19), and adverse circumstances are expected (Luke 6:22; 21:17; John 15:18-27, NB Vv. 18-19; etc.)
 - (a) However, we should not focus on the problem but on the problem solver (Prov. 3:5-6; Matt. 14:22-33; Phil. 4:6).
 - (b) God has been and remains the divine deliverer (Isa. 46:3-4; Dan. 6:27; 2 Cor. 1:10).
4. We will not procrastinate, we will not pretend . . . these situations are real and they hurt! Really hurt deep down inside but we are not hopeless or without consolation.
 - (a) Greater is He who is in us!! (1 John 4:4).
 - (b) His grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9).
 - (c) We are told to cast all our cares upon Him (1 Peter 5:7)
 - (d) We must remain steadfastly focused on Jesus Christ our Savior (1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 12:2).
5. We all know what it means to console others, whether a child or some other person (s); and yes, God is our divine consoler (Isa. 43:2).
 - (a) “**Water ... river ... fire**” (Isa. 43:2), are all symbols of danger.
 - (1) But in the presence of the Great Champion, Israel had nothing to fear.
 - (2) Even though Israel had no bridges and other means of modern technology, God’s words of comfort and assurance was: “No swollen river shall wash away His people, nor fires shall set them ablaze!! (Example see Daniel 3, NB 14-30, highlight Vv. 25-27).

- (b) Going through the rivers of difficulties will either cause you to drown or force you to grow stronger.
- (1) If you go in on your own strength, you are more likely to drown.
 - (2) If you invite the Lord to go in with you, He will protect you!
- (c) **“Take My Hand, Precious Lord”** ... Jim Reeves (*Partial Quote*)
- Precious Lord, take my hand
 Lead me on, let me stand
 I am tired, I am weak, I am worn
 Through the storm, through the night
 Lead me on to the light
 Take my hand, precious Lord
 Lead me home.

D. Continuous Companionship to the End Matt. 28:20

1. Iron sharpens iron!! (Prov. 27:17)
 - (a) In **sharpening of iron** with **iron**, both pieces change—the sharpener and the one being **sharpened**.
 - (1) The **sharpening of iron** represents how God desires us to be in fellowship with each other to strengthen, encourage, instruct and **sharpen** our understanding of His love.
 - (2) Now relate the above statement with our fellowship with God! This is the most important and needful thing in anyone’s life!!
 - Beloved, this is above church membership, externalism, etc. it means **knowing Jesus Christ personally** (Matt. 16:15).
 - David sustains his faith in the true and living God for example see Psalm 27, NB Vv. 1-4.
 - (b) **We need Him continuously!**
 - (1) Not only on Sundays or any other days of worship or when meeting with the saints but we need Him continuously!!
 - (2) The song says:

If I ever needed the Lord before I sure do need Him now

... ..

I need Him in the morning
 I need Him in the night
 I need Him when the sun goes down
 I need Him all the time.

(Partial Quote)
2. The good news: Jesus is with His laborers continuously!! **Matt. 28:20**
 - (a) Jesus promised that His presence and His authority would be with all believers who are actively involved in His work! The Crusaders!!
 - (1) Jesus is presently with us in the person of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 26) and through His word (John 14:23).

- (2) No matter what our condition is—weak, poor, humble, apparently unimportant—He cares for you, watches with concern every detail of life trials and struggles (Psa. 121), and gives grace that is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9) and His presence to lead you home (Matt. 18:20; Acts 18:10a; 2 Tim. 1:12).
- (3) Beloved, what is presented here is the Christian’s answer to every fear, every doubt, every trouble, every discouragement.
- (b) No matter what the days—good or bad, happy or sorrowful—Jesus has promised to be with us “all the days”—even to the end of the “age”.

I do admit that I had to summarize a lot due to contents but allow me to make a partial quote of a song I hope you will download ... if you do, get the video by Gerald Crab (The Crab Family)

Through the Fire.

So many times I question the certain circumstances
And things I could not understand.
Many times in trials my weakness blurs my vision
And that’s when my frustration gets out of hand
It’s then I remembered, I’ve never been forsaken.
I’ve had never had to stand one test alone.
As I look at all the victories, the Spirit rises up in me
And through the fire my weakness is made strong.

He never promised that the cross would not get heavy
And the hill would not be hard to climb.
He never offered a victory without fighting.
He said help would always be on time.
Just remember when you’re standing in the valley of decision
And the adversary says give in, Just hold on.
Our Lord will show up (Yeah)
And He will take you through the fire again

Website Update

New Lessons added to “Accept the Challenge and Move On”
Lessons 11 and 12 added in December
Lessons 13 and 14 added in January

Thank you for your continued prayers may God continues to richly bless you and your wonderful family!!

Yours-in-Christ
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