

Views from the Pews – Attitude

As the end of the year approaches it is not uncommon to feel weary, worn down or even worn out. Looking at our world, things aren't too different - a world weary of war, countries wary of each other and wily, warmongering, whimsical leaders. Add in wealthy economies fed by greed, wasted resources, wokeism, wayward youth, nations paranoid with winning and preoccupied with wellness and well-being. In summary, a world 'out of whack' with its creator. Hence, we could justify feelings of hopelessness, even despair, for a world that seems awash with chaos.

As followers of Him who said 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Light' this isn't a time for wistful wishing, rather a call to change the atmosphere, put off doleful sentiments and find wonder in our creator and His creation, over which we have been given dominion. We should choose to stand as prayer warriors and emanate a courageous 'fragrance' to this despairing world, alien and hostile to the gospel. Paul's words in Col2:10; Eph3:20; Rm 8:19 are pertinent today.

In post-modernist times, Christian values are no longer mainstream, with pluralism and low levels of trust pervasive, yet both 2 Cor 4:18 and Heb 12:24-27 give us hope, enabling us to pull back the veil of darkness and despair and raise a banner of colour and richness of life.

Jesus, entrusted by God to fulfil his mission and accept the cross in the then hostile 'roman dominated' world, is our precursor, one to emulate in presenting the gospel of hope and salvation, despite our contemporary culture. Jesus knows the perils, but reminds us, 'I am always with you and never will abandon you.' Ps 23; Ps 27:1; PS 84:3 & 11; Jer 1:8

Spending time in his word empowers us, as we receive wisdom and a peace that the world cannot impart, as well as fresh insights for convincingly living out this hope. Recently hearing the great Don McGlashan song, 'Anchor me, anchor me, in the middle of your deep blue sea', reminded me of a much older hymn, 'I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me ... sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea' Rev 22:1. This challenges me to remain anchored in Him, so that I too, am caught up in the final wonder of the great crowd of witnesses, gathered around the eternal throne. Surely there is no better reason to throw off despair, persevere, (Matt 24 :13) and ensure our place amongst that heavenly throng?

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