
Proper Action for Peace

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

FROM THE ABOVE SCRIPTURE we know that if our heart becomes troubled and anxious, it is our fault. Never can we blame someone else nor any circumstances. God declares that if we become filled with anxiety, frustration, and/or trouble, always it will be the consequence of allowing our heart and mind to adopt such a position. What happens here on earth will change the declared promises of God? Are we not to expect grief and sorrow? Is it not promised? Upon its arrival, why allow it to produce a heavy heart filled with trouble in endeavoring to comprehend and cope with it?

Submission

In our text, the word “LET” is one of the important words in the Bible. In simple language, it means to “be submissive to.” When exercised, we are moved to the passive, being acted upon because of deliberately placing ourselves in such a position. The dictionary (one of the best books to help us to understand the Bible) indicates an act of abandonment from one position to another. It also states a permission allowing events to happen. To permit or suffer to happen are additional words used. I personally prefer the one stating “be submissive to.”

Faith and obedience (inseparable) are involved. Since God forces nothing upon us except judgment for sin, submission to His direction is vital to our accomplishing His plan and purpose. Is there any other reason for existence? Listen to this word’s use and importance: “LET this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). This word is used so many times in the New Testament that I hardly know which verses to place in this particular message.

“God forbid: yea, LET God be true but every man a liar; as it is written, that thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou are judged” (Rom. 3:4). “LET not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof” (Rom. 6:12). “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: LET us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and LET us put on the armor of light. LET us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying” (Rom. 13:12,13).

“That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, LET him glory in the Lord” (I Cor. 1:31). “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving LET your requests be made unto God” (Phil. 4:6).

Are you willing to allow God’s Word to give you sufficient cause NOT to be troubled? The facts surrounding this definite command, LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED, are very interesting. Christ had just informed His disciples of three events that were a crushing blow to these who revealed their unbelief after the resurrection: (1) He repeated the fact of His death, (2) He was to be betrayed by one of the twelve disciples, and (3) He would be denied three times by another. “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). “Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you” (John 13:33). “When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me” (John 13:21). “Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice” (John 13:38).

Enabling Power

Immediately after such disturbing dissertations, the Lord of the universe commands, LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED. What trouble do you have that moves God off the Throne and cancels His purposeful promises to YOU? Matt. 11:28 is still in affect regardless of your personal circumstances: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” God never gives a command without enabling strength to carry it out. The method of deliverance of a troubled heart is in blazing letters in the same verse that commands us to refuse trouble: “YE BELIEVE IN GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME.” Faith dispels trouble, grief, and anxiety. Where does faith come from? It is the gift of God: “For by grace are ye saved through FAITH; and that not of yourselves; it is the GIFT OF GOD” (Eph. 2:8). The very next verse forever settles the fact of faith not being our production: “Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

If God gives us faith, how does He communicate it within our heart and life? Here is the answer: “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). If we are going to believe God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, we must feed upon the Bible, which is God’s spoken Word. FAITH is based upon FACTS that are located in the Word of God. The Bible not only shows our hopeless and lost condition, it also reveals a powerful God Who is able and capable of performing as per His promise.

Need encouragement? Then look away from your conditions for a few minutes. How much trouble can we possibly have in the light of eternity, on golden streets in the Presence of the One Who died for us? We are heading for a celestial city without taxes. It is a place prepared for us by Christ, the Creator of all things (John 1:3). If He

simply spoke this beautiful world into existence, what has He been doing for nearly 2,000 years preparing a place for us? What a lovely PLACE it must be! Hear the Lord Jesus say, "I go to prepare a PLACE for you." What makes it so lovely? That question is easily answered by Christ Himself: "That where I am there ye may be also." In His Presence, with all of His resources at our disposal, is an assured coming reality. Christ *is* returning for us: "I will come again and receive you unto myself." In the assurance of such provision, how dare we allow the trivia of this life to trouble us? If we do, it is our own fault, for we have sufficient reason to LET NOT OUR HEART BE TROUBLED.

The Only Way

Thomas asked a very wise question which God wanted us to hear, as well as the answer. This is the reason for its being included in the Sacred Scriptures. "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" Christ answered this very important question in language we all can understand: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." The exclusive access to God is only through His Son. This fact forever settles the concept of human endeavor and merit. *There is no other way!* Christ alone satisfies the righteous demands of His holy Heavenly Father. "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets. Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference" (Rom. 3:21, 22).

We must be operated upon by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. (If you do not know the meaning of "regeneration," you should enroll in our free Home Bible Study Course.) The resurrection power of the risen Christ must be placed within us. It is God's work: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

If your heart is troubled this instant about anything, you are personally responsible for allowing conditions or situations to produce such pressure. What if you die of the sickness you are afflicted of? You will soon be in the PLACE which Christ has provided for you because of faith in His promises. (If you are not saved and in God's family, you can be assured of the flames of hell, for they are promised to you by the same Christ.) The refusal of trouble (LET NOT) is a definite command. The world is looking for someone who is not troubled by the chaotic condition that surrounds him. They are ready to listen to such a confident voice. By God's grace and with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, let us be that person walking before them.

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