

# Let Us Keep the True Faith

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*[Luke 18: 6-8] 6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

## 1. For Whom Does God Avenge?

In Luke 18 we read of Lord Jesus speaking a parable about a persistent widow, who pleads her unjust situation to the judge, who brings justice for her because he was persuaded by her persistent pleading. Through this story, Lord Jesus declares that God is just who hears the persistent pleas of His righteous elect and makes recompense against His enemies. The Son of God has avenged His righteous saints numerous times during the Old Testament era because His people prayed earnestly to God to take action. The just character of God has not changed and He still is the just God who avenges for His faithful elect. Jesus taught us to be merciful, forgiving, and kind toward our brothers and even strangers who have chosen to become enemies to the Christians. Nevertheless, through this parable Lord Jesus declares that He is the God who brings justice to the world just as He did in ancient times.

For whom does God avenge? It says He avenges "for His own elect who cry out day and night to Him." Who is His elect? They are those who obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ, repented of their sins, confessed their faith in the blood and saving grace of Lord Jesus and became reconciled to God, and are now His children. God's chosen people have a very special privilege of making pleas about their situation, their society, their country, and the world with the earnest yearning to open His ears so that He hears their pleas, rises, and takes acts of vengeance in His own hands against His enemies who are working to corrupt and destroy this world. Not every human being has this privilege, but only God's true children, who value their special places of prayer and make use of this special privilege to plead to God on behalf of their families, neighbors, churches, communities, and the nation. Are you such a person? If so, let us not ignore the God-given place of making pleas for others.

## 2. Will I See True Faith When I Return?

Then, in verse 8, Lord Jesus spoke a challenging question: "When I come back to the earth, will I find true faith?" He addressed this question to us, who are anticipating the end-times, rather than His disciples of the first century. The tone of His question is rather pessimistic and somewhat critical. And this question causes us to look into our spiritual condition. He is saying to us, "Listen now, I hear your prayers and takes vengeance against My enemies who are harming you. But, are you keeping the true faith until I return?" This is a challenge coming to us from our Lord Jesus. And it takes us to a quiet corner, where we are prompted to seriously repent of the wrongs in our lives, churches, and communities, and to return to 'the first faith' and 'the first love' we had when we first heard the gospel and obeyed its call before we have compromised with the world and the evil currents in it because of our selfishness, pressures from those around us, and simply Satan's constant badgerings. We are prompted by the Lord to look up to Him, hanging on the cross on Calvary for our sins, to throw away all things that prevent us from running to Him and saying, "Lord, I love you, more than all things around me, more than anything that I have held dear to me, and more than any false hopes my vain endeavors sought to achieve. Lord, restore in me the pure, untainted true faith."

In Hebrews 11, the apostle Paul recorded the faithful righteous forefathers who kept the pure, true faith in God and became examples to us, perhaps with this challenging question of Lord Jesus in mind. Their names are; Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, parents of Moses, Moses, the people of Israel who conquered Jericho, the harlot Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephtha, David, Samuel, and other prophets of God.

Besides these God also reminded Elijah that 7,000 faithful souls had not knelt before Baal. In the New Testament era, an uncountable number of faithful Christians kept their faith as they were persecuted and martyred.

Those of us, who live in free, democratic countries, suffer far less persecution than the Christians in the Middle East, China, and other parts of the world where the religion of freedom is not guaranteed. Their freedom of worship and evangelism is limited and sometimes their lives are threatened. Some of them have been martyred. Yet, they bravely seek to keep faithful to their God and Savior. We need to pray for them earnestly so that God gives these persecuted Christians spiritual strength, resources, and protection and that God would cause the evil political regimes to collapse. Did not God promise that He will avenge His elect for their persistent prayers? If we believe in this divine promise, let us send up our persistent, daily prayers of pleading to the throne of God just as the persistent widow did to the local judge.

### 3. Sources of Spiritual Corruption

*[Hebrews 12: 1-2] Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

The apostle Paul encourages Christians to bravely throw away the sinful elements around us that corrupt our faith and run the race before us in perseverance and true sincerity since we have before us so many spiritual heroes as listed in the previous chapter who testify how they kept their faith through times of adversity and opposition of the enemies. In addition to these Old Testament era witnesses, Paul encourages us to look onto our Lord Jesus, who endured the extreme suffering and shame of death on the cross because He valued highly the joy of fulfilling the great human salvation plan, whereby innumerable souls would turn to God and win their eternal salvation because He suffered and died on the cross. When we think of the burning love in the heart of our Lord, should we not pray, "Lord, we love you more than anything. Help me bear my little cross"?

We live in an era when a multitude of cultural, spiritual, and societal movements and forces are in full action to corrupt our spiritual well-being and the health of our families, society, and nation. These corrupting elements are considered acceptable, right, or sometimes even desirable by a growing faction of the population:

- 1) The sexual revolution, which was started in the 1960s, has made overt exposure of sexuality in public media acceptable to people's minds and thus made sexual immorality an acceptable norm. The estimated revenue of the pornography industry in America is over \$15 billion a year.
- 2) Sexual promiscuity among the young has caused many unwanted baby births and women choose to kill their unborn babies rather than cherishing the God-given gifts. Ungodly administrations have encouraged and supported abortions using tax dollars, causing God's wrath.
- 3) The spreading and legal acceptance of same-sex marriage, homosexuality, and the so-called 'gender liberation' have destroyed God's creation order in our society and caused such immoral practices as acceptable in the minds of many.
- 4) The unchecked spreading of divorce as a way of settling domestic disagreements has destroyed an uncountable number of families.
- 5) The trend of debasing the family cohesion so that the children separate themselves from their parents and even choose to sever the relationship with them
- 6) Widespread use of narcotics as a way of relieving psychological stress is causing mental and physical destruction of the addicts and their families.
- 7) Indiscriminate violence in public media has caused the trend of admiring and pursuing violent behaviors.
- 8) Certain factions of the society and even the church have been openly spreading Satan worship as a form of religion in art, literature, film, churches, and public media.

- 9) The spreading of post-modern theology has been polluting and destroying the traditional theological foundation of the evangelical Christian church.
- 10) The spreading of the ecumenical movement, which seeks to bring a unified church to the coming Antichrist
- 11) Some false preachers have popularized the so-called 'prosperity gospel/ theology' among the mass by selling false promises from God instead of adhering to the true gospel.
- 12) Satanic elements such as rock music have pervasively penetrated the churches, polluting the church worship.
- 13) The teaching of the evolution theory as truth and prohibiting the creation truths in schools over the past decades has caused intellectual intransigence of the educated mass from God.
- 14) Higher education institutes of America and the western world have been propagating God-less rationalism and socialism/ communism ideology as desirable truths and ideals for the society.
- 15) Failed economic policies of our society have been contributing to the widening economic gap between the rich and the poor, reducing the middle-class, and spreading the trend of worship of money.
- 16) Certain Satan-originated movements such as ANTIFA are promoting unilateral hatred against certain racial groups and even justifying violence against them instead of fostering harmony in our society.
- 17) Expansion of pedophile, use of children's body parts for cosmetic and health purposes, and child sacrifice as part of Satanic rituals, similar to Baal worship practices of the Old Testament era
- 18) Expansion of human trafficking networks
- 19) The movement to ignore, devalue and even destroy the fundamental guiding principles, such as the nation's constitution, and long-held traditional values of the society
- 20) Unwise and unjustified uses of the nation's military might in foreign wars at the pretext of war against terror have caused a serious waste of national resources, losses in American and foreign lives, and animosity among concerned peoples against America.

These evil, deplorable trends and practices are destroying the integrity of our society, destroying our homes, bringing violence and unrest to our streets and neighborhoods, and causing serious confusion and disorder in our nations. These iniquities bring sadness and wrath to God. He is angry toward those who intentionally foster, promote and support their spreading in our society. He will surely unleash His vengeance on the wicked unrepentant people during the end-times. Meanwhile, the apostle Paul warns us in his epistle to the New Testament churches that these are Satan's devices of causing God's people away from God's holiness and bringing the whole world into the bosom of Satan as a one-government world. Paul advises us to keep our distance from these evils and to keep our lives holy before God. God will accept holy people but reject unholy, evil people, who will be thrown away from His presence.

*[2 Corinthians 6: 14-18] Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them, And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*

We live in an era of increasing levels of Satanic activities as we have examined. This fact tells us that the clock is marching toward the end-times, though we do not know when the Tribulation Period will begin. Let us review how our spiritual ancestors enduring their times and how they kept the pure, untainted faith in God and Christ Jesus so that we may also keep our faith pure before God each day through the counsel and help of the Holy Spirit. As we continue this good fight in clean conscience and repentance, the Lord will welcome us into His promised blessings by saying, "Good and faithful servants, enter the promised reward I have prepared for you." Amen.