

RUNNING THE RAT-RACE

October 18, 2020

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14

The coming election reminds every believer that this world is a terrible home. We witness vividly the horrible effects of the curse. Lies abound unrestrained. People are objects to be grasped. Ethnic groups are political footballs. Corrupt politicians feign war against corruption. Without character, principles ethical core or conscience, they say whatever serves their immediate political agenda. Politics often attracts the worst of character and ego, then enlarges them. “Power corrupts.”

In the greatest national scam, our “intellectual elite” have made Darwinian evolution the foundation of history, science, psychology, politics, yea, of all human existence. Upon such foundation, nothing can be built except a structure of error, falsehood and lies. These in turn beget abortion, homosexuality, and multiple moral atrocities. Real ethics cannot exist in this phantom world. Pragmatism rules. Therefore, violence, vandalism, rioting and theft thrive. The “elites” ignore any truth that does not advance their agenda, and proclaim as true any lie that does, revealing further the depths of human depravity.

If we could remove corruption and lies from politicians, and violence from society, earth would still be a sad place. Disease, disappointment, war and fear, each begetting innumerable woes, are the history of humanity, and the prelude to death.

Modern inventions provide comfort, convenience and prosperity that surpasses the imagination of our forefathers. Yet these accelerate the stressful rat-race and misery as we rush toward our graves. Modern, advanced healthcare prolongs that journey through these miseries.

Why then do God’s people strive to be at home in this world? Why do we fix our longings upon the stuff of this life? Why, when we are heirs to life and riches—destined to enter the sinless joys of a tearless eternity? Are we conscious of our identity as “strangers and pilgrims” in this world (I Peter 2:9-12)?

What are earthly rulers to us, when we have Christ as King? He is just (Zechariah 9:9; Acts 7:52; 22:14). He is righteous (Jeremiah 23:5, 6; II Timothy 4:8). He is full of compassion (Matthew 9:36). He is truth (John 14:6). He is meek and lowly (Matthew 11:29; Zechariah 9:9). Can these things be said of any earthly ruler? He is king in time and king in eternity, in every place and at all times.

Whatever happens in the coming election, Christ rules. His eternal purposes will be executed by means of whomever is elected. He is King of Kings (I Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16). He sets up one king, and puts down another (Daniel 4:34, 35; Psalm 75:6, 7).

Yet we dare not succumb to a fatalistic withdraw from our civic duties. Our King instructs, “Occupy till I come” (Luke 19:13). We must “fight the good fight of faith” (I Timothy 6:12), must be “steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58). Christ will come again. Then His kingship will be fully known. We must live as those who expect His return. Then, every knee will bow to Jesus, and every tongue will confess that He is Lord (Philippians 2:10, 11).

We must live as those who know their citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), as those who wait for His coming. “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless” (II Peter 3:14).