

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

How Long?

Psalms 94:3: LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?

In the current state of affairs, as the devil's agents advance their agenda with the rapidity of a devouring beast and with "evil men waxing worse and worse", we are apt to pose this same rhetorical question - Lord, how long? All lovers of the truth and justice have patiently awaited retribution for the evildoers of our generation. How many innocent babies have been slaughtered without a retributive response from the Creator of all life? We have watched with astonishment as treason has been perpetrated in the highest echelons of our republic and yet, to date, there has been no commensurate judgment meted out against the perfidious perpetrators. Venal politicians have been caught peddling influence to our avowed enemies while padding their own bank accounts and yet they continue to hold public office. Even a former president perjured himself by lying to a grand jury and yet he remains a respected leader in his party and still garners exorbitant speaking fees. And still, all of this nefarious activity has proceeded unabated without any just recompense. Must God be charged with miscarriage of justice? How long shall the wicked triumph?

What one inspired writer asks, another often answers: "The triumphing of the wicked is short" Job 20:5 Our problem is that we are an impatient people. We expect a swift response to an evil action, but God is in no hurry to avenge evil. Ezekiel 33:11: "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live:" We must learn to stand in awe of His patient restraint. There will be a "due time" and we are assured that justice will ultimately be established.

David had within his grasp the opportunity to rid himself of his wicked adversary. Saul and his protectors pursued him without cause and meant his destruction, but while they succumbed to the soporific effects of the dank cave of En-gedi, David's "heart smote him" and he refused to execute the demands of righteous vindication. Instead, he deferred to His God whose "ways are not our ways". In due time God would avenge David of his adversary.

We dare not confuse God's patience with ambivalence. The righteous martyrs of the tribulation justly echo the cry of our text: "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" The divine response to evil will come in "a little season". We must not forget that it has been two millennia since the world rejected and crucified the Son of God. No retribution has been applied to satisfy the injustice of that cruel act. But a day of reckoning is coming "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness". The believer is to rest in the knowledge that though they may suffer many unredressed injustices - "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17