

(For Monday, May 15, 2017) Are we rebuilding Babel?

*"We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labor; but who has traced out what is in the heavens?" (Wis.9:16,NRSV)*

During my commute last week, I heard on NPR that NASA is having to postpone the test-flight of a much-anticipated rocket designed to replace the Space Shuttle. While I agree with funding projects to ensure the national defense, some initiatives in which we invest seem to me modern versions of the Tower of Babel. I fear mankind still has an ambitious gene which would have us try and make ourselves Gods. We spend so much time and treasure rising to great heights in order to prove untested theories concerning how the universe came to be, or whether intelligent life forms exist elsewhere.

Perhaps we should focus more resources reflecting inwardly, trying to improve the understanding of who made that universe, and just what our own abundant life is truly meant to be.

(For Tuesday, May 16, 2017) **Do you worship God, or an idea of His house?**

*"To you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work."*  
(Ps.62:12, ESV)

Down through the centuries, Christian denominations have been beset by tumultuous debates on a number of issues. Sometimes people have even felt the need to leave their denomination or house of worship over these differences. But when we find it necessary to quit a particular denomination or Church over matters of theology, we forget that no earthly institution can ever hope to perfectly reflect the infinite and perfect constancy of God's righteousness. You may be able to leave one set of imperfections by changing your Church membership. But you will inevitably find other flaws in your new house of worship, since no earthly institution can ever adequately represent the absolute righteousness of God.

It is to God and to God alone that we owe our steadfast adoration and blessing, no matter the flawed and imperfect Church in which we worship.

(For Wednesday, May 17, 2017) **He hasn't gone anywhere.**

*"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."* (Rom.13:1, ESV)

Now here is a head-scratcher, particularly given the character of these days! To varying degrees, the present state of political leadership in this country is, at the very least, troubling. Regardless of where you stand on the political spectrum, there can be no doubt that things in Washington are certainly more tumultuous than they have been in years. Yet, Paul insists on loyalty to our chosen political leaders. But to understand this as a command to be subject to our leaders regardless of their intentions would be a mistake. In fact, just a few verses later, the Apostle tells us we must "pay respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed." (Rom.13:6b) The point must be that faithful Christians owe their loyalty to obeying righteous laws that have been established under Godly guidance. Time and again, history shows us that where leaders betray their oaths of office and transgress the rule of righteous law, God steps in to right the ship.

And that same God hasn't gone anywhere. So even in the tumult of these times, you and I should be prayerfully waiting on The Lord. For He will have the ultimate victory.

(For Thursday, May 18, 2017)? **Will you recognize Love's Lord?**

*"Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned."* (Lk.8:42)

This passage has always troubled me. Jesus has just healed the demoniac by sending the legion of demons into the pigs. But rather than being joyful for the miraculous healing of this man, these people wish nothing more than to see the back of Jesus. Why? Are they afraid for their own livelihoods – that perhaps other pigs will be drowned rather than ending up in the market? Or are they just too afraid of the unknown to recognize the presence of God in their midst?

The next time God comes calling, even if his appearance and actions are not something you're comfortable with, will you be able to lay aside your feelings of discomfort and fear of the unknown and welcome the Kingdom of Heaven into your life?

(For Friday, May 19, 2017) **How long will it take for you to be whole?**

*"And he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.'"* (Lk.8:48,ESV)

So often, in the account of the various miraculous healings performed by Jesus, there is a subtext going on regarding something else that is happening in the life of those who are made well. We read that this wretched woman who had been sick with a hemorrhage of blood for twelve years had spent her entire life's savings on doctor's treatments – but to no avail. She had put her faith in earthly cures, and had found them worthless. But now, she is forced to make an act of faith in something other than worldly medicine. And the realization of who has cured her is so staggering, we read that "she came trembling, falling down before him." (Lk.8:47) The real healing that has occurred here is a healing of the soul. For this woman has finally found the faith in the living God that has made her truly whole.

What about you? What's God doing in your own life to bring you to a place where you have to rely completely on him? Is it going to take twelve years for you too?