

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
1-11-18

By Pastor David W. Cheatwood
Of the Hedrick Church of God
info@hedrickchurchofgod.org

THE WORLD THINKS IT IS WINNING – GUESS WHAT?

A man stopped to watch a ball game between two young teams. As he walked toward the bleachers, he asked one of the players, “What is the score?” the young fellow replied, “We are behind 18 to nothing.”

“Well,” said the man, “I must say you don’t look discouraged.”

“Discouraged?” the player said with a puzzled look. “Why should we be discouraged? We haven’t had our turn to bat yet.”

The army of Israel faced a giant, but a young man named David thought, “I have not had my turn,” and he won!

The twelve disciples saw 5,000 hungry people and said, “Send the crowds away, so they can buy some food.” But Jesus thought, “I have not had my turn yet!”

The angry mob had Pilate seal the tomb where Jesus was buried, but God knew, “I have not had my turn yet!”

The church is ready to “go to bat” and, like others, who have placed their trust in God, we will win!

Remember these words of Jesus: “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:18)

Matthew 16:13-20 (NASB)

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. 19 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in

heaven.” 20 Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

Sometimes what appears to be the winning team does not finish the game well. I love watching the underdog come back and pull out the victory, unless it is Michigan. Anybody who beats Michigan is a fan of us Ohio State fans.

That little boy was waiting for his team to go to bat so they could catch up and maybe even go ahead. David, as a young man couldn't wait to get at Goliath. When the Disciples were overwhelmed Jesus was ready to step up to the plate. When the devil and his crowd thought they had won, God raised His precious Son from the grave. Many see the church of today as weak, losing the battle and without significance. Stay tuned. You need to hear the rest of the story.

In today's text we find that Jesus was on a fishing expedition. He wanted to know who the crowd thought he might be. The answers are interesting but not the truth as declared by the very Son of God, Jesus Christ (the anointed one). Who was He and what was he anointed to do? He was anointed to be King of the whole earth and He will rule from Jerusalem when He returns to our planet.

What did the crowd think? Some thought he was John the Baptist, other Elijah; some thought he was Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Do you think they were confused? The world is still confused and we need to share the good news of our coming King with them so they can get on the right team for the final inning.

Jesus then asked who the disciples thought he was. Simon Peter got it right with the first words out of his mouth. “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Much of the world and the church still haven't learned this important truth. Jesus is the Son of God, not God the Son. He is and always will be subordinate to Yahweh, the living God. Are you among the confused about Jesus and his identity?

The following verses of our text speak of the final inning. The church will prevail and the victory will be found with Jesus as Lord and Savior. If you are on his side you will like the final score. At his coming he will raise to life those who are asleep in the grave “In Christ” and change those of us who are alive “In Christ” at his coming and give us immortality. This change will be for the faithful of all the ages of mankind. Those not on Jesus' side now will have no place in the resurrection to immortality and eternal life on this restored earth.

Jesus then makes an interesting statement. The disciples are to be quiet about the fact that Jesus is anointed to rule over the whole earth as the coming

King. His time was not at that moment, but a future event that all that belong to him will see when he returns. Come Lord Jesus.

So What Shall We Do? Remember the Lord's Prayer? Look at Luke 1:2-4. What did you find? The Kingdom is coming on earth. God's will is going to happen right here. This kingdom is for the faithful followers of God and His Son, Christ Jesus the Lord. If you want to be a part of that kingdom and rule with Jesus you need to get on the right team. Whose side are you on? What are you doing for the God, Jesus, the team and eternity? Come join us while you still have time.

For more information, Pastor David W. Cheatwood may be reached at info@hedrickchurchofgod.org