

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

October 2021

God's Peace Brothers and Sisters,

I wasn't sure how I was going to be able to find the time to write this letter this month. I had forgotten all about it [being my turn] until I looked over the previous board meeting minutes just before the meeting last night. Now it's already the middle of the month and I'm two weeks late. Turns out the Lord must have thought it needed to get done and made time. Today I am sitting at home taking care of several sick children.

I don't often get the chance to reflect on life; too much hustle and bustle, usually of my own making. I generally don't realize that fact and continue to rush about stressed out anyhow, not knowing quite how to balance the priorities in life. I often encourage my wife not to worry when she comes to me with her thoughts, giving her verses such as Philippians 4:6-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

In my heart I see the things she worries about, tell her not to worry because it's not a big deal, and wonder why she can't stop stressing. Meanwhile I have my own worries and stresses, that of course I seem to think are worth worrying over, and can't seem to take God's advice and admonishment on these issues. Feeling pretty hypocritical and faithless at the moment. Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

But, God. Short sentence, but powerful. Joseph told his brothers, when they came to him after the death of their father Jacob, in Genesis 50:20 "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. It looked as though it was hopeless for Joseph, But, God.

We read in 1 Kings Chapter 12 of how king Rehoboam, Solomon's son had assembled his armies to fight against Israel, the other tribes which God took from him. He was preparing a major civil war among Gods chosen, and in 1 King 12:22 we read "But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying," and he told them not to fight and they dispersed. God interjected and saved much people once again.

In Mark 10 Jesus accounts of the young rich ruler. And the disciples, after Jesus says of the difficulty of entering heaven ask who then can be saved? Verse 27 He answers " -with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Very profound, when all hope is lost, God interjects and the entire situation is turned for the better. May each of us fail not to remember what God has done in the past, and his promises to us, which dispense our worries. Psalm 31:24 " Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

God's Peace, and Blessings,
Tyson Mattila