

Article of the Month  
January, 2018

***There Isn't Much We Can Do Right Now, Is There?***

As we enter a new year, there are not likely many who do not feel frustrations, concerns, and an immeasurable list of feelings about the world and about personal problems. It should have impressed itself upon us that there seems little we can do to make it much different. Even throughout history, few individuals have made much difference. And those few who have, have only succeeded in making temporary changes. On the whole, the world has always been on a downward spiral with occasional relief for only a fortunate few. Yet hope springs eternal in the human heart.

If we could cure cancer, it would be wonderful; but it would yet be a frightful world. If we could achieve world peace, it would be wonderful; but we would still be dying. If we could save the environment, it would be wonderful; but life would continue to have its exasperating problems. Yet we all know instinctively that even these few achievements seem well beyond anyone's ability to accomplish. So we all continue in lives of quiet desperation or resignation or, at least, in waiting for what we think we can never see. Yet we DO wait. It is built into the human soul instinctively to have that eternal hope for something better. Paul expressed it superbly in Romans 8:22: "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together ... WAITING EAGERLY..." This we all have in common. But the object of the groaning is NOT DEFINED except for those who have been privileged to be instructed by God as to what is to be expected.

So the world goes on — often with noble pursuits in medicine, in the arts, in education, in social work, or in constructive political pursuits. We cannot criticize the efforts people make. But we know they have a futility that will not satisfy the "groaning and travailing" that continues among us. We might just conclude, "There isn't much we can do right now, is there?"

The answer to this question depends on who we are and what we know. Mankind in general can only do what it has always done: TRY and HOPE. There will not be more or less success than in the past. In other words, mankind will feel good that they are trying and can be respected for their efforts. But we all know that it is all insufficient for our fondest hopes and our deepest needs.

If, however, we have been blessed in this time to be instructed by God and accepted into

His service, we can know that we ARE doing something that WILL make ALL the needed difference. What God is currently doing is finishing that mystery "Body of Christ" which will soon bless all the families of the earth. "Why doesn't God DO SOMETHING?" is a question we may all have heard. The fact is, He IS doing something. And once He has finished His creation of that mystery group, EVERYTHING man has ever needed or dreamed of will come into fruition. The environment will come to perfection. Not only will destructive weather, earth tremors, droughts, floods, etc. all disappear, but the earth will lose its desert places and abound with fruitage to the point where no one will have a dietary insufficiency. Disease and death will be things of the past. Those who have died will return. All will achieve perfection of body and character and live FOREVER in an earthly paradise which has been only the dream of the most imaginative. Injustices, accidents, longings, needs, all of that which causes pain will disappear, and unimaginable creativity will replace it.

So, RIGHT NOW, there IS something that we can be doing that will make all of the difference. If we find our God and His purposes for us, we can work toward that sanctification which will constitute us successes in attaining a position in the "Body of Christ." Once that work is completed, the blessings will flow.

Clearly this article-of-the-month is aimed at those who are striving toward that end which is kept secret from the billions of mankind. The point is this: YES, there is MUCH that some of us can do right now! The results WILL NOT BE SEEN right now; but those results will be so grand in the end as to make all other efforts of past millennia seem as nothing. In the words of the Apostle Peter, "Therefore, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure." (II Peter 1:10) It is a work of "faith" rather than of achievement. A doctor, politician, musician, or teacher can each SEE the results of his labors. A saint cannot. A true Christian must rely on the unseen vision of the future rather than on the visible results of the present. But, to those who are truly the Lord's, the unseen is more real than the things our human senses perceive. It is possible to be doing something right now which will make ALL THE DIFFERENCE later. And that "later" is closer than we might think.

With THAT in mind, it can, indeed, be a HAPPY NEW YEAR!