

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org
Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts September 2020

ACTIVE Rest

By: Steve Huston



“Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand;” Psalms 149:6

There are many interesting couplets throughout the Bible. Jesus calls us to watch and pray. Yes we are called to pray to the God of heaven; but we are also called to activity on our part. We appeal to God’s sovereignty but realize that man has a responsibility as well. One missionary, when he first entered Swaziland, learned the importance of watching AND praying. He learned to pray with his eyes open; otherwise he would be hit with stones or mud or spears thrown at him. We see another kind of couplet in Nehemiah 4:17; “They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that

laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.” The Christian is a soldier—called to work AND to fight; called to be vigilant, watching AND praying; called to worship AND to guard, fight, and move forward, or in some instances to wait. The Bible is well rounded, calling men to rely upon God and also to fulfill his responsibility to the Creator. Perhaps one of the best examples of this is found in James; where we are commanded to live by faith, resting AND working in Him. For, faith without works is dead. Works do not produce our faith; but rather, are an evidence of it!

There are numerous passages that hold these couplets which call us to rest in God’s sovereignty but also to work and fight in His power. Psalm 149:6 reminds us to rest in God’s awesome holiness, giving high praise to Him; and yet, be armed for battle, fighting for our Sovereign. We are called to be singing swordsmen—to worship AND fight!

Those of us who love the Biblical and Constitutional founding of this great country and appreciate the gifts given to us by our founding fathers, of limited government, the guaranteed protection of our God-given rights, and liberty for all, can’t help but feel a welling up of righteous indignation as various groups attack and erode our nation’s foundations, deconstructing the old guard (Constitution), the old paths (Bible), and the culture of virtue and sanctity of life that made America great.

Without the intervening Hand of Providence upon this land, things are sure to get worse. The Christian should neither be surprised by that, nor should it surprise him that God expects us to have peace in the midst of the storm or even in our “righteous indignation,” as we share the Gospel, Truth, and love of Christ.

“Peace?” you ask. Yes, peace. In John chapter sixteen Jesus talked to the disciples about the fact

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org
Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts September 2020

ACTIVE Rest

By: Steve Huston



“Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand;” Psalms 149:6

There are many interesting couplets throughout the Bible. Jesus calls us to watch and pray. Yes we are called to pray to the God of heaven; but we are also called to activity on our part. We appeal to God’s sovereignty but realize that man has a responsibility as well. One missionary, when he first entered Swaziland, learned the importance of watching AND praying. He learned to pray with his eyes open; otherwise he would be hit with stones or mud or spears thrown at him. We see another kind of couplet in Nehemiah 4:17; “They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that

laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.” The Christian is a soldier—called to work AND to fight; called to be vigilant, watching AND praying; called to worship AND to guard, fight, and move forward, or in some instances to wait. The Bible is well rounded, calling men to rely upon God and also to fulfill his responsibility to the Creator. Perhaps one of the best examples of this is found in James; where we are commanded to live by faith, resting AND working in Him. For, faith without works is dead. Works do not produce our faith; but rather, are an evidence of it!

There are numerous passages that hold these couplets which call us to rest in God’s sovereignty but also to work and fight in His power. Psalm 149:6 reminds us to rest in God’s awesome holiness, giving high praise to Him; and yet, be armed for battle, fighting for our Sovereign. We are called to be singing swordsmen—to worship AND fight!

Those of us who love the Biblical and Constitutional founding of this great country and appreciate the gifts given to us by our founding fathers, of limited government, the guaranteed protection of our God-given rights, and liberty for all, can’t help but feel a welling up of righteous indignation as various groups attack and erode our nation’s foundations, deconstructing the old guard (Constitution), the old paths (Bible), and the culture of virtue and sanctity of life that made America great.

Without the intervening Hand of Providence upon this land, things are sure to get worse. The Christian should neither be surprised by that, nor should it surprise him that God expects us to have peace in the midst of the storm or even in our “righteous indignation,” as we share the Gospel, Truth, and love of Christ.

“Peace?” you ask. Yes, peace. In John chapter sixteen Jesus talked to the disciples about the fact



that they would face trials, about the Father’s love for them, and that they would be scattered and away from their Master. Then the loving Savior spoke these words in verse 33. “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John would later write in 1 John 5:4, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

Dear Reader, we overcome the world and rest in Him by faith. Faith in what? Faith in religion? Faith in self? Faith that the government will be fixed and made right? God forbid. Herein lies the answer; it is through faith in JESUS ALONE! In Christ we have peace and good cheer, even in the midst of tribulation, because we find rest IN HIM.

Some ways to tell if we are

just indignant or if we have “righteous indignation” are whether we are doing something about the trouble that surrounds us or if we are just complaining about it. Can we speak Truth into this chaos and maintain our peace or is our joy stolen by the circumstances? Can we be at rest after “having done all to stand,” trusting that God is sovereign and that “all things work together for good to them that love God”? Are we being “Singing Swordsmen,” fighting the fight of faith and resting in Him with God’s “high praise” in our mouths?

In America we are afforded the right to vote; this is one simple way in which we can do something. So we must vote as if our very freedom and liberties depend on it. We must vote as if our posterity, this country, and the world depend on it. Our vote must be cast as though our churches, cities, and economy depend on it. Our ballots must be marked as if our freedom to worship and to witness depends on it. We must vote as if our national sanity, security, history, and witness as a “Christian nation” depend on it. We must vote

as if raising our children by Biblical standards depends on it. And we must vote as if our life depends on it; because it does!

And yet...

After we have responsibly cast our vote we must leave that booth and walk out into a world of chaos and turmoil, peacefully content and at rest, having faith in the sovereignty and goodness of God, His will, and His plan.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength. Isaiah 26:3-4



that they would face trials, about the Father’s love for them, and that they would be scattered and away from their Master. Then the loving Savior spoke these words in verse 33. “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John would later write in 1 John 5:4, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

Dear Reader, we overcome the world and rest in Him by faith. Faith in what? Faith in religion? Faith in self? Faith that the government will be fixed and made right? God forbid. Herein lies the answer; it is through faith in JESUS ALONE! In Christ we have peace and good cheer, even in the midst of tribulation, because we find rest IN HIM.

Some ways to tell if we are

just indignant or if we have “righteous indignation” are whether we are doing something about the trouble that surrounds us or if we are just complaining about it. Can we speak Truth into this chaos and maintain our peace or is our joy stolen by the circumstances? Can we be at rest after “having done all to stand,” trusting that God is sovereign and that “all things work together for good to them that love God”? Are we being “Singing Swordsmen,” fighting the fight of faith and resting in Him with God’s “high praise” in our mouths?

In America we are afforded the right to vote; this is one simple way in which we can do something. So we must vote as if our very freedom and liberties depend on it. We must vote as if our posterity, this country, and the world depend on it. Our vote must be cast as though our churches, cities, and economy depend on it. Our ballots must be marked as if our freedom to worship and to witness depends on it. We must vote as if our national sanity, security, history, and witness as a “Christian nation” depend on it. We must vote

as if raising our children by Biblical standards depends on it. And we must vote as if our life depends on it; because it does!

And yet...

After we have responsibly cast our vote we must leave that booth and walk out into a world of chaos and turmoil, peacefully content and at rest, having faith in the sovereignty and goodness of God, His will, and His plan.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength. Isaiah 26:3-4