

# TROUBLE IN HOUSTON

## HELLO TROUBLE!

It is really wonderful as a Christian to know that we are always safe in the Lord's hands and that the Lord will never forsake us. But, there are many people IN HOUSTON who are unaware of this Truth. Maybe you are one of those that feel that you have been forsaken by the Lord. A lot of people have been taught that trouble is evidence that the Lord has forsaken them. They say that, if God hadn't forsaken them, then they wouldn't be in trouble. But our Lord's presence does not guarantee that we will never be in any trouble or any kind of stress, or pressure, or difficulty, or trial in life.

Do you remember the passage and the experience that the Lord Jesus Christ had in Matthew 8:23? "And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him, and, behold, there rose a great tempest in the sea, inso-much that the ship was covered with the waves: BUT HE WAS ASLEEP." Here we see the Lord Jesus Christ in the boat with the disciples. He was there with them. But His presence did not prevent that storm from rising. There was great trouble, a great tempest. The waves were high and there was thundering and lightning. Still the Lord did not wake up. He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and said, "And awoke Him, saying, Lord save us: we perish. And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm."

Here we see very plainly that the Lord's presence does not guarantee us that we will never be in any trouble. In fact, we find that God's presence guarantees us trouble. In the 16th chapter of John we find very plainly, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world." The Lord guarantees us we will have trouble. In the third chapter of 2 Timothy Paul says, "All those that wil-

leth to live godly IN CHRIST JESUS shall suffer persecution." We have guaranteed trouble IN HOUSTON.

But trouble in our lives does not mean that the Lord does not love us, because we find in the eighth chapter of Romans that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God which is IN CHRIST JESUS our Lord. Trouble does not mean that the Lord has forsaken us because He has guaranteed that He will never leave nor forsake us, Hebrews 13:5.

David said in Psalm 37, that he has never seen the righteous forsaken, nor the children of God begging bread. God does not forsake His children. We can expect trouble IN HOUSTON because, after all, the same spirit exists today that existed when the Lord was on this Earth, and certainly our Lord was persecuted. In John 15:20 He said, "The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep your's also."

So we can expect persecution. When I say that, I mean a rather light, weak form of persecution because the law will still not permit some people to do what they would like to do to Christians as they used to do years ago. But, we can expect to be misunderstood. We can expect people to put wrong motives to our acts, and we can expect people to tell stories about us, to exaggerate and lie about us.

We should not be disturbed by persecution and trouble. God has promised us that. Trouble and persecution are guarantees that His presence is close to us. It is not, as some people think, evidence that He has left us. It should really strengthen our faith. As we find in 1 Peter, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold testings, that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with

fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Christ Jesus.”

Don't worry about trouble or tribulation. The Lord has guaranteed us that in this world we should have tribulation, but in the Lord we shall have peace. On the one side is the world and its tribulation, on the other side is our Lord with His peace. It is up to you which side you choose. If you are going to let the Lord and His Word influence you and your life, you will NEVER be distressed in trouble. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:8, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair." I you are in deep distress because of trouble in your life here IN HOUSTON, don't be distressed any longer. Remember that the Lord's GRACE is sufficient for you and He will carry you through that trouble.

Trouble can be a blessing when it drives us to our Lord. The storms of this life can be a blessing if we call upon the Lord from the deep pit of despair that we find ourselves in. It is only then that we realize how close He really is. Don't ever let anyone tell you that our Lord's presence will prevent you going through trouble IN HOUSTON. That is not true. God guarantees trouble. But, if you will learn to depend upon the Lord, realizing that

He loves you and that He is close to you, knowing that He is all powerful, you can come through trouble with a stronger faith than that you had when you began. Your steadfastness will be a wonderful testimony to a younger Christian who will be strengthened and encouraged when they see your faith in action.

2 Corinthians 1:3, 4, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the FATHER OF MERCIES, AND THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT: WHO COMFORTETH US IN ALL OUR TRIBULATION, THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO COMFORT THEM WHICH ARE IN ANY TROUBLE, BY THE COMFORT WHEREWITH WE OURSELVES ARE COMFORTED OF GOD." We are comforted by God in all tribulations, not just to be made comfortable, but that we may be comforters to others who are in any tribulation. Just pass this comfort on. It is a part of your Christian heritage here IN HOUSTON.

Buddy Dano, Pastor

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