

GOD IS NOT AT WAR WITH MAN

THIS IS THE DAY OF GOD'S GRACE. He is dispensing his grace, mercy and peace to any person of any nation on an individual basis. There is freedom for all men in that a person can choose to live in God's grace or that person can live in unrighteousness and do ungodly things. There is, of course, a day of judgment before God for the unrighteous man. (See Romans 2:16; Romans 14:11-12.)

On September 11, 2001, God was not at war with America or any man for that matter. This is not the day of his wrath, nor is he pouring out his judgment on sin. According to scripture, his judgment for sin has already been poured out for man over 2000 years ago on his Son. Even our calendar notes a change in history as we use BC and AD. Because of sin, man became separated from God. There was enmity at one time because Adam brought sin into the world; **BUT TODAY**, reconciliation for sin has been made. God took our sin upon himself in the person of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He paid the penalty for sin, he died for our sins and arose from the dead, thus making reconciliation possible to all. Christ did this out of love for the man and woman he had created. We have redemption through his blood the forgiveness of sins. It's a free gift to all who, by faith, choose to believe him. See Ephesians 2:8-9; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

II Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

This is not to say that God does not hate sin and evil. In **TIME PAST**, in Noah's day, God repented that he had even made man, and he sent the flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all living flesh, only saving eight souls. With the children of Israel, he led them into captivity because of sin, etc. **BUT TODAY**, God is dispensing his grace to all men. He offers grace and peace to all nations of people, offering reconciliation on an individual basis to all who by faith will believe his Word. He has not appointed US to wrath. **GOD IS HOLDING BACK THE DAY OF HIS WRATH OR THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE UNTIL THE DISPENSATION OF GOD'S GRACE IS OVER.**

Knowing the love of Christ that he has for us NOW, motivates us to walk worthy, and not be conformed to the unrighteousness of this world. We should NOW love our neighbor as our self. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; love fulfills the law. However, if man chooses to not treat his neighbor properly, the law is made for the lawless and

disobedient and the ungodly. (See Romans 13:10 cp. I Timothy 1:9-11.) We are instructed to pray for those in authority over us so that we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. See Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:14; Colossians 1:10; I Thessalonians 5:9.

TODAY, God does have an enemy and a war raging; but his battle is not against flesh and blood. It's against spiritual wickedness in high places and against the rulers of the darkness of this world (Ephesians 6:12). God's adversary is Satan or the devil. He was God's enemy from the very beginning. He was cast out of heaven because of his rebellion against God, even in causing some angels to rebel and fall with him. Having usurped God's rule in the heavens and the earth, Satan NOW occupies the heavenly places as the prince and power of the air, and NOW works in the children of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2). Since God's adversary is Satan, he is also our adversary. The battle TODAY is for the truth of God's Word. However, God's soldiers can take on the whole armour of God, which is God's Word, and God's Word shall quench all Satan's fiery darts as the scripture says.

WE CAN BE COMFORTED IN KNOWING WHAT GOD IS DOING TODAY. He is not at war with man today. He is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish. All men can be reconciled to God TODAY simply by believing what God says. He offers the free gift of salvation to ALL who, by faith, believe his Word, and also the eternal rewards that comes from being filled with the knowledge and wisdom of Christ. Knowing God's wisdom and knowledge comes from proving the scriptures by studying and "rightly dividing" his Word. See II Timothy 2:15; Colossians 1:9-14; II Timothy 2:10.

BELOW IS GOD'S DESIRE FOR ALL MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN. THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE AMONG PEOPLE.

I Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. 7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. **8 But God commendeth his love**

toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

See Romans 16:24 –27. The revelation of the mystery that the Lord gave to Paul is able to stablish us in Christ. It is for the obedience of faith.