

OK, the world is nuts!! But what is that to us?

The Apostle John recorded in his Gospel that Jesus said, "*My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.*"

As members of the Body of Christ, we know that we belong to a Kingdom "*not of this world*". **Our** "world" is not nuts. **This** world, is.

Our King was not of this world, yet He lived in this world and was "*... in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin*".

Why God arranged things thus, we do not and cannot (this side of Heaven) know. Nevertheless, as those called out of this world, called to be His, this is our call; to live in this world, yet without sin.

But how does that "*work itself out [your own salvation] with fear and trembling*" (Phil 2:12), knowing that while in the world, we are not of the world.

Do we just "check out" and let things just happen around us?

Surely, even Jesus who was *bound* to die, *born* to die, *aware* that He was going to die, *DID NOT* just let Himself get killed until Exactly the right moment, and *only after having Stood against wrong, injustice, unrighteousness, godlessness of any and every kind.*

Being such ones as this, who are called to live in this world as He did yet without sin, and recognizing we too are called to *Stand Against Unrighteousness*, we must ask what that looks like in 2021. Should it, does it, ought it look any different than it did in 1939, 1492, 70?

No, I think not.

Jesus' "born as one out of time" Apostle Paul was inspired to write to us (1Cor5) that we're not to try to avoid sinners in this world, nor even necessarily call them out! We are however, to bring them the Good News, namely, that there is forgiveness for their sin... of which they will be convicted in large part by our **non-participation** therein; whether their sin is the propagation of a lie, or theft, or murder, or drunkenness, or any other such thing.

At the same time, we are to call out - as Paul also recorded in 1Cor 5 - those whom call themselves brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who *do* participate in the sin, unrighteousness, hypocrisy, lies, etc, etc, etc, of this world/age.

As we live in this age, we cry out against the church's complicity with this age... and such is our calling. Read 1Cor chapter 5 and see it for yourselves.

Jesus did the same thing. He was constantly standing against unrighteousness in His church: Judaism.

He said of its leaders, indeed TO its leaders... Fool, Blind, Hypocrites, Sinners... (Matt 23 etal)

Toward the sinners of this world he said, "Repent and there is forgiveness. Go, and sin no more."

Ours is to do the same.

I encourage you all to tell the Truth - in love - to all your churches and to all your brothers and sisters in Christ. Meanwhile telling those outside the church that there is forgiveness; they know what their sin is, even when they don't admit it to you or me.

We stand, with the confidence of knowing that our citizenship is not of this world. As such, we realize that " *we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness in this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*". (Eph 6:12)

**They** are our foe, and we are not to standby and just let them win, even as Jesus - who knew that His fate was an early death! - did not merely stand by and let them win. He fought with the sword of His mouth, the Word of Truth.

Can we, should we, are we, to tell the rank and file people in our lives the Truth that our battle is a spiritual one? You bet your life we are; and they'll call us crazy, too... right up until God opens their eyes to see that we are not.

Until then, just as Jesus fought, we fight.

Here are our weapons...

In Revelation chapter one, John the Revelator says of Jesus, " *...out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength*".

In chapter two he says of Jesus, " *These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword*".

In chapter 19, as the victory is about to be won, he says of Jesus, " *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the wine-press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God*".

Here are our weapons, the Words of our God: the truth of His Word: His Truth in all its Eternal Power and Glory.

Truth, Loved Ones. God's Truth; for All Truth is God's Truth, just as all lies are satan's lies.

*Know* the Truth and *tell* the Truth wherever, and whenever, and to whomever you have opportunity... until there is no more breath in you to tell it.

Here are our weapons. Wield them well.

*But they that wait upon the Yahweh shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.* Isa 40:31

Pastor