

Sunday, 07 October 2007

1 John 1 : 1-7

1John 1:1-7 We write to you about the Word of life, which has existed from the very beginning. We have heard it, and we have seen it with our eyes; yes, we have seen it, and our hands have touched it. When this life became visible, we saw it; so we speak of it and tell you about the eternal life which was with the Father and was made known to us. What we have seen and heard we announce to you also, so that you will join with us in the fellowship that we have with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write this in order that our joy may be complete. Now the message that we have heard from his Son and announce is this: God is light, and there is no darkness at all in him. If, then, we say that we have fellowship with him, yet at the same time live in the darkness, we are lying both in our words and in our actions. But if we live in the light---just as he is in the light---then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin.

God is our light in darkness.

Once again, I was reminded of just how dark the world around us could get at times. Once more, I was called to a person in so much pain, exposed to the harsh realities of exactly how wrong things can actually go. To see no more joy in the eyes of this person, but just tears that sprang from deep within the heart where pain and sorrow is the only visible sign of life. To see a person that broke down, after to many painful blows, unable to remain standing. How dark the world must seem to such a person, without even a hope of some light left in the heart for any comfort.

But, we know that God is the Light. God promised to never leave us, nor forsake us. He promised to always remain with us, never letting go. We see in this Scripture that we are reminded of this truth in the story of our salvation. The writer is giving witness to his audience of the fact that this is really so, and that they are the witnesses of this truth. They have heard it, seen it, and felt it. How much more real can it be. But why then does it sometimes feel as if we are completely alone, and God has forgotten about us. Is it because it is true? No, never. We sometimes allow our situations, and our emotions to overwhelm us, and we find ourselves surrounded by all the things going wrong, and pushing us down, forgetting that the Light is always there, always to our rescue, we only need to look up.

Then it could also happen that we work hard, and we feel as if our labour comes to nothing. We wish to see some joy come from our labour, and like to see results, showing us that we are indeed successful, but this does not always happen. I had to stand back and think about it. The words of the well known song came back to be: "It's the shadow I cast, when Your light shines on me..." Yes, I will only be effective in my work and ministry if I do it for God's glory, and not my own. I will only see wonders and supernatural results, should God bless my labour. We need to stand still for a while, and have a little talk with God, asking Him if we are still walking on the path He had set for us, and if we are still going in the right direction. Is He still the potter, and we the clay, or have we fallen into a trap where we are comfortable with where we are, and our comfort zone has become more important than our calling? Let us seek God's guidance in this week on where we should be going, and never forget, He is always there.

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. david@davidniebuhr.com

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