

Fear vs. Faith

To say Fear versus Faith may sound too much like it's a contest, like The Maple Leafs vs the Canucks (when they're not locked out). But in a way it is just that. Take what Jesus warned about the end times

Luke 21:25-26

...on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world.

There really is a contest going on among mankind - not so much between people as between what is on people's minds. For most people the ideal is to have good reason to feel assured that today, as well as tomorrow and next month and next year they will enjoy a decent standard of living in a peaceful society, where all their neighbours and others are honest, law-abiding and easy to get along with.

The writer, who has been retired for a few years, can remember the relative carefree optimism that prevailed in Canada after the end of the 2nd World War - and I can see a great contrast with the general attitude now. Take concerns for children's safety, for example. Right from the first year of elementary school I and my friends used to find our own way to and from school, and after classes and on weekends we would be hours out of sight of parents, with no concerns expressed by them unless any of us did not show up on time for dinner. But now, across our street at the elementary school it seems that just about everybody insists on dropping off and picking up their children every day.

What has changed - just in this one little aspect of life in this 14th year of the 21st century? The word is Fear - Fear is winning the contest with Faith, confidence and assurance. The recent event at the elementary school in Connecticut will do nothing to make Fear retreat. How can we get back to that old carefree feeling? It has been my privilege to be able to read through the gospels twice annually for many years. My confidence in Jesus has grown because of what he said, not just his predictions, but on how he asks his followers conduct their lives, to treat others, and most importantly, to place their trust in what God has promised.

About 500 years after the flood, God made a promise to Abraham, and all those who espoused his Faith, that He would give everlasting possession of the land which extends from Egypt to the Euphrates river.

Genesis 13:12-15

Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever

On the other hand, if some scientists are right, it will be impossible for Abraham and his fellow-believers to possess the earth forever, because the earth will eventually be rendered uninhabitable by major tectonic activity or by collision with a rogue asteroid. Again we ask, do we accept their Fear or do we place our trust in what God has promised? In the face of this promise, there is among people evidently more Fear in the future than there is Faith in this promise of God. I and my fellow-believers who are connected with this site would be happy to show you how to find complete assurance in your future.

If you have questions about this or any other Bible subject, please send us an email; contact@vancouverchristadelphians.com.