

Clippings

*Newsletter of Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
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December 12th an earthquake hit eastern Tennessee; the 4.4 magnitude ‘quake was felt as far away as Atlanta. They say that area hadn’t been hit this hard since 1973. Alaska had several last week. Michigan, over by Detroit, felt one April 19th of this year.

When the ground is shaking, it’s hard to find your footing!

In Hebrews chapter 12 we find this warning:

²⁵See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire.

Yet we are still walking through a world full of things that will quake when they hear the voice of God on the Last Day, at the return of Jesus. In Mark chapter 13, he says:

²⁴But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken. When the other stuff, the stuff that is not God’s kingdom, is shaken, we will be harvested. We will go home for the first time in our lives. We will be raised from the grave, never to die or hurt again. What we get at that time is guaranteed to us by God’s unshakable promise. It will never be revoked or cancelled. It will not wear out or break down. It is eternal life, lived physically, and not just spiritually by faith, as we do now.

What lies ahead for us, is so rock-solid and secure! “Therefore let us be grateful,” Hebrews says. “Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.” The first worship we offer is God-sponsored too: it is our faith. We believe His promise, with reverence and awe. We trust Him. We do not “refuse him” (v. 25). We listen with reverence and awe. We respect Him, and the powerful Word that He feeds us with, more than we respect whatever 2019 might throw at us. So what if the mountains are dancing, and the ground itself bouncing around? When our world is being rocked, we give thanks that we stand fast on the “Rock that is higher than I” (Psalm 61:2). We take a deep breath and belt out another refrain of “On Christ, the Solid Rock I stand; /All other ground is sinking sand!”

~Pastor Fremer