

THE EXORTATION

During the 18th Century many English Kings gave themselves the title “Defender of The Faith.” Of course Faith meant to them “Protestantism” exclusively. And “defender” meant protector of their borders and colonialism. That was hardly what Jude had in mind in his third verse of the New Testament.

Anyhow this title reassured many at the time that Government would and could take care of them and their religious and spiritual needs. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was therefore safe. And, they were assured of the proper doctrine and discipline. That actually wasn't a new concept at the time as Constantine had done pretty much the same thing.

So, it's not surprising today that our sectarian Christianity tends often to look to Governments for solutions instead of our Father in Heaven. Because the Body of Christ has been divided up in so many sects, little or no cohesion or unity exists. It has become “every man for himself.” Therefore we find ourselves ignoring the problems of those “other” sects with which we have little agreement, usually arguing over petty points of understanding and not doing real battle with the enemy, Satan. Satan's plan is to divide and conquer, and destroy the pieces using forces like the Islamic extremists bent on the destruction of our Faith. The extremists have been able to use corrupt Governments, religious bigotry, violence, fear and lies to intimidate the Body of Christ into inaction.

Why do we quote Luke 16:8b? Even the secular world is smarter than we are. To wit: they have The National Rifle Association, the most powerful lobby in America whose

existence is based on “the right of self defense”. The world has it’s “Doctors Without Borders” who offer mercy, healing, and medicine to anyone to whom it is not otherwise available regardless of nationality, race, color or creed. The Jews have their B’nia B’rith sworn to protect Jews from lies, attacks and persecutions.

What efforts have we Christians made as a united Body to defend our Faith? In a recent article “Christianity Today” suggests we not make any waves that might excite Muslims into more and worse violence. We have whole denominations teaching that Islam is just another way to God. We have Churches openly seeking fellowship with Muslims under the belief that their religion is not objectionable to loving Christians. So we hear a lot about “loving our enemies,” as if that was what Christ meant instead of referring only to our interpersonal relationships, not the sworn enemies of Christ. We have completely ignored the Biblical teaching in II John 10, “if anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching (to abide in Christ) do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting. For the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.”

As Christians, we must resist the devil and we should band together in prayer at the very least to support and encourage every Church on the front line, so to speak, whose lives are threatened and destroyed by the agents of Satan.

WE will begin on this site with the fight of the faithful Coptic Saints in Egypt who have endured unspeakable torture, imprisonment, and slaughter at the hands of the enemy while Government authorities apparently look the other way. Unfortunately, to many American Christians, the Coptic Church has been out of their view because they have not

been considered either protestant or Catholic, despite the fact they are older than both.

Can we not all do what Paul tells Timothy? I Tim. 1:18-2:4, Fight the good fight for the true Faith, hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have confessed so well before many witnesses. Here are my instructions for you . . . may they help you fight well in the Lord's battles. Cling to your Faith in Christ. Keep your conscience clear. Pray for people, ask God to help them, intercede on their behalf, give thanks for them. Pray for Kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by Godliness and dignity.

The Frontier Church