

HH for 1-18-19

God Works in our Wreckage

I have great hope in people. That being said, I want you to know I do not come to this hope as a naive nor gullible nor immature believer. As a testimony I can openly and honestly say that I've been let down by others as much or more than I've seen them "come through." Have you ever witnessed a deacon who serves more as an enemy of the church than a friend? Most of us have. Have you ever observed the lifestyle of a "preacher" that seemed quite short of that high calling? Most of us have. Have you ever experienced a "church lady" with Scripture virtually spewing from her lips turn to gossip with a passion that rivals the addiction of an alcoholic? Have you been within listening distance as we, who have been so blessed in America, fail to have any compassion for those in other parts of the world who have nothing? Have you seen the high and mighty fail and fall at the feet of an evil affair? Have you even been a part of these things yourself? How then can we have any hope in people? Some might even go to the length of proposing the angry sounding proverb: "You can't trust people." I have seen these things.

I have also seen men and women humbled and learning the power and grace of the Almighty. Sometimes it takes a massive loss to learn what we "had" and value that which no longer exists. Sometimes it is only in the hospital that we gain an appreciation of health. Very often people have to be knocked down as was Saul on the road to Damascus before they find the right way. Saul had to lose his sight before he was able to see. Those who talk the most have a hard time listening. Those who know a lot find it difficult to learn. Those who are big must often become small. Those who are down can only look up. I do not hope for these events for people, but I also realize that in them there is often a certain "hope."

I hope in people. I hope, more precisely, in what God can do in people. An artist paints on canvas, but God paints in human lives. A potter molds clay, but God amazes us with what He can do in molding human hearts. God delights in our wreckage and molds it into beauty. He redeems and remodels. When we lose all hope in our loved ones, then God steps in and does the impossible. It takes a miracle. We used to sing that song. "It took a miracle to hang the stars in space..," -and so it goes. But, when He saved my soul, cleansed and made me whole, it took an even greater miracle. In God's work with people we see just how wonderful He truly is. We can never give up on people because God does His greatest in the worst circumstances. When man was at his worst in putting Jesus on the cross, God was at His best in loving them anyway.

I have great hope for you!

Jerry Rea