

LIVING WATER

The Official Newsletter of Southside Church of Christ

WILL YOU BE CANCELLED?

by Zach Wharton

In America today, cancel culture has swept quickly across the country. It seems to have started at the political level via Hollywood and social media and swept through to the local levels that we experience every day. Some have taken cancel culture so far that non-compliance with the chosen ideologies will result in losing valuable parts of your livelihood. Gay marriage, transgenderism, Covid compliance, immodesty, political affiliation, the list goes on and on. It seems as if we may have to face some things Americans have never seen if it continues, a real religious persecution. So, the question I pose for you is this; will you allow your faith to be cancelled?

From the beginning of the world, we have seen the power struggle between those that follow God and those that deny his power. As we read in Exodus Chapter 1:8-22 even though Pharaoh was in control, he feared the people because they were becoming numerous and powerful with God at the helm. The pressures we ourselves and our children are up against are likely closer to home and greater than we have seen since the Revolution that created this great country. Immoral and lewd ideologies are being taught in some schools. In addition, compliance, and acceptance with homosexual and transgender ideals is sweeping across the country rapidly. Our children and we as adults are faced with properly gendering our colleagues and coworkers. So, what are we to do?

Are we to go along in acceptance so that we can live peaceably with all men? When the pressure mounts up against us will we go the way of Peter in Luke 22?

56 And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

57 But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

58 And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them."

But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

59 Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean."

60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!"

Immediately, while he was still speaking, [h]the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster [i]crows, you will deny Me three times." 62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly

Or will we be grounded and steadfast in our faith?

1 Corinthians 15 says

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

So as Christians it's no time to be scared, it's time to take the bull by the horns and get to work. Proverbs 22:6 gives instruction to train up our children in the word of God so they too will be steadfast and immovable. For our children to be immovable we must be ourselves. And we have the ultimate example of someone who lived in this world and weathered every storm. Christ was tempted in all ways as we are and yet sinned not. Isaiah 53 gives us a clear picture of the selfless and uncanceled will of Christ. We too should always remember to focus our minds on our eternal home. John in receiving revelation from God said in Rev 21:

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

So brethren if you aren't grounded in your faith, it's time to buckle down and get to work. Study, read, pray, and encourage one another. God blessed us with the church to edify and encourage each other, let us use that to our advantage as we all work together to strengthen our homes with the word of God.

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