

But...God...
My body and my heart fail,
but God is my heart's rock and my share forever. -Psalm 73:26

"But...God..." Two simple words that can change your life.

It is impossible to escape bad news these days. Consider this short list of concerns that could change our lives in a day:

- Rumors of WWIII with Russia over Syria and Ukraine, with China over the South China Sea Islands, with Iran and North Korea over their continued development of nuclear missiles.
- The continuing threat of Sharia Law to violently take over western nations for the Islamic Caliphate.
- The looming collapse of the dollar as BRICS nations have started their own bank
- The possible collapse of America's power grid by either a solar flare or EMP weapon
- Increasing major earth changes: earthquakes, volcanoes, sinkholes, mass animal die-offs, new threatening diseases each year.
- Increasing immorality, both ethical and sexual, are destabilizing social norms.
- The loss of America's sovereignty as national policies move toward global sharing of authority through trade treaties.
- But let us not forget the amazing amount of hope to turn things around that come from our two main presidential candidates. See it's not all bad news.
- Which also brings to mind increasing lawlessness and chaos that is perpetuated by our leaders.

Add your own personal and family struggles to this list and life seems overwhelming. It is no wonder that virtual realities such as "Pokemon Go" and "gaming" are entrenched in our culture and drug and alcohol use is on the rise. Escaping the weight of all these problems for just a little while can easily become a viable option just to get through the week.

As followers of Jesus the Christ and a people who honor YHVH, God, we still experience the same social problems as everyone else. In fact, we have the added burden of knowing we are called to be an answer for our world on how to deal with

all these major burdens, most of which we can do nothing about. It is perfectly acceptable to recognize these burdens and to lament over them all. But don't leave your conversation with the problem. As Christ followers we have the answer for ourselves and others on how to deal with all these burdens. It is those two simple words: But...God...

The psalmist writes, "*My body and my heart fail, but God is my rock.*" Notice the psalmist has not change of circumstances, not intervention from a friend, doctor, or political leader. The psalmist is bemoaning his problems and then simply by choice, the psalmist lifts his eyes from his failures and inadequacies to say, "But...God..." This is a good role model for the Church when discussing any problem. Talk about how bad the problem is. Discuss your fears about how much worse the problem can become. Get angry or cry about how badly your life is effected. You can even experience hopelessness and depression for a time. But don't stop there. CHOOSE to add "But...God..." as the conclusion of your discussion.

- America's enemies are many, BUT GOD is our shield and deliverer
- America's leaders may be untrustworthy, BUT GOD is faithful.
- Followers of Muhammad are a violent threat to the world, BUT GOD protects the righteous.
- Our budgets may be tight, BUT GOD is our provision.
- Heaven and earth are falling apart, BUT GOD has promised to make all things new.
- Our bodies are withering and dying, BUT GOD will raise us, incorruptible.
- The leaders of the nations roar, BUT GOD has put them all under his feet.
- Our sin and shame is always with us, BUT GOD in Christ has washed us clean and made us pure.

There, now don't you feel better about things? A whole lot better?

Yes we are in a world that doesn't want to hear about God in the public arena. BUT GOD is the one that makes everything better. So next time you catch yourself in a negative conversation, even if it is only a negative conversation in your own head, don't stop there. Go on and choose to add the words "BUT GOD..." You will be glad you did.

Be Blessed and Be a Blessing, Pastor Scott