

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

My soul waits in silence

- Pastor Hank French

*For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken....
For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God (Psalms 62:1-2, 5-7).*

In 1919, following World I, the Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, wrote:

Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

These are grim words. The poem points to Yeats' conviction that chaos was descending upon the world and the forces that should bring order are failing to do so. Seems like today.

As I mentioned earlier this week, a new NBC/Wall Street Journal poll noted that 80% of American voters say "things are out of control in the U.S.," suggesting that a lot of Americans agree with the poet—"Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."

At such times, it is easy to despair; it is easy to capitulate to fear, to surrender to hopelessness. But a better response would be to trust in God, who is our "rock" and "salvation." A better response would be to place our "hope" in God, the source of our hope. A better response would be to not let the seeming chaos "shake" our confidence that God will "deliver" us.

Paul seems to agree with the Psalmist when he writes in Romans 8: "It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword...? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (8:34-35, 37-39)

Words to help us creatively and fearlessly engage the world we live in, confident that God is with us.

Prayer: Faithful God, my hope is from you and in you; you are my rock and my salvation. I will not be shaken. Amen