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# BUCKLE UP, BUTTERCUP

# THE BULWARK

It is rather ominous when you have been relaxing in your seat on an airplane enjoying the view from above. Hearing a “ding”, you notice the seat belt sign has been switched on. Turbulence lays ahead. The voice of the captain is heard, “Please fasten your seat belts, we will be soon coming into an area of turbulence; and it will get bumpy”. Flight attendants hurriedly walk up the aisle checking that all are securely buckled in, then they find their seats and buckle up.



Life does not give us advance warning when it is going to get “bumpy”. It sure would be nice if we knew what disturbing experiences lay ahead; but no, life doesn’t afford us such warnings. *“I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise, nor wealth to the discerning, nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all.”* (Ecclesiastes 9:11)

Conversely, Solomon notes in chapter eight of Ecclesiastes, *“There is futility which is done on the earth, that is, there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked. On the other hand, there are evil people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I say that this too is futility.”* (v. 9) So not only does time and chance factor into life’s bumpy ride, but also the fact that bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people!

Life isn’t fair...or is it?

So, in due consideration of the fact that life isn’t fair, doesn’t that kind of make it fair? This article is being written when pretty much every member of the congregation is choking due to plumes of smoke in the air and checking to see if flames may be licking at their

doorstep. The wildfires, driven by the Santa Ana winds, strike indiscriminately. Low income housing, tract homes, mansions quite frankly it doesn’t matter. Nor does the zip code where the house may be. From the ocean, to the valleys then the foothills, and everywhere in between, poof, up in flames, leaving behind rubble, ashes and lives turned inside out and upside down.

So, while we can’t fully anticipate the trials and tribulations of life, thanks be to God that we can go to Him in prayers, knowing that He cares for us. Peter writes in his first epistle, chapter five verse seven, *“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”* Likewise it matters not as to your status in life; rich or poor, righteous or unrighteous, life will mete out as it so desires (see Ecclesiastes 8:14) and there is really not much that can be done, save it be to be prepared (see Luke 13:1-5)

*“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let’s hold firmly to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let’s approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.”* (Hebrews 4:14-16)

As evidenced in the passage noted above, the child of God has an advantage. Notice the word “confidence” in the scripture above. In many translations it is rendered “boldness”. Imagine that, coming before the Creator of all things with the utmost of assurance! Consider as well what Paul wrote in Romans 12:12, *“rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.”* (wbe)