

The Bulwark

JUNE 2, 2024

“...DARKEST JUST BEFORE THE DAWN”

Thomas Fuller is credited with the quote, “It is said that the darkest hour of the night comes just before the dawn.” Of course over times that quote has changed and now we know it as “It’s always darkest, just before dawn.” Same meaning, just a rearranging of the words. Think of how many times you have heard that phrase uttered; probably so many that the profundity of it has been lost. But let your mind drift back to when you were wide awake at 3:30 in the morning.



Your mind is awash with so many thoughts; some good thoughts while others not so positive hover over like “black clouds”. The darkness wraps itself around you like a cloak. Then it dawns on you what solace can be found by going to God in prayer. *“Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.”* (1Peter 5:7) What a balm for the soul.

You toddle off back to bed, knowing that before too long, the sun will rise up on the horizon. The darkness will ebb away and a new day with all its possibilities will be presented. But oh, how dark it is before the crack of dawn.

There is of course a spiritual context to “it is always darkest just before dawn”. We are painfully aware that life is fraught with “highs and lows”. At times it seems as though the whole of crea-

tion is caught up in a vicious swirl. However, we need to embrace the mind set of David as captured in Psalms 18:28. *“For Thou dost light my lamp; the Lord my God illumines my darkness.”* (Psalms 18:28)

Equally there needs to be the awareness, that all of life is not caught up in negativity. The key to weathering whatever life may present, is our focus. Imagine if you will a teeter-totter; you don’t stay down forever. During times of darkness in life, bear in mind that it will not always be dark. Soon the darkness will ebb away and the “dawn” will arise on the horizon, ablaze with splendor. Returning to focus, that is locked in on God, with whom there is no variation of shifting shadow (see James 1:17)

Solomon points out in Ecclesiastes 3:1, *“There is a time for every event under heaven.”* What he goes on to point out not only in the third chapter, but throughout the book, that we live in a broken and twisted world; and we broke it by SIN. As a result we have to learn how to navigate through life, coping, persevering and at times rising above and excelling. All the while holding riveted concentration on God. Notice what Solomon writes as he concludes his thoughts in Ecclesiastes, *“...fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.”* (12:13)

Provided the clear-eyed focus is in place, even though at times in life it seems as if everything is conspiring against you; you will not be misdirected. *“I will lead those who are blind by a way they have not known, In paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn darkness into light before them And uneven land into plains. These are the things I will do, And I will not leave them undone.”* (Isaiah 42:16) It won’t be “dark” for too long.

“In the days of prosperity be happy, but in the days of adversity consider-God has made the one as well as the other...” (Ecclesiastes 7:14) It stands to reason that it is “always darkest just before the dawn.” Physically and spiritually. (wbe)

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