

## **Human Utopia is Real in Christ!**

Let's face it - the comings of the Lord sound perfect, ideal and much like utopia! I mean with all our Christian and biblical talk about the lame leaping like deer (*Isaiah 35:6*), God the Savior lifting up the lowly (*Luke 1:47, 52*), and the dead being raised (*Matt 11:5*). Who could expect to believe such things, let alone proclaim them?

All of this talk against our beliefs may tempt some of us to shy away from proclaiming it, especially as we observe and face with our own eyes and ears the "real" and "natural" way of human life. I hope that hasn't happened to you, but if it has, here are a couple of things that God the Trinity has to say to us through *Psalms 146:5-10* that may help you be patient and encouraged even as you suffer for the sake of believing and proclaiming human utopia in Christ:

- **Ultimately it is in the Lord, and in His faith and glorified humanity (not our own), that this Utopia has been, and will be believed and accomplished!** – (*Psalms 146:5-6/Luke 24:44*). Ultimately, our faith and conviction to proclaim this truth boldly will come from having regular fellowship with our Lord! As Andrew Murray writes, "Faith is fellowship; I give myself up to the influence of the friend who makes me a promise, and become linked to him by it....Not as something that He bestows or infuses at once, but in a far deeper and truer sense...Surely for one who knows his Father well, and lives in constant close intercourse with Him, it is a simple thing to believe the promise that He will do the will of His child who lives in union with Himself." (*With Christ in the School of Prayer*, p.44)

Also, if we really embrace that this Lord created the heaven, earth & sea, and all that is in them, is it *really* that much of a stretch to believe that he can and will do even greater things in our humanity (for whom these things were made? *Heb 2:5-9*)

- **If the broken parts of our human existence, such as oppression, starvation, jail, blindness and depression (*Psalms 146:7-8*) are so "real" and "natural" then why do we find ourselves discouraged by them?** If these things are so "natural", we should be able to accept them and be *encouraged* in them, after all, it is "authenticity" and "realness" that really encourages us, right? Why do even atheists go to doctors of every type to get "fixed", and throw their money into the Salvation Army bucket to feed the poor, too, if brokenness and pain are natural? Why do YOU?! Isn't it *deeply* true that we somehow all know that this brokenness is not right and why we hope and work for cures?

**As an aside: Human Utopia doesn't have to mean the complete acceptance of utopia by those who hate it (especially since part of living in utopia means our being distinct humans in union with God in Jesus!!)** The joy of those who embrace utopia will not be ruined by the bad news of the wicked and unbelieving, until the wicked turn and embrace it! This would be like saying that the Good News of God is held hostage by evil, rather than the truth that badness is only "spoiled goodness" (as C.S. Lewis writes in *Mere Christianity*). Part of what will make utopia *utopia* for those who embrace it is that the wicked will be brought "to ruin" (*Psalms 146:9*). In other words, because the Lord will come and reign eternally among us as the glorified human being he is (*Psalms 146:10/Matt 28:18*), the wicked will be forever ruined and unable to ruin the human utopia of those who embrace Jesus (even though they will certainly be "free" to ruin their own!)

~ Tim Brassell