

The Ailments of a Dying World direct us to Him who makes all things Well

I have not noticed the days getting colder; I know that they are, for the thermometer says so, but I do not feel it much. What I do feel is that the mornings are getting cooler, but then, a cool morning is not necessarily a sign of a cool day these days. The cool mornings are a sign, though, that cooler days are coming. Autumn has begun, which will be followed by winter; and then will come another season of pleasantly moderate temperatures. We expect it, for so it always is, or rather: so it has been so far, for as long as anybody remembers, and that is why we recognise the signs of change to come.

Our Lord Jesus speaks of signs of change to come, also, famine and pestilence, natural disasters, cultural and political chaos, wars and increasing ungodliness; all these phenomena are signs that this world shall come to an end, and the Kingdom of God shall be made manifest in the fullness of its glory.

Many of us, I am sure, see such signs in the world around us; Christians of most generations have, which is really not all that surprising, since Holy Scripture teaches that the signs will always be there for Christians to see, all through history, from the Ascension of Christ into Heaven to His coming again in glory, as constant reminders to His Christians that the current conditions of suffering and sorrow and sin shall not be for ever, but shall give way to the glory of His Kingdom at the appropriate time.

For this is the purpose of the signs; they are not there for Christians to compare to whatever is in the news and can work out theories as to who is definitely the Antichrist or calculations as to exactly when the end of the world will be, or other new belief systems, so as to have something more exciting to do with their time and attention than the Word and worship of the salvation of God. On the contrary, the purpose of the signs, as Holy Scripture teaches it, is for Christians to constantly be reminded that the current conditions under which we now suffer, along with the world, shall give way to a completely new reality in which there shall be no suffering, no sorrow, no sin, where the goodness of God shall fill all things, and He Himself shall be all in all. As constant reminders they should encourage Christians at all times, and make us to rejoice in the salvation of God and draw near to Him in the Word and worship of His salvation and find peace in His promises, amidst the chaos raging in the world outside, and perhaps within ourselves as well.

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