

- I. God provides the way and the day, be patient (23-28)
 - A. For the Jews, everything came together because of the sovereignty of God, and it was by no other means.
 - 1. An evil man desires power more than he desires peace, but a righteous man knows that peace is the source of power
 - a) When we have peace in God we have power. God's peace brings clarity to every task, fight and opportunity; to consider any of them without Him is to ask for death
 - (1) Remember, that by prayer and fasting Mordecai and Esther prepared their hearts. Anger and resentment are a waste of precious time for the faithful.
 - A. Ecclesiastes 7:7-9 - For oppression makes a wise man mad, And a bribe [a]corrupts the heart. 8 The end of a matter is better than its beginning; Patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit. 9 Do not be [b]eager in your heart to be angry, For anger resides in the bosom of fools.
- II. The Word of God is the history of God with His people. It is a reminder to the faithful of who He is and who we are (29-32)
 - A. Our traditions, our mandates are set forth in the Word, and one in particular, is that we must meet together, in person.
 - 1. For the Jews, Purim was a non-Torah celebration, it may have been resisted by some, but it was to be a reminder that God defended who they were and what they were
 - a) Just like the Jews, the way of the Church the "ecclesia", is counter to the way of the world; it is counter to most societies and must remain so.
 - b) For us it is clear our tradition is to make every effort to be together despite the issues we face in our day
 - (1) We hold that meeting in person as a church is essential, we are literally "ecclesia", the gathering, the assembly, the church, the call
 - 2. Hebrews 10:19-25 - **19** Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, **21** and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a [h]sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; **24** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
 - B. We in this country have God given rights established by the letter of the law, so that we are able to exercise our rights to religion freely.
- III. God elevates the consistent, the committed and those with character (chapter 10)
 - A. We prosper when our counselors are both courageous and wise
 - 1. There will be points that what we do and say will not be understood by everyone, but if it is ordered by God, it will be misunderstood by most
 - a) Jesus was not an easy man to get along with. It is true that He was loving and kind, but He was hated by those who refused to be humbled.

- (1) Christ did not allow the proud to rule or sway Him, He exposed them as the murderers they were and they destroyed everything they claimed to be protecting
 - (a) If you forsake God for the sake of your own skin, He will forsake you
 - i) Do not be deceived, you were created to be a servant of God, but you can chose to be a slave of death
2. As church leaders, we must seek the good of those we lead and sometimes it demands a public stand.
 - a) We are willing and through God, we are able
- A. (A reminder and a warning) Revelation 3:1-6 - "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, [a]but you are dead. **2** Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. **3** So remember [b]what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. **4** But you have a few [c]people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. **5** He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. **6** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'