

CHARGING THE DARKNESS

MATTHEW 16:15-18 | ERIC SIMPSON | AUGUST 16, 2020

From the "Fellowship of the Ring"...

Frodo laments that a great evil has erupted in his generation.

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," he says.

Gandolf responds with compassion and wisdom.

"So do I, and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

- We are God's people, desperately dependent upon His presence and power. (1 Peter 2:9)
- We are God's people, wholeheartedly committed to formation in the way of Jesus. (Ephesians 4:1)
- We are God's people, serving God's mission in this world, charging the darkness with the light of Christ's hope.

Matthew 16:15-18

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 11:12

And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing...

2 Corinthians 10:4

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Ephesians 4:27

...do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

"Most people are not satisfied with the permanent output of their lives. Nothing can wholly satisfy the life of Christ within his followers except the adoption of Christ's purpose toward the world he came to redeem. Fame, pleasure and riches are but husks and ashes in contrast with the boundless and abiding joy of working with God for the fulfillment of his eternal plans. Those who put everything into Christ's undertaking are getting out of life its sweetest and most priceless rewards."

– J. Campbell White (1870-1962)