

Devotional by Tom Infield

Romans 8:38-39

"For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Devotional

My adult daughter Lisa, who grew up in our church, now attends Second Presbyterian Church in New York City.

Known as the Scottish Church, Second Pres. traces its roots to 1756. The still-going congregation on the Upper West Side has witnessed 264 years of American history. It has endured the Revolution, the Civil War, the Great Depression and two colossal world wars -- plus the events of Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorists brought down the twin towers of the World Trade Center just a few miles away.

On a Sunday not long ago, I sat in the sanctuary at Second Pres. looking up and pondering what I guess you could call the church's motto, imprinted on the arch above the altar. It reads, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped."

This is a passage from the King James version of the Old Testament. In 1st Samuel, Chapter 7, the Prophet Samuel directs the people of Israel to place a special stone in a special place as a declaration of God's divine assistance to them. "Hitherto," Samuel proclaims, "hath the Lord helped us."

I find these ancient words comforting in our present time of national distress. At Second Pres., they are a reminder from many generations of Christians dead and gone that God was faithful to them and will be faithful to us, too.

As Baptists are fond of repeating in church, "God is good all the time. All the time God is good."

God's promise to give us peace does not mean that storms will never arise in our lives. God's promise is to be with us always, even amid storms -- especially amid storms. Nothing, nothing, nothing can separate us from God's love.

Prayer

Dear Lord, we praise you and thank you for being our Father God. We praise you and thank you for giving us your son, our savior, Jesus. We praise you and thank you for sending us the comforter, your Holy Spirit. Help us to rest in your peace. Amen