

*He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10*

At the end of this week we will be celebrating the end of 2010. The media always prepares us for it by doing a number of programs in different areas looking back at the year. Usually there will be many familiar highlights that they feature, but inevitably they will spend some time in "saying good bye to those who left us this year..."

How was your "2010"? I know for some folk it was a horrible year, for others a great year, and still others something of both of the other mentioned adjectives.

So I'm sure there will be some who will cheer when the ball drops at Times Square, because 2010 was so bad, while others will find nostalgia for 2010 maybe even apprehensive as to what 2011 will bring, while still others will declare to 2011, "bring it on !"

The real fact is that we can't control what the New Year will bring. In fact most predictions that we hear at this time of year can wind up being useless if not laughable.

But being people of faith, we do have something that is steady, predictable, comforting as well as encouraging. It is the knowledge that God is still God. God is in control. The Bible affirms that over and over again. In the Old Testament, Joseph, Moses, and much later Daniel make that affirmation to powerful non-believing all powerful rulers. Even Jesus, when talking to Pilate, affirms this:

⁸ *When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,* ⁹ *and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.* ¹⁰ *"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"* ¹¹ *Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.. John 19:8-11a NIV*

After all the catastrophes we witness in the book of Revelation winds down to a declaration of who's really in charge:

⁶ *He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Revelation 21:6a*

So as we "ring out the old" and "ring in the new" we certainly shouldn't kid ourselves that our reactions to whatever comes into our lives in 2011 will not be honest and real. But as people of faith we can have the perspective of who is really in charge. Maltbie Babcock, a minister who lived in the later part of the 19th century penned these words that are part of the hymn, "This Is My Father's World":

*"This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King; let the heavens ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad"*

Happy New Year !

Pastor John Van Haneghan