

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

June 20, 2017

Issue No. 302

## **Rage**

"You can tell how dangerous a person is by the way they hold their anger inside themselves quietly." – unknown

"I have learned how to hold my temper inside for a long while. I just haven't mastered controlling it once it blows." – Jordan Weatherhead

"It won't take long before I explode with pent-up rage." – Anne Frank

"When your rage is choking you, it is best to say nothing." – Octavia Butler

"Patience when teased is often transformed into rage." – Misc. Proverb

Rage has been defined as violent, uncontrollable anger. One may be angry, but when they lose control, it becomes dangerous. Case and point: look at our society today. Because of the vast impatience, we see almost daily examples of road rage. In one poll it was found that 11% of all drivers carry a firearm. 66% of fatalities on the highway are now attributed to aggressive driving. AAA reports that 80% of drivers express significant anger, aggression or road rage.

In society we see the rage that has led to multiple shootings. This past week alone had two such incidences, one involving a U.S. congressman. The rage that would lead one to use a deadly weapon is certainly not unknown. Records going back into the 1920s have been found with the use of weapons. But in the last decade, those numbers have increased dramatically.

We indeed live in precarious times. The lack of discipline, the lack of patience, has come home to roost. More and more instances are being exposed of individuals who have allowed their anger to get out of control.

It has always been difficult for Christians to take the abuse both verbally and physically for following Christ. We must not allow such to turn into rage, where we would be compelled to use violence. "But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also" (Matt. 5:39).

The apostle Paul admonished the brethren at Colossae, "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth" (Col. 3:8). The word translated "wrath," refers to a very passionate anger, one in which the individual is breathing hard. This closely resembles our modern understanding of rage.

On one occasion Jesus healed a man on a Sabbath day, and the scribes and Pharisees took great offence. Scripture describes them as being "filled with rage" (Luke 6:11). They embraced an emotion that we need to guard against. Nothing good comes from rage.