

مثابرة الرّسول في خدمته

فَإِذْ تَحْنُّ عَامِلُونَ مَعَهُ تَطْلُبُ أَنْ لَا يَقْبِلُوا نِعْمَةَ اللهِ بَاطِلًا¹ لِأَنَّهُ يَكُوْلُ: "فِي وَقْتٍ مَقْبُولٍ سَمِعْنَاكَ، وَفِي يَوْمٍ حَلَاصٍ أَعْشَدَ". هُوَدَا الْآنَ وَقْتٌ مَقْبُولٌ، هُوَدَا الْآنَ يَوْمٌ حَلَاصٌ.³ وَلَسْتَا تَجْعَلُ عَثْرَةً فِي شَيْءٍ لِتَلَامِ الْخِدْمَةَ، بَلْ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ نُظْهِرُ أَنفُسَنَا كَخَدَامَ اللهِ: فِي صَبَرٍ كَثِيرٍ، فِي سَدَائِرٍ، فِي صَرَبَاتٍ، فِي سُجُونٍ، فِي اصْطِرَابَاتٍ، فِي ضِيقَاتٍ، فِي صَرَبَاتٍ، فِي طَهَارَةٍ، فِي عِلْمٍ، فِي أَسْهَارٍ، فِي أَصْوَامٍ، فِي لُطْفٍ، فِي الرُّوحِ الْقُدُّسِ، فِي مَحْيَيْ بِلًا رِبَاءً,⁷ فِي كَلَامِ الْحَقِّ، فِي فُوَّةِ اللَّهِ بِسْلَاحِ الْبَرِّ لِلْيَتَمِينِ وَلِلْيَسَارِ، يَمْحُدُ وَهَوَانٍ، يَصِيبُ رَدِيءٍ وَصِيبَتْ حَسَنٌ، كَمُضْلِينَ وَتَحْنُّنَ صَادِقُونَ،⁹ كَمَجْهُولِينَ وَتَحْنُّنَ مَعْرُوفُونَ، كَمَائِينَ وَهَقَا تَحْنُّنَ نَحْيَا، كَمُؤَدَّبِينَ وَتَحْنُّنَ غَيْرُ مَقْبُولِينَ، كَحَرَائِينَ وَتَحْنُّنَ دَائِمًا فَرِحُونَ، كَفُّقَرَاءَ وَتَحْنُّنَ تُغْنِي كَثِيرِينَ، كَأَنْ لَا شَيْءٌ لَنَا وَتَحْنُّنَ تَمْلِكُ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ.

تشجيع الرّسول وتحذيره من الأصنام

فَمَنَا مَقْتُوْخٌ إِلَيْكُمْ، أَيُّهَا الْكُورِنِيُّونَ، قَلْبُنَا مُتَسَيِّعٌ،¹² لَسْنُنَا مُتَصَيِّقٌ فِينَا بَلْ مُتَصَيِّقَيْنَ فِي أَحْشَائِكُمْ، فَجَزَاءً لِذَلِكَ أَفْوُلُ كَمَا لَأْلَادِي، كُوْنُوا أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا مُتَسَيِّعِينَ.

لَا تَكُونُوا تَحْتَ نَيْرٍ مَعَ غَيْرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ، لِأَنَّهُ أَيْهُ خَلْطَةٌ لِلْبَرِّ وَالْأَئِمَّةِ؟ وَأَيْهُ سَرَكَةٌ لِلْتُّورِ مَعَ الظَّلَمَةِ؟¹⁵ وَأَيْ أَنْقَاقٌ لِلْمَسِيحِ مَعَ بَلَيْعَالَ؟ وَأَيْ تَصِيبٌ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ مَعَ غَيْرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ؟ وَأَيْهُ مُوَافَقَةٌ لِهِيَكَلِ اللَّهِ مَعَ الْأَوْيَانِ؟ فَإِلَيْكُمْ أَنْتُمْ هِيَكَلُ اللَّهِ الْعَجِيْلِ كَمَا قَالَ اللَّهُ: "إِنِّي سَأَسْكُنُ فِيهِمْ وَأَسْبِرُ بَيْتَهُمْ وَأَكُونُ لَهُمْ إِلَهًا وَهُمْ يَكُونُونَ لِي شَعْبًا".¹⁷ لِذَلِكَ: "اَخْرُجُوهُمْ مِنْ وَسْطِهِمْ وَاعْتَرُلُوا"، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ، "وَلَا تَمْسُسُوا نِجَاسًا، فَأَقْبَلَكُمْ، وَأَكُونُ لَكُمْ أَبَا وَأَنْتُمْ تَكُونُونَ لِي بَيْنَ وَبَيْنَاتٍ"، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ الْفَالِدُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ.

¹We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.² (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)³ Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:⁴ But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,⁵ In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;⁶ By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,⁷ By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,⁸ By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;⁹ As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;¹⁰ As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.¹¹ O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.¹² Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.¹³ Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?¹⁶ And what agreement hath the

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temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.