All Will Be Well

I know that may seem like an overly optimistic statement in today's age.  If I am truthful it is even hard to feel that way at times.  However, this is the phrase that has been on my heart and in my spirit all of this week.  This is the attitude I truly believe that God desires us to have, especially as we face times like these.

"When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well, with my soul."

You are probably familiar with the lyrics to this much loved and well known Hymn by Horatio Spafford entitled "It is well with my soul."  What you may not be as familiar with is the story behind this Hymn.  In 1871 Spafford and his family suffered the loss of their 4 year old son, and loss of wealth and property from the Great Chicago Fire.  The effect of both were devastating to him and his family.  However, they had not faced the worst of it yet.

"Hymnologist Kenneth Osbeck tells the story: “Desiring a rest for his wife and four daughters as well as wishing to join and assist Moody and [his musician Ira] Sankey in one of their campaigns in Great Britain, Spafford planned a European trip for his family in 1873. In November of that year, due to unexpected last-minute business developments, he had to remain in Chicago, but sent his wife and four daughters on ahead as scheduled on the S.S. Ville du Havre. He expected to follow in a few days.

“On November 22 the ship was struck by the Lochearn, an English vessel, and sank in twelve minutes. Several days later the survivors were finally landed at Cardiff, Wales, and Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband, ‘Saved alone.’”

Spafford left immediately to join his wife. This hymn is said to have been penned as he approached the area of the ocean thought to be where the ship carrying his daughters had sunk."

Imagine the faith, the hope, the trust it must have taken to write these lyrics after experiencing such tragedy.  I think many of us would be tempted, like Job's wife urged, to just 'curse God and die.'  Yet these lyrics in this hymn ring out to us even today as a beacon and reminder that through Christ it is well with our soul.

Our current circumstance is not more or bigger than our great God can handle.  We have an assurance and trust that God has even this, under His control.  My prayer is for all of us to take on this attitude, faith and belief that All Will Be Well!  Once we do that it truly will be Well With Our Souls.

Blessings,

Pastor Bill