

STROMATA

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EDITORIAL

FINDING HOPE WHILE STRUGGLING

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

-Psalm 91:1

There are several reasons to be negative about this year. The unfortunate events that have happened in the last months and that are currently happening are indeed frightening. Regardless their social status and nationality, many people around the world are getting sick due to Covid-19, dying, getting unemployed, being affected by mental oppressions, and the list goes on. In fact, I struggled with my health during these past weeks. This quarantine has not been easy at all, especially with so much beautiful sunshine outside. However, reflecting about the Christian hope – that the true church has a taste of the heavenly joy now, but our joy will be completed in heaven– challenged my lack of hope bringing me peace of mind. That is, as a Christian it was good to be reminded of the belief that God has graciously given His children a glimpse of eternal joy now, yet the perfect joy and wellness God has promised in the Scriptures is still to come. Christian hope is set on the glorious day when the number of people who have been called to the church is completed, and by the end of the times, Christ will return again for them. I find hope in knowing that someday God will recreate the heavens and the earth for eternity (Pet. 3:10). It gives me joy to know that this broken world will be redeemed and that this renewal does not depend on us or the world, but on God.

Without downplaying the current health crisis, I would like to invite you to read and reflect on the following articles, which were written by current and former Calvin Seminary students. Of course, it will not be easy to take some time off to read while we are still struggling with this crisis. But if you are available, please do so.

May God strengthen you all and keep you safe!

Isaias D'Oleo-Ochoa
Editor-in-Chief