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Contributed by theresa
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Lord Byron (1788-1824) het gesê…Godsdiens - vryheid - wraak - wat jy ookal wil sê. Woord is genoeg om die mensdom op te wek om dood te maak. Jakobus 3:17 Maar die wysheid wat van Bo kom, is allereers sonder bybedoelings, en verder is dit vredeliewend, insiklik, bedagsaam, vol medelye en goeie vrugte, onpartydig, opreg. 18 Hierdie wysheid bring jou in die regte verhouding met God, en jy moet dit gebruik om vrede te maak. Rom 12: 17 Moenie kwaad met kwaad vergeld nie. Wees goedgesind teenoor alle mense. 18 As dit moontlik is, sover dit van julle afhang, leef in vrede met alle mense. Godsdiens is sekerlik een van die dinge wat tot van die grootste misdade in die geskiedenis van die mensdom gelei het. Kruistogte, vervolging van Jode deur Christene, Protestante en Katolieke wat mekaar vermoor het, is teken hiervan. Wanneer mense met bomme om hulle lyf hulleself en die mense rondom hulle opblaas en vliegtuie in geboue vasvlieg, hoor ons dat dit in die naam van hulle god gedoen is. Laat ons nie in die verlede bly vassteek nie, maar oor begin. Laat ons bely wat ons verkeerd gedoen het en dat dit eerder van die duiwel as van God af gekom het (Jak 3:13-16). Meer nog, laat ons verstaan dat die Christelike godsdiens die teenoorgestelde van haat en onderdrukking is. Hierdie godsdiens word gedryf deur Jesus Christus. Hy het ons geleer om ons vyande lief te hê (Matt 5:43-48). Hy leer ons om nie wraak te neem nie, maar ons vyande goed te behandel (Rom 12:17,18,20). Hy leer ons dat vryheid beteken om lief te hê, nie om mekaar te verskeur nie (Gal 5:13-15). Die wysheid wat God ons gee moet ons leer om vrede te maak (Jak 3:17). Daar is nie plek vir enkele woord in die Christendom wat ons kan opwek om te haat of dood te maak nie. GebedHere, leer ons die wysheid wat van Bo kom, deur die werking van u Gees. Amen.

Dankie aan Dr. Annes Nel annes.nel@ntlworld.com Lord Byron, poet (1788-1824) said… Religion - freedom - vengeance - what you will. A word is enough to raise mankind to kill. James 3: 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. Rom 12: 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Religion is certainly one of the things that caused the worst atrocities in the history of humanity. Crusades, persecution of Jews by Christians, and Protestants and Catholics murdering each other, form just part of the criminal history of religious people. When people blow up themselves and others around them, and fly with huge aeroplanes into buildings, we hear that they have done it for their god. Let us not remain in the past, but start all over again. Let us confess that we have sinned and that these things were rather the work of the devil than done in God’s name (James 3:13-16). Let us understand more and more that the Christian religion is the direct opposite of hate and oppression. Jesus Christ drives this religion. He taught us to love our enemies (Matt 5:43-48). This religion teaches us that we should not take revenge, but treat our enemies well (Rom 12:17,18,20). It teaches us that freedom means to love each other rather than to tear each other apart (Gal 5:13-15). The wisdom coming from God, brings peace (James 3:17,18). There is no room for one word in Christianity that can raise humanity to hate or to kill. PrayerLord, teach us the wisdom of heaven, through the work of your Spirit. Amen.

Thank you to Dr. Annes Nel annes.nel@ntlworld.com