

## Who's in control?

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“For by him (Jesus) all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Col. 1:16-17, NIV)

“He (Jesus) sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.” (Hebr. 1:3, NLT-SE)

- You rock up at a public authority to submit a filled and urgent application for support but the clerk tells you that today you can only book an appointment for handing the paper in. Four weeks later you're there at the appointed time to present your application but the clerk tells you that all you can do today is to pick up the form to take home to be filled. And of course, for submitting it you need another appointment in 3-4 weeks time.
- Ten months after submitting your tax return you receive a faulty tax statement with the order to pay the stated (but too high) tax at a specific date. On your behalf your tax advisor objects this statement in writing for obvious non-considerations, calculates the correct tax amount due and you transfer it to the revenue office account on time. A few weeks later you receive an order to pay the tax amount that you deducted due to faulty tax office calculations, plus a late payment fine. No reference to your objection, instead a threatening hint that if you don't pay you're in for costly enforcement measures.

These two absurd real life incidents sound like a typical red-tape experience in Africa. Yet they are but a tiny excerpt of hair raising developments in the daily grind of a first world country like Germany. Put into wider context, both in my personal international observation and based on media reports our social fabric is disintegrating, globally. But how is it possible that societies fall apart despite individuals, authorities, institutions and other role players frantically trying to manage and save them? Aren't we in for saving programs for justice, the climate, nature, systems, equality, banks, companies, economies, whole countries? Isn't it about preventing this and that, safeguarding here and there, and getting busy with implementing all sorts of plans, laws, regulations and new, just and beneficial systems? And yet, we don't seem to get life sorted, don't get the results we aim for, do we? An honest evaluation of life should reveal that things aren't getting any better. They get worse.

For believers, however, all this should come as no surprise. As long as we are trying to fix things based on our own human terms, intellect, limited wisdom, understanding, insight and power, whatever we come up with won't work very well and won't last long either.

The two above Scriptures reveal that Jesus Christ is still in control. Not us. Jesus was there before everything else was. We weren't. He created everything we see and can't see, including us. We didn't. In Him everything holds together, including us. We clearly can't claim that about us. He sustains everything, us included. That's certainly beyond our power.

So how foolish can we be to ignore Him and His ways in our endeavors to fix things in our personal lives, families, amongst friends, in our profession, realm of influence, society, cultural setting, country? Why don't we rely on Him in Whom everything holds together?

Depending on where we live, our setup and circumstances, in our daily grind we face despots, grudgers, corrupt officials, red-tape, ineffective governments, incompetent authorities, business downturns, dilapidating infrastructures, droughts, earthquakes, floods, economic crises, health problems, educational difficulties, lack of resources, relational problems, violence, mobbing, social unrest, etc., in short, a world busy falling apart and beyond man's control. Thus it's surely a tough challenge to let go of our selfish ambition to control and sort things out ourselves and make them work for us, but it's worthwhile to

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hand the steering wheel back to the One in real control, the One Who sustains us, don't you think?