Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

9 to 15 November **Theological College Reutlingen (THR)**

But you aren't in darkness, brothers and sisters,
so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. All of you are children of the light.
(1 Thessalonians 5,4-5 CEB)

When the last carriage stops

In a recent lecture I compared God's kingdom with a train pulling into a station. Like the front of the train having already reached the station, so the Kingdom of God has already started to arrived. And as the end of the train is still outside the station so the completion of God's kingdom has not yet come. The problem is, however, that the train of God's kingdom has been pulling into the station called the world for 2000 years now – and its end is still not visible.

Therefore, Paul's problem, that the last day might "catch us like a thief", isn't our problem. Or is it? Paul compares the day when Jesus Christ returns (the completion of God's kingdom) with a thief to make it quite clear: that day will come as an absolute surprise. A thief never gives a warning in advance or asks if we are prepared for his "visit".

And what would be the threatening danger? That we are "in the dark" – not what we are really supposed to be: "children of the light". But according to Paul that is nothing to worry about. He makes no exception among the Christians in Thessalonica, when he says: "All of you are children of the light!" – Why? Because you have been chosen by God and united with Christ! (Verses 9 + 10).

That means, we are only supposed to live what we are: Connected with Christ and made by him into "children of light". Then the last day will not catch us like a thief but like the sun for all who love the light.

Roland Gebauer

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I GIVE THANKS

- For the new students who started their studies this term.
- For the experience that very different people with very different ways of thinking and very different goals for their lives and their studies are becoming a good community.

I AM PRAYING

- For the special meeting of our management on 29 November and the pending enactment of a new structure of the Theological College.
- For the pending partial renovation of the student dormitory and considerations about a renovation of the building of lecturing and the extension of too small library.
- That all lecturing and studies with the related scientific orientation will allow encounters with the living God and experiences of his love.

The **Theologische Hochschule Reutlingen/Theological College Reutlingen** has been educating leaders of our church for more than 150 years. It is supported by five Annual Conferences in Germany and has been a state recognized professional university with Bachelor and Master qualifications since 2005. Sixty students, seven male and female professors, six lecturers, and five employees for household and administration are forming the university community.

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