WE ARE NOT LUCKY. WE ARE BLESSED.

What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? Mark 4:41

 In Nineteen Eighty-One I had opportunity to preach my first revival at Friday’s Crossing Missionary Baptist Church. Brother Terry Rigsby was the pastor. It was in the spring of the year and during the week of revival a tornado had touched down in communities nearby. I was very touched by the fact that my family doctor had come to the revival the night following the storms and testified. In his testimony he said that many people had shared with him how lucky we were that the tornado didn’t hit us. His response was that we were not lucky, rather we were blessed. I have heard that many times since but that was the first time I had heard that saying. It is true.

 I do not think I can over emphasize how important it is to recognize God’s hand in what is happening right now in our nation and world. Whether we admit it or not, He is in control. The wind and the sea obey him. Harvey, the worst disaster from a hurricane in recorded history. Irma the largest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic. It looks as if it will hit Florida at almost full strength. Harvey made landfall in Texas and we in Alabama experienced the spin of tornados from it. Irma has demolished islands, resorts and tropical paradises. Small countries lie in her path. When she reaches the United States, her effects may involve Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia and maybe more. God continually shows us his strength. This is not a little storm on the Sea of Galilee that can capsize a little fishing boat; these are storms that ships that could house all of Holly Pond do not dare to approach.

 We are blessed in our modern day to have weather prediction methods that can give us warnings of some of these storms. These are blessings God has allowed us to have. We would do well to heed the warnings when we receive them. People were warned that Harvey was approaching but chose to ride out the storm. People are being warned of Irma but some will no doubt face the storm rather than leave. I do not think these are wise decisions. To hear the warning and not heed it is like challenging God. If one lives through such a crisis, I think they would know that it is God who is in control.

 Lord I do pray for all those who are still suffering greatly from Hurricane Harvey. I also pray for all who may be in the path of Irma. There will no doubt be thousands maybe millions who will be effected by this great storm. Would you be merciful and protect them. May we see your strength; be in awe of your strength; but even as we view this may we know that you still love us. May we never forget that you gave your prize possession for us, your Son Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram