

Welcome. If you are a Tolkien fan, we think that you will enjoy this publication. If you are not yet a fan, please feel welcome to read our "newsletter". It will consist of excerpts from the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy of J.R.R. Tolkien and possibly even from the *Hobbit*. Sometimes we will even include commentary. We hope you will be "inspired" by it.

Just in case you have ever wondered why we live in "such dark times", we offer words of wisdom from Galdalf:

"Always after a defeat and respite, the Shadow takes another shape and grows again."

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo.

"So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."
- *The Fellowship of the Ring*, pages 55-56.

At the Council of Elrond, Frodo offers to bring the Ring to Mount Doom for its undoing. When Elrond introduces Aragorn, son of Arathorn, to the assembly, Frodo recognizes the benevolent advisor and friend of the four Hobbits and cries out, "Strider!" Aragorn, the heir to the throne of Gondor, replies, "If by my life or my death I can protect you, I will." -From *The Fellowship of the Ring*, movie version.

Reflection: Jesus committed his life and death to the Father. Shouldn't we be willing and ready to give our life and death to Jesus?

Note: The Hobbits Frodo, Sam, Merry, and Pipin meet a mysterious Ranger at the Inn of the Prancing Pony. They are afraid of him at first, but he turns out to be their great benefactor. As a matter of fact, he and the Elves save his life from the wound inflicted by a cruel Ringwraiths. The Ringwraiths were once the nine humans whose pride led them each to accept a Ring of Power from Sauron. Consequently, they are now dark, shadowy creatures, neither alive nor dead. They are forever in the power of the Dark Lord.