

dec 11

i come to you this morning with a message i pray with fill your hearts with hope and expectancy. we all have been chosen to live in this particular time and place. "yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" est 4:14 God knows. He knows the end from the beginning. "You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off." psa 139:2

"and He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings." act 17:21 yes, it is us "upon whom the ends of the ages have come." 1 cor 10:11

there have not been more exciting times to live in than perhaps when our Lord walked the earth a second time. He walked first in the garden with adam and He sought fellowship. He walked the second time as He came to restore that fellowship. He prepares now for His final return, but first He "treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." rev 19:15

before His wrath, there is a removal of His own. it is a drawing of those that are His and who live in hope and expectancy. "and then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven." mark 13:27 this is a special group that will not experience His wrath. a group so special they will not go through the door of death.

"behold, i tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. so when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "death is swallowed up in victory." 1 cor 14:51-54

just think! we are that chosen generation that shall never know death. how should we then live? yes, in hope and expectancy. but also in dedication and faithfulness. a sacrifice of self so complete until we can truly say, "i have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer i who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which i now live in the flesh i live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." gal 2:20

as the scripture says, "look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." luke 21:28 we hold such a blessed hope and live in such a blessed time. the age is coming when time will be no more. we shall recall this moment only as a fleeting vapor in eternity. we shall be with Him and behold Him. "beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." 1 john 3:2

so how should we live our lives? with "gusto".

tasting and relishing every moment. just think, our Lord is coming to get us. i do not know what all hardships we may have to endure before then. i only know it will not be His wrath. if we are to partake in sufferings, let it be for the gospel's sake and not own own. indeed, we count it all joy, "that i may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death". phil 3:10 to Him be all the glory. get ready for the "great escape".

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