

dec 15

our precious Lord. just when i am feeling a little discouraged and useless, i get an email from someone saying how they were moved by something i had written. sometimes one begins to doubt whether they are really hearing from the Lord or just partaking in an exercise of futility.

we are all humans in this walk, and the enemy stands always ready to feed any doubts we may have. Lord, am i really hearing from you or just trying to elevate myself to a position of relevance. is anybody really listening or benefiting from my efforts? these are the things, and more, he will make us begin to question.

i know in my heart that i do not spend this time trying to elevate myself. it is my heartfelt desire to encourage and make known how serious i believe the times really are. just the other day i heard a minister say that he believes we are not just in the end of the end, but in the last hours of the end. that urgency fills my spirit also. still, there remain multitudes in the valley of decision.

there are those listening even now who have their hope in this worldly life. even if they act legitimately, they have a "get all you can and can all you get" attitude. kind of like the story in matt 19 where the young man came to Jesus and asked what he had to do to have eternal life. he was only willing to give up to a point. yet it was His all He gave to us and He desires no less from us.

some live a life and know is it not pleasing or acceptable to our Father. "let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." eph 4:28-29

it is the word of God alone that can cut to the quick and convict one of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. He knows the thoughts and intents of our hearts. we cannot compare ourselves or our actions to another saying, "we are not as bad as, or we are better than". the only time that may be relevant is in the judgment. we hope to escape that.

now is the "age of grace". a span when God has made plain to all His intent from the beginning of creation. "for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." jer 29:11 our Lord Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath so we would not have to. did He partake of it so we could continue with our normal habits? no! "He must increase, but i must decrease." john 3:30

it is the little foxes that spoil the vine. it is that sin which does so easily beset us. it is us believing that we can keep one foot in this world and one foot in the other. we cannot! either we are "all in" or "all out". we cannot straddle the fence. "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. so then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you

out of My mouth." rev 3:15-16

oh this amazing God which we serve; full of mercy and understanding and patience. i have heard this scripture explained two ways. "many are called, but few are chosen." matt 22:14 some say that God has specifically chosen some to carry out His work. others say that when one is called, and responds, they become chosen. i have no problem with either one.

in 1 kings 19:18 we read, "yet I have reserved seven thousand in israel, all whose knees have not bowed to baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him." we know our God does not have favorites. if one is chosen, they will probably have much to endure, proving God knew their nature before He chose them. if the apostle paul were "chosen", did he not light the path for others to see? and yes, the call does go out to all. when they come, they also become chosen. we do not question the sovereignty of God. whether we are called, and respond or chosen, we belong to Him!

instead, we rest in the grace that has been given us. confident that, "nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." rom 8:39 there is so much richness in the word of God. some read it naturally while others read it supernaturally. which do you believe feeds the spirit most? i urge you this day, if you remain unsure of your standing if Jesus came today, make sure now. romans 10:9-10 is the way to your assurance.

linda

