

dec 17

i almost feel like doing a countdown to christmas. perhaps a countdown to the rapture would be more appropriate. the only problem with that is, no one knows the day or the hour. ah! but we do know the season. our Lord warned us to discern the seasons. we are not in summer, fall, winter or spring. we are in rapture season!

it is my earnest desire to encourage you today. sure, we could speak of the dangers, temptations or trials we may be going through, or may lie in our future. that is not for today however.

may we never be deceived from "the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." nasb 1995. it really as simple as that. we strive to be as devoted to Him as He is to us. there is really nothing difficult or confusing about it.

our God has made the gospel, "good news", so simple that it may be grasped from the most educated and aged to the simplest and youngest among us. why? because He loves us that much. He longs for that restored fellowship He once had as He walked in the garden. we are the crowning achievement of His creation; a life in His own image.

what should be our reaction to His boundless love for us? to simply return the same to Him. "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." matt 22:37 the second part of that, to love the other creations in His image.

i realize many of you are too young to remember this. years ago olivia newton-john had a song called, "hopeless devoted to you". although the lyrics are not inspirational, the title certainly is. we are all hopelessly devoted to the One brought us home. oh Lord, "look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name." psa 119:132 yes, it is His custom to be merciful.

"trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." pro 3:5-6 we love Him. we trust Him. we want to please Him.

the more we walk with Him, the more we learn about Him. He is all we could have hoped for and more; loving, merciful, patient and righteous. we want to be like Him. being born again is our recreation in His image.

because our God "is love", learning to love as He does is our greatest goal. "there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment." 1 john 4:18

we do none of this in our own strength. it is our Lord's work. that no flesh should glory in His presence. "the Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, o Lord, endures forever." psa 138:8

i don't know why, but suddenly that commercial from years ago comes to mind. "give it to mikey. he'll eat anything." it was where two older boys tried to push off something they didn't want to a younger boy. it

turned out the younger boy ate it with gusto. my
message to you. "taste and see that the Lord is good."
psa 34:8 you won't know what you're missing out on
unless you taste it!

linda