

dec 2

here we are again. after yesterday, and reflecting on the death of a special person, most of us can continue our lives as normal. it is just those few, extremely close family members and friends, that will have to continue in grief until the wound gradually heals.

one of the great things about the family of God, when one is down, there is always another one up that can help them through it. we have all been through such things, or will be. He has equipped us for this. "who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."
2 cor 1:4

life must go on. the battle may have wounded us but the war is not over. i know there are times we all grow weary or feel like giving up. the thing is, our Lord never gave up. what if after receiving His thirty nine stripes, He had said, "enough is enough". "i don't have to put up with this abuse anymore" and proceeded to call those twelve legions of angels. imagine the cost to humanity. imagine the billions who would then be subjected to eternal darkness and terror.

i think none of us can imagine the full extent of what He bore in His body. yet that was the easiest part. it was the hours before His crucifixion that were the worst. in gethsemane His greatest suffering was knowing the separation He would feel from the Father who loved Him; the Father who He lived to please.

assuredly, He recalled all the precious hours He had spent with the Father in prayer and the constant presence and communion They had shared; were sharing even now. knowing also that His Father could not dwell in the presence of sin, and that He would have to become sin. (the sin of all the evil that had been birthed exponentially in the heart of the human race since rebellion began.)

this was the agony that caused His sweat to pour as great drops of blood. this was the first blood; the blood that wounded Him the most. this was the agony which made Him cry from the cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" matt 27:46

none of us have ever fully felt the abandonment He felt. to really feel abandonment, one must first have known complete, perfect union. that is something no human has experienced. even now, believers only have a fore shadowing of how that will be. it will take our resurrection also, to know fully what He left to redeem us.

then will our eyes be opened to the full sacrifice and suffering He endured for us; for me and for you. that is why we shall never cease to praise Him. it is something all the angels and other other living creatures will never know. it is for us alone that He bore such torment in His Spirit and body ... the one creature that God made in His own image. is it no wonder the word tells us that He is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 pet 3:9 we alone are special.

yet it still remains, He cannot dwell in the presence of sin. evil cannot exist in harmony with good. "do not be deceived: "evil company corrupts good habits."" 1 cor 15:33 evil will always try to corrupt good. and we know "God cannot change". He cannot change from better to worse; not change in any direction from what He is.

aren't we ever thankful for this: that God is good! He is: the eternal One, the creator of all things and the judge of all things. in His great love for us, He had a plan of restoration. this is for us alone. there will be no baptizing of aliens for redemption. there will be no remission of sin for the angels who fell. they all will inhabit a place their own hearts have built. a place created uniquely for them, but regrettably, where all who deny Jesus will also.

since this great price was paid for our redemption, i ask you now. if you knew Jesus was coming today, would you be ready? you can know for sure. it is a simple matter. "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." rom 10:9 confessing Him means to become His disciple. it cannot be just a mouth confession. it has to be a heart confession and that means that you want to please the Father, just as He did.

it doesn't mean to wait until you're good enough. Jesus was good enough. just staying put is all that is required. one must endure through all their trials! abide in His arms and you can remain assured that, "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until

the day of Jesus Christ". phil 1:6 be sure today!
God bless all.

linda