

dec 28

i don't feel like i have any specific word from the Lord today. that doesn't mean it will keep me quite or brief. there's no limit when i start talking about my Lord. just keep on keeping on. i think we are all aware of the glory set before us and of the trials that might lay ahead in this life.

there have been martyrs throughout the ages, even as there are many now. those willing to submit to torture and death and yet still will not deny their Lord. "foxes book of martyrs" is well worth reading for those who have the heart for it.

it was many years ago that i read it. i may not remember it all correctly, however there was one story in particular that still lingers with me. someone belonging to a group was about to be burned alive. of course the others were anxious, not just about their brother, but also about what might be awaiting them all.

the one about to be burned said, "if it is bearable, i will give you a sign". as the fire was lit and the flames began to consume his body, suddenly one of his arms raised to the heavens. this was his sign. God is faithful and will see you through whatever.

there may be times when we feel we aren't enough for a situation. remember the story about the footprints in the sand. when one looked back at their tracks in the sand, sometimes there were two sets and sometimes only one. when they questioned the Lord, He said, those are

the times I carried you. our God is like that.

we are forewarned by our Lord. "if they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. if they kept My word, they will keep yours also." john 15:20 even as the jews (being God's people) have been persecuted throughout the ages, so have christians often partaken of their passion. the devil's wrath is towards all who seek the true God.

these times we are now living in is another of those times we must all stand resolute and remain faithful to our hope. we hear of pastors being arrested and churches banned from gathering. too many, acting out of fear, have acquiesced to those in authority. if resistance and rebellion has eluded them, does this mean their faith in God has also become dormant?

it is attributed to thomas payne who said, "these are the times that try men's souls". are these our times of trying our souls? having been washed by our Lord, will we now deny Him? or will we endure as our Lord did?

do you realize that as Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, He also washed the feet of judas? read it in john 13. it wasn't until after the foot washing that judas betrayed Him. yet, even before the foot washing even began, Jesus already knew what satan had put in the heart of judas. this was the man who also had charge of the purse of Jesus' ministry. (see john 12) do you think Jesus didn't know that he stole? He "had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man". john 2:25

talk about the foreknowledge of God! even knowing all the things and evils we might do, He still gives us opportunities to desire the better. opportunities He even offered to the one who would betray Him. opportunities to do better; to want better. He is, "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 pet 3:9

"do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." rev 2:10
whether it be ten days or ten years, will you remain faithful to the end?

"these things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. in the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." john 16:33 you have been forewarned. become now resolute in your hearts. desire that crown of life that this life cannot offer. it is eternal! our God be with you all.

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