

dec 4

here i am again. like a bad penny, i keep showing up. why do i persist at this? i know there are many who find these emails annoying; especially the ones who didn't ask to be put on this list.

so again, why do i do it. maybe just as much for me as anyone else. this gives me a purpose to get up in the morning. also, the word says that we are to live "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching." heb 10:25 this is really an assembling of ourselves together; maybe not in body, but certainly in spirit. for the many that can no longer take that cherished trip to fellowship, this may help fill that purpose.

as for "seeing that day approaching", i think you all know how i feel about that by now. i feel the urgency in my spirit and an expectancy fills my waking moments. we do not believe in date setting, but we sure discern the signs of the time as our Lord cautioned us to. remember, we must be watching. "to those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation." heb 9:28

if the parable of the ten virgins holds true, there will even be half of His church that won't be ready when He appears. they aren't waiting and hoping and expecting. we all feel the demands of life and how much pressure it can exert. what does our Lord tell us? "come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." for there were many coming and going,

and they did not even have time to eat." mark 6:31
let us lay aside all the busyness and listen for that:
"still small voice." 1 kings 19:12

i am reminded of a few stanzas from a poem.

ah dearest Lord! i cannot pray,
my fancy is not free;
unmannerly distractions come,
and force my thoughts from Thee.

sweet Jesus! teach me how to prize
these tedious hours when i,
foolish and mute before Thy face,
in helpless worship lie.

prayer was not meant for luxury,
or selfish pastime sweet;
it is the prostrate creature's place
at his Creator's feet.

prayer may not always be the easiest and most desirous
of endeavors. it may feel like the driest and most
wasted time of the day. other times we joy in it and
never want to leave. yet God is there in both
circumstances; listening and working all things
together. is it those times of dry, uninspired and yet
persistent prayer that pleases Him more? if it were
always sweet and pleasant, where would be the proof of
our devotion?

our heavenly Father is perfect in all His ways.
everything He does is for our good. the thing is: we
must let Him do it His way and not how we might work it

out. we must conform to His will; not Him to ours. we are blessed to know Him; not the other way around. we are only "special" because He holds us thus. He is gentle, patient and merciful but firm.

may the Lord forgive those who have not defended the truth, but allowed it to be watered down to accommodate the desires which fill people's hearts. sometimes when i look around at all that is going on in this generation, i am amazed that even the half of the church will be ready when He comes. i pray that all reading this will be in the half that is ready. the day is closing fast as the night approaching. let us work while we have that light.

linda