

oh what a beautiful time with the Lord this morning. do i seek to boast. yes, even as the apostle paul spoke of boasting in romans 11. i seek to provoke you to jealousy. jealousy to have what i have. i would gladly share it with you, but alas, it is a treasure one must dig for themselves. first, you must decide what the treasure is you seek. is it treasure in this life or the next?

this life, this age, this world is passing away and all it's treasures with it. i know not when, but the time will come for me also to put off my tent. "for we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 cor 5:1 does this bring sorrow to me? most definitely not. "for we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life." 2 cor 5:4 we sorrow not as others sorrow, but simply because we are left behind. left to finish our race and win our prize.

i am thrilled if you have decided to begin your treasure hunt. may i now give you a head start and show you where to dig? it is with trepidation; with fear and trembling; with a holy respect. it is in His word! "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." prov 9:10

during the age of the law, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only once a year. this place represented the very presence of God. they tied a rope around him before he entered just in case he

died and needed to be pulled out. that's how serious it was. it has been estimated that the curtain was thirty feet high and as much as a hand's width thick. (not just a window shade) when Jesus breathed His last breath, the curtain (veil) that covered the Holy of Holies was split from top to bottom. this signified that the way was now open for everyone to enter.

it is now accessible to all who would. do we dare enter with any less trepidation that the high priest did? yes, He is a loving Father, but He remains holy. though He is Father, He is God! only the blood of Jesus covers enough to keep us from perishing in the presence.

how glorious that presence is. but alas, the glory fades because it is not ours. even as moes veiled his face as the glory faded, the glory fades from us if we let it. the day or fear or anger or life in general all take their toll. they all separate us from the presence. "but we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 cor 3:18

indeed, "salvation is free -- but intimacy will cost you everything." how do we enter this constant presence? we go to the cross as Jesus did. "if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. " luke 9:23 the result will be a life you never knew you could have. "i have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer i who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which i now live in the flesh i live by faith in the

Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." gal 2:20

a former preacher of mine used to talk about crucifying self. he said "you may be able to drive in the nails through your feet and into one hand, but someone else is needed to drive the nail into that last hand". if you struggle, the pain will be longer. there is nothing joyful about crucifixion. the romans used it just because it was a horrible and painful means of death. it may be a friend or foe that drives that last nail, but your reaction must be the same for either. love. "he who does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1 john 4:8

i have heard it said if there was any question that might be asked when you got to heaven, it would be simply this: "did you learn to love?". not the love the world knows, but the love of God which caused our Lord Jesus to suffer humiliation and death on the cross. therein lies no hatred or fear or unforgiveness. what did Jesus say are the greatest the greatest commandments? "'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" luke 10:27

so i pray you will begin your "dig" if you have not already. though rocks and slings and arrows may hinder your way, it is persistence that will find the treasure. we use the sword of our mouth to guard our treasure as we dig. "but he who endures to the end shall be saved." matt 24:13

what does Jesus promise? "be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." rev 2:10 i love what God says in malachi 3:17. ""they shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "on the day that I make them My jewels. and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."" do you want to be one of His jewels?

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