

well, i hope everyone out there did not put on the estimated eight pounds they said people would. the only pounds i put on were pounds of praise and thankfulness. the word says we "enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise" psa 100:4

have you ever been so deep in worship that you weren't even comfortable on your knees? you wanted to get flat on your face, on the floor, and still felt that wasn't enough. you wanted your face to be in the dirt from which you came; absolutely nothing between your Lord and you. sadly, i can no longer do either, but i remember a time. once i was searching for pictures of someone laying prostrate before the lord. the only ones i could find were of muslims. you could tell by their outfits.

i don't know if they were there out of love or fear. i know what would put me there. it was like the prophet isaiah. "it is bad for me, for i am destroyed! because i am a man whose lips are unclean. and i live among a people whose lips are unclean. for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of all." isa 6:5

what does that say about christians? i think too many lack the reverence expected. because we serve our God out of love and not fear, we too often take Him and His presence for granted. He is THE holy God. we read of angelic beings falling down in worship and awe. we here in america, especially, tend to bring with us the attitude that He is lucky to have us there. NO! it is we that are blessed that He would receive us.

i speak not just of americans. read this! "after a legal fight that lasted several years, evangelist franklin graham has won an important case for religious freedom in the uk. manchester county court judge claire evans has ruled that the 2018 lancashire festival of hope with franklin graham was discriminated against when ads promoting the event were pulled from buses in blackpool, england in an effort to ban him from preaching the gospel."

an attempt to ban him from preaching the gospel. this from the land that gave us the king james bible. my God, how far we have fallen. and the other nations are following suit? pastors getting arrested around the world even as gathering of believers was forbidden. there will be goat nations and sheep nations that will be judged.

the enemy has this whole world in a grip of fear to bring about his last day plans. his grip even includes christians. i hear many this thanksgiving refused to have their unvaccinated friends and family over. i know this pandemic is serious, but when we let our fear over rule our love, the enemy has won. each person has the right to either receive or refuse the vaccine. it is their choice.

people are acting as if the unvaccinated already had the disease and the vaccinated did not. the truth is, either can have it and be carriers. just look at the horrors being carried out in australia. will it be long before there will be concentration-like camps to keep the "lepers" separate? how easily we give up our freedoms to soothe our fears? yet still, it is not

enough. will we give up the right to proclaim our Lord just as easily.

we do not believe this is the "mark of the beast", but it certainly is a good prelude to it. it is preparing people to either do what is told or be refuse all rights to partake in society. yes, even the right to buy and sell.

i believe in the rapture and that we will be out of here before then. but what of those who missed it or are new believers? the parable of the ten virgins seems to indicate that half the church will not be ready. even now, it is estimated that seventy percent of christians believe there is more than one way to God. that's what oprah will tell you too. that's not what my bible says. "for there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." 1 tim 2:5

there is no excuse. "because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. for the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." rom 1:19-20

these are not words from my own mouth. i am a follower of Christ Jesus. i must believe as it says. we will see who is right in the end. but for now, "i am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the jew first, and also to the greek", rom 1:16

i honestly didn't feel this is where we were going today. after the last few days which might have dragged us down, i was sure it would all be about the love and goodness of God. perhaps tomorrow. i had a good friend write me recently and thanked me for talking about the "enduring" love of Christ Jesus. it is indeed enduring. but love also warns of the danger ahead.

there is nothing more secure or comforting than knowing we are in His arms. one feels safe "even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings". matt 23:37 or in psalm 91 where we "abide under the shadow of the Almighty". so, keep the faith. fight the fight. pay no attention to a suffered wrong. give love for hate. share the gospel of this good news. i have read the back of the book. we win!

linda