

hoping that people aren't beginning to tire of me and my thoughts on life. i know everyone will not be in agreement but we all need to be assured of where we stand. first, a little of my personal progress. i think my appetite is beginning to come back. i would normally think of that as a good thing. otherwise it is just called hunger and i don't see how that could be called good. a little tomato soup and a drink doesn't go far.

can't tell that any strength is coming back. it's just amazing how one day things are just routine and the next one is unable to perform them. the enemy is so cruel. i suddenly feel so much less independent. unfortunately i have never been too much of a disciplined person in regards to exercise. that is what is really needed if i am to get my strength back. so much about me. shall we talk about everything Jesus now?

has anyone noticed that there are more and more earthquakes going on now days? it is just as Jesus predicted it would be. just because things are not happening locally doesn't mean they are not happening. iran grows nearer to the nuclear bomb even as israel assures they won't let it happen. is the gog and magog war predicted lying close in our future? God's master plan is in full force and i don't see anything restraining it. this age of grace is quickly coming to a close. it has had a long run which goes to show the abundance of His mercy. i'm getting ready to meet the Lord. we know all things must take place just as He has predicted.

the end times? i know people have scoffed and railed for ages that things continue the same throughout all time. indeed there have always been those dark times when evil was rampant in lives. even the church knew it's corruption and destruction in lives at times. many saints of God were persecuted by their own. (even as they are now - so many trying to tear down other believers) but these were the tares that crept in and sought only power and wealth and not God's will.

but israel serves as the time piece of God. they preserved His word and integrity of the race until messiah could come. they are now back in the land and prominent in world affairs. can the third temple be far being. even now i know plans are being made. even to restore the sacrifices which Jesus came to fulfill. does anyone else find it amazing that multitude of gentiles can see all the correlations more than the jews? it is one of the mysteries of God their eyes have been blinded.

God will judge those who delighted in their power to hurt and corrupt the young babes in Christ. i do not mean we should not speak when error is present. so much that is disputed now though are the differences that man has made. when the disciples spoke out against others because they did not follow them, Jesus said not to. mark 9:38 we must stand for error but not for differences. we seek to follow Him. not man.

yes, forgiveness. it must be always in the forefront of us. it may not be easy when one has been hurt deeply. but it is something we all must do. i am remembering the movie "tortured for christ" about the

life of richard wurmbrand. he was a tortured romanian pastor who spoke truth when he said "communism and christianity are not compatible". such truth. i remember one scene in the movie when a guard caught him praying and he asked him "what do you have to be thankful for?" his answer was "i was praying for you."

indeed the guards condition was much more hopeless than wurmbrand's. an eternity of suffering ruled his future without repentance. can we consider others even as we are being persecuted? i count not the suffering of this life to be compared to the joy set before us. i remember reading about wurmbrand's torture. it said "His body bore the scars of physical torture for the rest of his life. For example, he later recounted having the soles of his feet beaten until the flesh was torn off, then the next day beaten again to the bone, claiming there were not words to describe that pain".

is it easy to forgive? only in Jesus when we realize the magnitude of sin He has forgiven us. and all our sin is indeed a magnitude when compared to our holy God. we do not compare ourselves and our works to another person. we must compare them to our God.

even as Jesus and stephen forgave as they were being put to death, i am sure many among the disciples and others did also. when one can forgive even as they are tortured to death, they are confident of that which lays ahead. that blessed hope set before us as we eagerly await it.

could any among us show such grace in our extreme hour? someday it will approach us all. only in Jesus

can one find the grace to overcome. more tightly than we cling to family or friends, we must cling to Him. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He alone will be our constant guide and hope. i pray grace for us all to endure until the end. let that crown of life not slip from our grasp.

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