

i'm just in a thankful mood today. regardless of what may come in this world, we who believe remain fully confident in our destination. "I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." 2 tim 1:12 we remain confident that He who has begun a good work in us will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

it is for this reason alone that we can maintain our peace even as the slings and arrows are being hurled. the inner peace Jesus gives enables us the strength to endure whatever may come our way. i know it may not always feel good, but the word says to count it all joy when the offenses are suffered for His sake. it will perhaps mean you get to stand a little closer to Jesus when He appears.

that's always the way i had looked at things. i know many people consider it another crown they have coming and there is nothing wrong with that. it is all for His glory. i just had never heard anyone express my views until the other day. i heard a preacher say how we might be surprised in the kingdom when we look at the placement of the now well-known believers. they might be standing much further away from Jesus while people that were never heard of get a front row seat.

that should be all of our heart's desire. first, just to be standing in His presence. then to be standing as close as possible. even the disciples disputed who might stand beside Him. we seek not the honor but the view. have you ever been in the presence of someone and you just felt God was definitely there? there are

those who just seem to carry His presence with them. (and i long to be one of them.) now can you imagine what it would feel like to stand in His very presence? the question would be; could we even stand or would we be on our face?

i recall a story. i think it was about corrie ten boom; the woman who survived the holocaust. she was on a plane trip one time and when the plane experienced trouble, it looked like it was going down. as she sat at peace in her seat, she began to feel guilty that she was not sharing this one last chance to receive the gospel with every one. then when it was all over, someone questioned her about how she appeared to be at such peace in the midst while others were in panic mode. it was then she would share her secret with the one who was open to receive the truth. she carried His presence with her. He was her peace.

His holiness is so far beyond our comprehending. the Father God is a light and fire beyond what we have ever known. it is through Jesus alone that our approach is enabled. whenever the word says that God appeared to someone in the old testament, it was Jesus. the Father's glory could not even be viewed by moses. God allowed His goodness to appear even as He covered moses with His hand as His glory passed by. see exodus 33:18-23 we can only be enabled by the blood of Jesus. it is a joy not to be missed out of.

a scripture that is prominent the days is 2 chron 7:14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and

will forgive their sin and heal their land." our land is full of sin and corruption and we must do our part.

we must rid ourselves of those little foxes that spoil the vine. we must cleanse ourselves first because it says judgment begins at the house of God. God does not ask only one thing from us. He requires all of them. may we meet are the requirements and see healing in our land. there still remains the end time harvest. the former and the latter rain. may we all be drenched in His presence during the rain.

linda