

dec 30, 2022

ready or not, here i come

"do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." john 5:28-29

the trumpet call

over earth awakes a whirring,
and a rustling, and a stirring,
trumpet-voices fill the skies:
"lo, they call us. brothers, rise!"

no. the darkness holds unshaken.
i will sleep, and not awaken.
do not rouse me. do not call.
do not strike the coffin-wall.

now you dare not sleep. resounding
sternly, the last trump is sounding.
they are rising from the tomb.
as from the maternal womb

of the opened earth forth-flinging,
from their graves the dead are springing.
no, i cannot. all unuttered
my words died. my eyes are shuttered.

shall not believe their lies.
i shall not, i cannot rise!

brother, - i am ashamed and shrinking, -
dust, corruption, - rotting, stinking!

brother, God has seen our prison.
all shall wake, and all be risen.
all shall yet be judged by Him.
cherubim and seraphim

high the holy throne are bearing!
here our heavenly King is faring.
brother, he must live who dies.
glad or grieving, thou shalt rise.

- old russian poem, now in public domain

will you dread or be anxiously awaiting your retrieval
from the grave? there's only one way to be sure. you
can't "work" your way into heaven. you can't "buy"
your way into heaven. you can't sneak your way into
heaven. you can only trust your way in. mouthing the
"mandatory" words is not enough. true repentance leads
to a changed heart and that leads to a changed life.
sure, we will all get it wrong from time to time but,
"if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to
forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness." 1 john 1:9 but words without works
is dead as the apostle james so bluntly put it.

God has put us all on notice. He has been patient,
merciful and given signs and wonders to help those
doubtful of the unseen. now He puts it up to each of
us. choose this day who you will serve. the world,

the flesh and the devil or the Spirit, the water, and the blood. "there are three that bear witness on earth." 1 john 5:8

"for the time is at hand. he who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." rev 22:10-11 i beseech you, do not wait until for wrath to be revealed. decisions then will lead to a martyrs death. "the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it? ... multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!" joel 2:11,14

the coffin wall shall be struck. that is certain.
will your resurrection be to life or condemnation?