

jan 1

wow. another tear has passed. it is now 2022 or 5782 on the jewish calendar (which has already begun). time is an element set in motion by God. the moment is quickly coming when time will be no more. however, for the present, we are all limited by the amount God has allotted to each of us.

i'm sure we will all be making plans for this new year; things we plan to begin or even accomplish. the question i want to ask you all today is, "what will you leave undone"?

i am reminded of the story in luke where a man had made all sorts of plans to increase his possessions and then spend his days in pleasure. "and i will say to my soul, "soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' but God said to him, 'fool! this night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "so is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." luke 12:19-21

i ask again, "what will you leave undone"? will you leave undone the things that really matter to accomplish the things that do not? where are you storing your treasure? in things of this world that are passing away, or in things that keep their eternal value. when we are told to keep our eyes on the prize. what is your prize? we know what the prize was for Jesus. "for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." heb 12:2 there is a

goal and a reward awaiting those who succeed.

please don't let the demands of this life choke out growth in your spiritual life. it is only that which is constantly fed which grows. "enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." matt 7:13-14

i did not say that. our Lord did. is the narrow gate really difficult to find. perhaps not as difficult to find as it is to stay on. the enemy would keep us distracted with things demanding attention. he knows where he is destined. his desire is to draw as many as he can with him. that means there will be less there to glorify God. he seeks to usurp God in all things. will he be reigning in hell? yes, in darkness and pain and torment forever. that is his rein and his kingdom. please see you do not join his kingdom. it is a place where the "worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." matt 9:44

this is a place created especially for him and the other rebellious angels. it was not meant for man, but it will become the habitation of all who have failed to keep their eyes on the prize.

the tribulation that is about to take place will only be a sampling of what God has in store for those who have not held His way of escape as their highest treasure. "and unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those

days will be shortened." matt 24:22

sometimes we look at the God of the old testament and read how His judgement and punishment fell on the disobedient. perhaps we say that now Jesus has come and mercy and grace prevail. but the word says that God changes not. do we witness His judgement in the new testament? "how is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. and the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband." acts 5:9-10

God still and always hates sin. there will be no place for it in His new creation. both the wrath and the mercy of God still prevail. with that in mind, what will be your priorities this year? what will you consider as wealth and where will you store it? there is really only one true wealth and one place to store it. even now as many are watering down the word of God and some leaving their first love. deception and lawlessness are everywhere. will you cling to the One who loves you most?

the word warns there will be a great falling away. "but Jesus said to him, "no one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." luke 9:62 will you look back or will you look ahead to the joy set before you? "to those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation." heb 9:28 keep looking ahead this year.

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