

mar 8

i was reading a scripture this morning. of course, we know, "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 tim 3:16 that alone should cover the fact of why i always try scatter my daily writings with scriptures throughout.

those of us who love the Lord and seek His ways, we long for that reproof, correction and instruction. times of chastising or pruning may not always be pleasant at the moment, but it is the fruit resulting that makes it worth it.

anyway, back to the scripture that grabbed me this morning. "remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father." 1 thess 1:3

that scripture is so descriptive of this narrow way we now traverse. faith is our work. we believe in and stand firm on the word of God given to us. it goes before and slays the doubts which have sought to enter. fear is expecting the devil to move, faith is expecting God to move.

we labor, often with difficulty, to show forth the love Christ has manifested to us. we hold firm the fact that love must be intertwined with truth. love without truth is shallow. truth must be spoken in love and love does not withhold the truth. it is only in their

unity, results are realized.

all this we do as we patiently await the hope which lies before us. hope! the one thing that survives all the fears, doubts and persecutions hurled at it. it stands on the word which holds His promise. "did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" john 11:40 we go from strength to strength. as we pass through the valley of weeping, our tears create a spring. "a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." john 4:14

one would think that was enough meat for the day. because of the times we are living in and the fear attempting to enter at all directions, i offer you another treat i received this morning. it is from a writing i receive each day from "solid joys" at "desiring God.org".

"a bruised reed He will not break, and a faintly burning wick He will not quench. (isaiah 42:3)

probably the most encouraging words i have heard in weeks came from a prophecy in isaiah 42:1-3 about how Jesus will use his spiritual power.

do you feel like "a bruised reed" – like one of those big top-heavy easter lilies whose stem has been squashed so that the flower flops to the ground and gets no sap? do you ever feel like your faith is just a little spark instead of a flame – like that little red dot at the end of the wick after you blow out the birthday candle?

take heart! the Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of encouragement: he will not snap off your flower; he will not snuff out your spark."

yes, He is that gentle savior which shall be with us always, urging us on in our race. i want you to take comfort in that as these days descend upon us. we will not be alone. even as our Lord knows the end from the beginning, this too did not take Him by surprise. He has prepared us for these days. our assignment is the same as it was for the apostle paul. "arise and go into damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do." act 22:10

we expect His instructions even as we continue our walk in faith, love and patience. things this world can never give and can never take away. we too know the love richard wurmbrand displayed when found in his cell weeping. when asked by his guard what he had left to weep for, he answered. "i weep for you". he wept for the destiny he saw for one refusing to accept our Lord's gift of life.

perhaps my topics this morning have wandered in various directions. just know they all lead back to the cross. back to Jesus Christ and Him crucified. may we embrace His death as we look also to the hope set before us. let us never release our hold of His promises.

linda