

nov 25, 2022

the fellowship of His suffering

"that i may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." phil 3:10

no, i don't believe we all have to experience persecution for His name, although we will all have to endure scarring or persecution of some kind in this life. it is inevitable in a fallen world. but there is something glorious and fulfilling about being persecuted for the defense of Christ.

"from now on let no one trouble me, for i bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." gal 6:17 that was the comment from the apostle paul. sometimes those "persecutions" may even come from within the church where that is a place where one would hope to find refuge and support - consolation and peace.

paul did indeed carry the marks in his body. i would expect all the apostles carried those marks as well. they all suffered martyrdom of some form in getting the message of salvation out to the world.

there is often scarring when there is battle. some wounds may be seen and others remain unseen. that doesn't mean one pain is less than the other. i can visibly see the scars i have from injuries and surgeries, but the ones i have suffered within are visible only to me. to me and God, that is. most have been made by my own doing, but some, i really feel were

suffered for Christ.

hurting for others is sharing the hurting of Christ. it cost Him so much to give us this precious gift and so many trample it underfoot. God is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 3 pet 3:9 i know it pains our Lord to send anyone to hell but it is a place where all darkness must go. darkness cannot exist in the light.

i don't know what suffering and scarring you may have obtained in your life. i just know it will all be worth it in the end, and that end is near. "therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 pet 1:13

these are turbulent times we are living in, but we have all been put here for a purpose. we must hold fast and endure to the end. if suffering must come, let it be for the glory of our Lord. if you are faithfully walking in the path He has set before you and suffering comes, know this. "to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake." phil 1:29

"for i am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." rom 8:38-39 be persuaded!