

sep 20

preparing for a journey?

"let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" heb 12:1

i don't know if anyone else is going through what what i have been lately. the Lord has me straighten up all the loose ends i can. in a sense, it's as if He has me getting rid of all the unnecessary things. it's like i was getting ready for a move. i have been going through my house and throwing or giving away things that haven't been used in years - some stuff being new and still in unopened boxes. admittedly, along the way, there have been one or two things that i have regretted parting with, but nothing drastic.

i don't believe any of us realize just how much of an anchor hold our possessions can have on us. when i was younger i had a fire one time and lost all my possessions. i remember commenting back then how a fire and loss of things had a cleansing effect on one. we should "have" possessions - they shouldn't "have us."

the "things" that i am separating from are just outward symbols of the things i need to get rid of inside me - envy, anger, unfruitful thoughts. i'm afraid i might need more of a "house cleaning" than my house does. just the other day when i was in my prayer time, i commented to God - "the closer i get to You, the dirtier i feel."

of course, i know that we are the righteousness "in Christ." we are told to come boldly to the throne of grace and we do. i know God receives me when i come in Christ's name, but oh how that flesh burns in His presence. the flesh that i still inhabit (and dwell in daily), must first be burned off. it is then i enter into Jesus and He enters into me more fully.

perhaps i am alone in this feeling. i'm sure there are those who just go straight to the Father and feel His indescribable love and mercy. me - His holiness always gives me pause. pause first to recognize it, then to know it. i can understand why there would be a constant chorus of singing about it and falling prostrate. "holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" rev 4:8

i used to have a preacher who would say: "you can drive all the nails into self to crucify it ... except that last one. someone else must drive it in." not that i have driven all i can yet, still i await that "someone else" to drive in that final nail. then i may say "i am crucified with Christ." i am wholly His and it is no longer i who lives.

until then, i will continue cleaning my house and my temple (mind and spirit). i will trust the Lord to know what is "essential" and what is "disposable." awhile back i heard a preacher repeating what he had heard from God. it went something like this (not verbatim) - "I'm coming soon. my church isn't ready but I'm going to get her ready." to that i say: "Lord, please do any cleaning i miss."

"search me, o God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." psa 139:23-34