

what have you done with what you've given you?

"for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 cor 5:10

friends, that's everyone of us. we who believe are not judged for salvation, but how we spent the time and possessions the Lord has blessed us with. God does not expect what one cannot give. He often does not even expect us to do something adverse to our "leanings," but rather were they spent for self or others.

i think we here in america often forget how how truly blessed we are. even now, in the darkening of the day, we tower above many in safety, substances and sources. even as the word of God must be garnered and share under fear of death in many places, happily it has not fully reached our shores yet. it has landed but not yet fully conquered.

so again, i ask you before our Lord does. is the profit that drives you for the sake of self or soul? "for what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" matt 16:26

there is a quote i remeber from "the Lord of the Rings." the two were discussing the darkened times they were living in and how they longed for the simple life that had preceded. "i wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "so do i," said gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times.

but that is not for them to decide. all we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." what a profound statement.

many wanted to experience the rapture time; to be among those that shall never taste of death. but few of us imagined the darkness the need be a leading up to that rapturous moment. it is that very darkness that allows the smallest flicker of light to become a guiding beacon to those wandering in the darkness.

where now is the light that lives in you? have you put it under a bushel or upon a lampstand that all may see and be aided in their way. "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." matt 5:16 all we say or do must now be solely for the purpose of pointing to God and His saving grace.

so what are your works? "but someone will say, 'you have faith, and i have works.' show me your faith without your works, and i will show you my faith by my works." oh the simpleness and directness of old camel knees himself; the half brother of Jesus. i often think of how difficult it was to accept his half brother as God incarnate, but when he got the revelation, he went all in.

faith will get you salvation for God is love, but works will get you crowns. you may well say, i seek no rewards for myself, and that in itself may seem a noble gesture. but remember, the works are not for us. they are crowns and glory to lay at our Lord's feet, exalting His worthiness. that has been one of my

earliest prayers. i seek for a crown to toss at your feet. all glory and honor and majesty to the One who did it all.

many are of the mindset, because i can only do little, i will do nothing. that is the wicked and lazy servant who buried his one talent and ending up losing all and even suffered outer darkness. God does not expect someone given only one talent to come bringing ten, even though that is entirely feasible. He only expects a profit equal to what was given.

don't bury the gift given you, be it small or great. if you find yourself leaning in one direction, that most probably will be your calling. is it love, then love without measure. if it be giving, then give freely, expecting nothing in return. if it be works, then work as your strength allows. God has given to all a measure of faith and a talent to spend. it is love functioning in that faith that magnifies the talent, resulting in a godly harvest.

the other day i heard a brother something that i found profound. he said, "i had finally reached a place in my life the if i didn't do something for the Lord, i wasn't going to do it." that happened to me after my last stroke and these dailies just seem to begin; the Lord apparently giving me one last nudge to use whatever writing talents i may have for His glory.

how ashamed i would have been before my Lord if i had failed that chance. i don't know what it might have cost me. i only know the shame i would have felt. at that time i would have paid any price for a "second

chance," but then it would be too late. please, please don't miss any second chance you might need and be given. a stroke to me was such a small cost if that was might be needed. and no, it wasn't God doing it; just Him relinquishing His loving grasp but a little.

the greatest reward ever to be received from any investment is to hear our Lord's response: "well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. enter into the joy of your lord." matt 25:21