

feb 10

handling the Word

"that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life." john 1:1

the other night as i was lying in bed and meditating on our marvelous God and His amazing grace, suddenly i had a terror sweep over me. "who was i to be writing people and articulate the word of God, even in meager attempts to assist them in their walk with the Lord?" believe me - it is not humility that makes me make that statement. i am fully aware of all my faults and shortcomings. i can fully acquaint myself with the apostle paul as he confessed, "all our righteousness is as filthy rags."

believe me when i say: i am not a teacher or have any special revelations and my schooling is meager. i never meant to insinuate i was a teacher of any kind. i consider what i do just more of a sharing, seeking to warn or encourage, although i can see many construing it differently. i am fully aware of the admonition, "let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." james 3:1

the more my mind dwelt on that and the awesome responsibility of handling the Word of God, the more intimidated and apprehensive i became. even as the word says: "for we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are

perishing. to the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. and who is sufficient for these things?" 2 cor 2:15-16

indeed, who is sufficient for this? we are handling life and death matters and while it may not matter to others, the fear of losing favor with God terrifies me. as i contemplated these truths, my growing apprehension begin to grow into fear and the thought overwhelmed me that i should immediately stop sharing these supposed "whispers from God." when we are handling the Word of God it is though we were there in john's stead, handling the actual flesh of the Word - God Himself incarnate.

it was the fear that made me know this thinking was not from my heavenly Father. it was from the enemy. he would muzzle everyone of us and all sharing about the love and goodness of God if he could. i thought again of my old mentor and what she used to say all the time. "i know my Father's voice and anothers' i will not follow.

i too know my Fathers' voice. it has become recognizable from years of seeking Him and learning His wondrous ways. it's the same voice that filled my heart with longing to know Him more. the voice that chided me when i ventured into forbidden ways. the one that assured me His grace was sufficient. and if in speak something today i err in a matter and that causes you to search the scripture to disprove me - just perhaps that too is in God's plan.

as all these truths and lies flooded my mind, i suddenly thought of the prophet jeremiah and how he must have felt. "then i said, 'i will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name.' but His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; i was weary of holding it back, and i could not." jer 20:9

there are too many who i know are reading my writings daily; some that actually look forward to them. i know because they have shared on occasion. to some it might serve as a reminder of God's constant goodness while others may dig deeper into scripture, either to confirm or dispute something they read. that's as it should be and i encourage them always to follow scripture over anything i might say.

just please know, i consider it an awesome responsibility and an undeserved grace to be allowed to share the truth as i perceive to receive it. none of us have the complete truth. none but Jesus and He will straighten us all out in due time. i pray you will not judge me too harshly if your truth remains different from mine. i see so many people who truly love the Lord but they spend more time trying to expose the error in others than in trying to show the love of Christ and lead that lost soul into the light; to extricate someone from the bottomless pit hungry to receive them. truly, hell has enlarged itself and our work lies ahead of us.

i think as long as we all remain in submission to the scriptures and have a reverent fear of our holy God, we err in remaining silent and not speaking out. we must

not let the devil or anyone or thing intimidate us or frighten us from defending the ultimate truth we all are seeking. i was just reading this morning how shadrach, meshach, and abed-nego endured the furnace flames rather than deny their truth. they stood firm defending their faith regardless the cost, knowing their God was able to deliver them - but if not. will you stand only "if" He does and deny Him "if not?" believe me, the flames of hell are hotter than any furnace could be.

again i hear the question: "who is sufficient for these things?" certainly not me but this time an answer comes roaring back. "not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 cor 3:5-6

keep your eyes on the prize and refuse to let satan muzzle your mouth. the word He speaks to you must be spoken to others - and then the end shall come. our precious Lord, whose we are and whom we serve!