

feb 17

the witnesses are watching

"therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, 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, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." heb 12:1-3

i just woke up from a vivid dream again. i'm usually not one much prone to dreaming but that seems to be changing of late. mostly they occur during my daytime nap. the sleep is short and sweet and the dreams are intense. it's almost like i am trying to get into them; to figure out solutions and be a part of them.

i remember a film from years back when there was some technology that allowed people to enter into other people's dreams, usually for nefarious reasons. i don't think that was my intent though; more to help out the situation.

they were mostly dreams which included departed loved ones. when i was younger i remember hearing old people reminiscing about how so many friends and loved ones that had departed. i guess what goes around comes around and now it is my turn.

the dreams are just so vivid and real though. often i wake up and think, i have to tell so and so about that

one. oh wait, they're not here to tell anymore. i would realize it was my departed mother or my mentor and friend i wanted to share with and they were now beyond my reach. suddenly i felt like king david in 2 sam 12:23. "i shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

indeed that is a truth and it has me wondering. are they about to return to me in a rapturous moment or am i about to make my departure and join them with my glorious Lord and Savior. i must admit i have a tinge of jealousy for those who will never taste death, the more so the closer i know it is getting. it's like someone arriving just after the "big game" is over and the winning touchdown was scored. or someone getting to the party just when everyone is about to leave.

i know there are times and schedules, on earth and in heaven as well. i just want to be on God's schedule and in His time. it's not like i really have anything to say about it, one way or the other. my mind keeps going back to the devout simeon who was promised he would not die until his eyes had beheld the Christ.

then one day mary and joseph brought the little Jesus to the temple to be circumcised according to the law. i can almost imagine how simeon's heart must have leapt inside him. here was this little baby, certainly helpless and without any grandeur or glory; just a little child wrapped in the arms of his mother.

do you suppose simeon thought as the others did later than he had come to restore the glory of jerusalem instead of to die for the world? just think, if He

were born in today's world it would be a mighty miracle if He had escaped from even being aborted. no one knows the potential that lies in each child.

anyway, all my ramblings and speculation have brought me to this conclusion. time is short. it is short for all of us. for some it may mean death comes knocking before we expected it to. it could also mean God has finally had enough; enough of the ridicule and persecution of His Son and those who chose to follow Him; enough of the revelry and exaltation of sin and rebellion; enough of the world poking their finger in His eye. it is no longer a golden calf they have molded to worship. it is pleasure and self alone sitting on the throne and there is room for no other.

people live and die everyday. the rain fall on the just and unjust alike. thousands were destroyed just the other day in a mighty earthquake. as the world rushes to aid they wonder how a God could allow such devastation. yes, my heart goes out as well but still the question lingers: "how could His grace allow sin and rebellion so long?" sin carries destruction in it's wings. the physical devastation comes after years of spiritual devastation. "but where can wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? man does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living." job 28:12-13

"for if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." rom 14:8 devastation will soon be coming on the whole world. i pray you are washed in the blood of Jesus and know you are the Lord's.

