

feb 12

are you cooling off

"and because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold." matt 24:12

the word tells us there will be a great falling away before the end comes. i don't know how anyone can say, "once saved, always saved." unbelievers can fall away because they never received a love of the truth to start with.

i know many of us are looking around at what's going on in the world and it's easy to think there is no justice and there will be no justice. i believe i have had this discussion before on occasion. we look around see bad triumphing over good and it draws closer to home each day. we see no punishment determined for wrong and perpetrators are released to pursue their next act against the unsuspecting.

i would suggest reading all of psalm 73, but for this discussion we'll boil it down to a few succinct verses. "surely i have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence." psa 73:13 yes, we may often feel that being good doesn't pay nearly as well as evil. i can almost hear some crying out, "but God, it isn't fair." i too have often felt that way but God's mercy is great and His patience endures much until the measure of sin allotted is full.

none of us know that measure and which of us would not pray for it to be more for that loved one in our lives

that remains on the outside; on the wrong side. many are trapped by sin from a previous wound they suffered and they are fighting against the truth in retaliation. some has glanced at the light and decided they loved the darkness more. only God knows each heart.

"when i thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me – until i went into the sanctuary of God; then i understood their end. surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors." psalms 73:16-19

must i indeed forgive my brother seventy times seven. can i have the patience and dispense the mercy of God? no. not i. only Christ that lives in me can do that. this is no time to cool off. it is time to turn up the heat and let others feel the scorch of their need for a sacrifice in their stead.

i want to read a paragraph from a pastor i follow, jimmy evans. "Jesus says, 'many will turn away from the faith.' this is not describing an evil world that continues to reject God, but a rebellion against God by believers within the church. the 'falling away' is referencing the decline of the Christian Church." even now it is happening. church attendance is on the decline and the ones that are doing well have often compromised the truth of God's word.

"so then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." rev 3:16 friends, many believers are not just lukewarm - they are dead cold. they have accepted and tolerated until they

can no longer distinguish right from wrong. i think their paths are "slippery" indeed.

i fear the admonition of the Lord. "but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."
matt 18:6 if you find yourself cooling off, may that directive heat you up again.