

jan 14

last call

"the Teacher has come and is calling for you." john
11:28

i don't know if you know this or not, but bars and similar places have a "last call" before they are closing. it is a chance to order a last drink before they close their doors for the night. back in my younger days, a friend and i would frequent such places often. as we usually stayed until closing, i am familiar with last calls.

so now i guess my secret is out - i have a past. while we don't dwell on the past, we use our failings and shortcomings to magnify His grace. (blessed is the one loved from an early age.) i only hope you might consider the saints of old and their failings when you consider mine.

friends, He is calling so many of you even now. but someday the call you hear will be that last call; not because He wants it so, but because you dictate it. your free will dictated it. either death has finally captured you or our Lord has reluctantly given you over to your desires. those with a fairly decent nature cannot even begin to imagine how dark those desires must have become for God to give them over.

i think of the verse from that familiar hymn, "softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me." can you hear Him calling? what will be your

response to His call? it could be the last call; the last one before closing the age of grace.

i know everyone bothering to even read this probably already knows Jesus, but on the off chance there is even one still lingering, or one backslidden and teetering on the edge of eternity, let all be fairly warned: there is always a last call.

teetering on the edge of eternity. i feel that is well worth repeating. the enemy is content enough to just keep you distracted and busy; busy with other things than keeping your lamp trimmed and ready. while that might not mean someone is lost, it will mean they will miss the grooms' call for His bride. the fact that half of the church will be deaf to His arrival terrifies me. i hope it terrifies you as well; to such an extent you concentrate again on that still small voice within you. i think again of a verse from a favorite poem.

and only this perfection needs
a heart kept calm all day,
to catch the would the Spirit there
from hour to hour may say.

"remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place - unless you repent." rev 2:5 i don't think any of us need to repent not from some horrible sin; hopefully. but repent from having been too busy for Him. repent from having left your first love.

so seek again your first love. pursue Him as He has pursued you. it is last call. let that last drink be from the the well of life, and drink deeply. if you become intoxicated, it will only be with love, wonder and amazement at the God you need to know. the One who created all things and the One who first knew you. that last drink will surely get you the oil needed for your lamp, and that will get you to Him.