

jan 16

what if Jesus came today

"we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1c cor 15:53

no, i'm not talking about His second coming. i'm talking about the pre-wrath retrieval of His bride for the wedding ceremony. yes, i am a dyed in the wool believer of a pre-trib rapture. i'm talking about noah and his family being the only protected survivors before the world became engulfed. i'm talking about lot getting out safely before the destruction of sodom. i'm talking about Jesus coming for His bride. the tribulation is called the wrath of the lamb and He has no wrath towards His bride, only love.

the bible tells us, "behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints." jude 1:14 no, we aren't raptured up only to make a u-turn and come right back down. and where does that leave time for the wedding feast anyway? a jewish wedding is seven days long; the tribulation is seven years long.

"therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God?" 2 pet 3:11-12 no, my Lord isn't coming for me as a thief in the night. He's coming for me as an anxious bridegroom, excited the Father has

given the ok. "yes, my Son, all is prepared. go and retrieve Your bride."

how one reacts to what follows will be determined entirely by whether they were prepared or not; whether they had enough oil to make the trip. someone cannot get ready. they need to be ready. the word says all will be sleeping and are awakened only by the trumpet call. i'm not saying only the super spiritual christians will be taken. "we all stumble in many things." james 3:2 i am saying how dependent are you upon the goodness of Christ? is He just an after thought more than a first thought?

do we really have a reverential fear of the Lord? all anyone talks about today is love and acceptance. while that's true, it's not all He requires. "he who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me." john 14:21 you don't have to be perfect, but you have to strive to be. you have to hate the sin as much as He does, not just live in acceptance. "if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." luke 9:23 we must conform to His will. He will not conform to ours.

i'm about to have to write a letter to a friend about about consequences. while proclaiming Christ, they continued n their sinful habits and are now paying the consequences. there are always consequences to sin. it doesn't necessarily mean one isn't saved. it does mean they missed the mark, again. one can't just keep coming when they want the "hurt" off.

even paul said to, "deliver such a one to satan for the

destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." 1 cor 5:5 for peter tells us in 1 peter 4:1, "he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin." God doesn't want it that way but He does want you redeemed. Jesus told us to, "take up the cross, and follow Me." mark 10:21 it has to be His way and not ours, His will and not ours.

sometimes i think God needs to raise up some of the fire and brimstone preachers of old. preachers who could scare the hell out of you even if they couldn't woo it out of them; some of those like jonathan edwards or leonard ravenhill. indeed, "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." heb 10:31 if Jesus suggested cutting off a hand or putting out an eye if it would keep you from heaven, then you must know it is serious. some have said He spoke metaphorically, but did He really? we're speaking of where and how eternity will be spent. one must take it seriously!

so again i ask: "what manner of persons ought you to be?" let nothing stand between you and your Christ. not a spiritual leader. not a friend or foe. not a loved one or an enemy. and yes, not even a sin. "be holy; for I am holy." lev 11:44 you might say the law has passed away. no it hasn't. it has only been fulfilled by Jesus Christ. "he who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters." luke 11:23 if you're not in Jesus, you're still under the law and will be judged by the law. yes, "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

where are you falling today? into the hands of a God of justice or into the arms of His saving Christ? i don't know about you, but i don't want to get what i deserve. i don't think any of us do who are honest with ourself.

so today, and everyday until He calls, i will be expectantly looking up and hoping for my "much better half" to call me unto Him. i've got that "first love" in my heart and i'm not going to lose it. do you know that song - the longer i serve Him the sweeter He grows? that's how it is between my Lord and i.

there's no more "tomorrow" time to get ready. use today while you still have it. departure arriving soon!