

jul 10

it is finished

"for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." eph 2:8-9

i know there's differing opinions about when the rapture will be. i can honestly see how one could take either stance. i, myself, have fluctuated between them in the past, until my heart was fully settled. but here's the good news. it doesn't matter what anyone's eschatology is, when the time finally arrives, we will all be taken. if you house the Holy Spirit, trusting in the Lord Jesus' saving grace, you have met the standard.

it doesn't matter where one is in their walk with the Lord. it doesn't matter if we are still struggling with "that sin." it won't matter how spiritually minded one might think themselves or how our lack of works compare to another's. why? because all the glory goes to God! it's... "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." tit 3:5 it's because of the words Jesus uttered from the cross, "it is finished." john 19:30

if that's the case then why all the the urgency and discussion of the rapture? He will come when He comes and all will be well. mainly because we are told to watch. "and what I say to you, I say to all: watch!"

mark 13:37 "and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." heb 10:25

the people at His first coming were scolded because they had not recognized the signs even though they had been duly warned. daniel 9:25 says, "know therefore and understand... until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks." they should have discerned the time, if not by the turbulent happenings surrounding them. daniel "understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet" that it was time for israel to return to the promised land.

we all love the "feel good" stories that touch our hearts and remind us of how good our Lord is, but that is merely the "tip of the iceberg." and yes, there are places for rest and refreshing along the way, but we must not camp there. it is baby stuff. "but solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." heb 5:14

God does not want babies crying still in diapers, crying for their next feeding. He wants mature sons, venturing into fuller understanding. He wants warriors prepared for the battle to come He will lead us in. well did paul write, "when i was a child, i spoke as a child, i understood as a child, i thought as a child; but when i became a man, i put away childish things." 1 cor 13:11 we have suckled at the teat too long. let us grow into all God has for us. don't be afraid. our Lord goes before us.

i know many are uncomfortable about talking so personally about our creator as a mate; about knowing God as intimately as a man knows a woman. it was not our idea to present such a union. it comes directly from the lips of our Lord. "can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them" matt 9:15 He referred to Himself as the bridegroom. He is the lamented and desired One in the song of solomon. the Holy Spirit wrote through paul, "for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." this is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church." eph 5:31-32

indeed He is the second adam in every way. just as eve, to be his mate, was pulled out of adam's rib, even so was the side of Christ's side pierced that the church might be poured forth with His blood. all the typology used in scripture was to mimic the intimacy God longs to share with His creation; bride of Christ, sons of God, Father God, etc. these all indicate a closeness He desires.

this is a love and intimacy that has not been know here-to-for. that's what our God wants with us and for us. how could anyone fail to be anything but excited and expectant? this is the generation that shall taste once again the fellowship and love that God envisioned when all was first created. how could we fail to exclaim like king david, "one thing i have desired of the Lord, that will i seek: that i may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple." psa 27:4

how could we not be looking for His coming and boldly proclaiming His soon coming. the world is saying, "where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 2 pet 3:4 they dwell in the darkness of the hour, blinded by the light; busied with worldly activities and selfish desires. "but you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this DAY should overtake you as a thief." 1 thes 5:4

"I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." john 14:3 that's the promise of the Lord we stand on. again, it doesn't matter what stance you take, it WILL happen on the appointed day. personally i can't see anyone buying and selling, being given in marriage and proclaiming peace and safety after seven years of the wrath of God have just been poured out.

and so we boldly and excitedly proclaim our Lord is coming. how could we not do otherwise. as i have discussed before, i believe the 9th of av (true pentecost) is an extremely high watch time. even if it is not this year, it will remain my foremost time for the rapture. while the feast of trumpets used to be my high watch time, i now believe it is His second appearing, and we will be coming back with Him then. (at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. 1 thes 3:13)

i will only add the same warning our Lord issued to all. "so then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth" rev

3:16 if you have lost the spark of "first love," i
urge you to rekindle the fire that once burned within
when you met your Savior and fell in love. maranatha!