

may 30

fully persuaded

persuade definition: to convince by argument, or by reasons offered or suggested from reflection, etc.; to cause to believe.

for two thousand years now, God has been in the persuading business. He says, "come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." matt 11:38 He wants to give us that rest He wanted to bring those rescued from egypt. even now He is seeking to rescue all those who are still enslaved in egypt, i.e. in the world, and He still longs to bring us into His rest.

although there were certainly many who received His message and believed, it only took the twelve He received into His inner council to turn the world upside down; to split the way we now keep time in half. but those twelve were fully committed and fully persuaded. persuaded to the point they all died a martyrs death; all but one and that wasn't for lack of trying. they were willing to give their all because they were confident of a better inheritance.

"for this reason i also suffer these things; nevertheless i am not ashamed, for i know whom i have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what i have committed to Him until that day." 2 tim 1:12 that's one of the first scriptures that i ever memorized. even today, it remains one of my favorites.

i can't say that i have ever had to endure anything close to what others have. should one day i face the trial of either denying His name or suffering death, it is grace i would have to depend upon to see me through whatever. i always find comfort in the teaching of corrie ten boom, a survivor of the holocaust. our father never gives us the ticket until it's time to get on the train. He will give us all grace and strength when we need it most. of that i am persuaded.

i have been persuaded of many things and grow surer of them everyday. as a new believer i was once hesitant to pray for anyone. not that i was ashamed but more bashful because i felt so ill equipped. indeed, as knowledge grows it brings assurance with it. we are not to remain babes forever. that would mean stunted growth. God starts out with the pure milk of the word but as we grow our hunger desires meat to nourish us and our God has an abundant supply of that. His wonders are unsearchable.

i remember one time when a small group of us had a prayer meeting at our church. after awhile we all broke up into individual groupings to seek the Lord. as we reconvened together i shared what i felt the Lord was wanting us to do. i would pray for one person, then that person would pray for the next while the rest stood in agreement, and so on until all had received prayer and all had given prayer. it was a beautiful moment and perhaps built someone's confidence in praying for others.

God has allowed us the great mission of being in the persuading business as well. the word says we are

ambassadors for Christ. an ambassador speak forth the agenda of his country. we must boldly speak forth the doctrines of our God.

our God is holy and we must comply to His standards and not the other way around. it's not like to world believes; giving everyone a trophy so none will be offended. we must "strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able." luke 13:24

the persecuted church has learned the cost of keeping to His standards while the western church has grown fat and lazy, making allowances for the sin we comfort in. "these are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. they are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots." jude 1:12

persuasion, commitment doesn't come without a cost. but what value can one put upon what we have been guaranteed in Christ Jesus? "for i am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." rom 8:38-39

are you fully persuaded? if not, study the word and let it persuade you. it's truth has been confirmed over and over. if you are persuaded, seek to persuade someone else as well. God grant us all grace for each day to walk in His truths, fully persuaded. maranatha!

