

may 29

the surly bonds of earth

"for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." 1 tim 6:7

"we will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'touch the face of God.'" those were the words uttered by ronald reagan in 1986 after the loss of the space shuttle "challenger" and its crew. truer words were never spoken that one day we all will escape the surly bonds of earth, and we will all have to stand before the Judge of the living and the dead. what was in the hearts of those lost that day remains yet to be revealed. what lies hidden in all our hearts is waiting to be revealed as well.

my God, how our world has changed from that day to this. certainly there was evil done back in those days, but most of it tried to be hidden. now it is blatantly exhibited while what remains hidden is surely many times worse. and yes, i believe there are darker things still hidden. "but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." heb 4:13

the bonds of earth - is there anything that still keeps you tethered to this earth? i don't care if it possessions, prestige, pleasure or personage, we must untie those things in our life. our Lord has said, "he who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy

of Me. and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." matt 10:37

Jesus gave us many teaching that people today would consider "hard." He spoke to the young man who thought he had lived his life perfect saying, "you still lack one thing. sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." luke 18:22

no, we don't have to all go out and sell all our possessions. we do have to sell anything we value above Him, be it any of the enticements this world may hold. knowing he was now ruler of this world and all in, he tempted our Lord. "all these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." matt 4:9 God had given us control and mankind had given it to him. Jesus was here to reclaim the dominion lost through flesh by being victorious in flesh.

"but now we do not yet see all things put under him. but we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone." heb 2:8-9 that same glory and honor that Jesus is now crowned with is the inheritance of everyone who will just escape "the surly bonds of earth."

we are tethered to what we most desire; firmly secured by too familiar bonds. "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." luke 12:34 we all treasure our most prized possession. we love it profusely and guard it as we would our own life. it is

up to each of us to decide just what we treasure most; that which we can never keep or that which we can never lose.

many are now treasuring that which they are destined to surely lose, while others have no treasure and are lost in hopelessness. Jesus want to be your treasure. He want to share His glory with you and make you shine as the stars of heaven shine. this world and all in it is destined to pass away. the new world, the new jerusalem will be all glorious and pleasures are at His right hand forevermore. all this and more awaits those who will escape the surly bonds of earth.