

the wanton way

"and then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" matt 7:23

i fear this will be a hard message for some. after all, isn't God love? likewise "the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy." psa 103:8 yes to all, but He is also righteous "and will not at all acquit the wicked." nahum 1:3

truly there is nothing we can do to "earn" redemption. "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

does that mean we are allowed to trample grace beneath our feet? "do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? do not be deceived. neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." 1 cor 6:9-10

scripture goes on to say, "and such 'were' some of you." 1 cor 6:11 it does not say "and such 'are' some of you."

the world would take a casual glance and say there is not a dime's worth of difference between the two. "certainly not! how shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" rom 6:2 we all fall short and on occasion we fall back into "that" sin but you should feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit quickly. i fear

such is not the case with the apostate church.

they not only embrace such practices but lead others into their own deception. we should put away lying and give no place to the devil. they have multitudes believing they are saved when they are living in deception.

none of us will be perfected until the Lord comes. His blood covers the repentant during the renewal of our minds, but as i have said before - "we must continue to push down on sin while we lift up by grace." i would venture to say there is little one cannot restrain themselves from doing with prayer and effort. we are admonished to, "steal no longer, but rather let him labor." eph 4:28 can one also not stop a lying tongue or say no to sexual impurity? or do we just excuse ourselves and take the easier, more pleasurable path? "broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it." matt 7:13

i would say to anyone, if they are comfortable in their sin, perhaps they have "believed in vain." 1 cor 15:2 they say there are about eighteen inches from the head to the heart. acknowledgement of Jesus is not enough. scripture says, "even the demons believe - and tremble!" james 2:19 they tremble from fear but they love their dark ways.

what is true repentance? "the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart - these, o God, You will not despise." psa 51:17

i know that most of you reading these dailies are truly

born again, spirit filled, obedient followers of Christ. i also know that some are not and messages may also be passed on to those beyond my knowing.

scripture gives this warning to all believers, for we are all watchmen of His word. "but if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand." eze 33:6

i see the sword coming rapidly and i see people continuing in their iniquity without the blood covering of Christ; without a truly repentant heart. i would like to quote the act of contrition prayer standardized by the catholic church who themselves have fallen into many wanton ways. still, i like the sentiment and if truly said from the heart, God will hear. (not a vain repetition, but allow it travel those eighteen inches; a distance too far for many.)

"o my God, i am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and i detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. i firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. amen."

with the help of Thy grace; grace is so needed. what we're really saying is "God, i want to do better. i want to be better. i want to be a good and faithful witness to Your grace and salvation. i want others to see Jesus in me. but i can't do it by myself. with your aid and love on my side, i can do all things

through Christ who strengthens me. take now this soul
i offer You. fire and mold it as seems best to You. i
trust You to complete the good work You have begun in
me. i pray it now in the name of Jesus."

our pregnant mother, israel, is now in birth pains and
the man-child is crowning. "'shall I bring to the time
of birth, and not cause delivery?' says the Lord.
'shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?' says
your God." isa 66:9 look up people. our redemption
draws nigh.