

have you lost your expectancy

"gather My saints together to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." psalms 50:5

sunday i was watching a preacher that i like and follow. he repeatedly and pointedly made the statement, "if we're still here" about the coming days. he is not a pastor given to wild extremes and fanciful notions, but a dear man who loves the Lord with all his heart and honestly sees a possibility that this could be the year of God's appointed time.

i also recently heard a story about a young, exuberant christian who asked a retiring religion professor when he believed Jesus was coming. the professor replied, "it doesn't matter to me anymore. soon i will retire, go to my home and resume living out my life. let Him come whenever He wants." he had lost his expectancy.

is there danger in that? can we just live our lives as if it doesn't really matter and what might be the effect of such a thing? the apostle peter spoke of such people in his writings and i believe it foretold of both christian and nonchristian behavior. "where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 pet 3:4

how does the preacher differ from the professor; the one full of expectancy and the other just living as though if it happens, it happens. "therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you." rev

3:3 what does that scripture indicate the cost might be of such an attitude?

i have heard it said that while we are now living in the age of grace, with salvation being free - tribulation saints must receive their salvation through works, spending all for salvation. if true, i don't fully understand the scripture, "that no flesh should glory in His presence." 1 cor 1:29 whatever the case may be, i know it will cost the tribulation saints dearly.

until the appointed time does arrive, i must - we all must expectantly look for our blessed hope and listen for that trumpet call. it's a strange thing about those heavenly summons. only those who were meant to hear could distinguish the sound. the rest simply heard a thunder or an indistinct noise.

has the length of time between His first and second coming caused some to slumber and their ears to become dull of hearing? can we really look at all the obvious signs in the earth and the heavens and really say, "all things continue as they were from the beginning?"

already i can hear so many saying, "rapture, rapture - all of you guys are rapture crazy. that's all you talk about." i tell you this. i had rather have a thousand "disappointments" than miss the real event. do you think God is angry that our hearts are eagerly watching, longing and waiting for His arrival?

is a parent angry at an expectant child at christmas or do they take joy in the child's excitement? we are

like that child, anxiously awaiting and afire to see what the Lord God has prepared for us. and none of us will apologize for longing to begin our life with Him.

i know i am longing. being housebound, i see a human being for less than twenty minutes a day. the rest of the time must be spent in solitude with my thoughts and my Lord, even correspondence being rarely received. i watch some programs to "keep up" but the simple enjoyment of a television show has been taken from me as well. so much is unacceptable to watch and the Holy Spirit navigates me to where He would lead. getting old isn't for sissies i have heard.

"for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." 15:53 our bodies - especially my body - eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. eagerly awaits death to be swallowed up by life. eagerly waits to see, hear and know, "the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 cor 2:9

according to schedule there still remains a millennium (a thousand year period) to fulfill the seven day plan of God's dealings with this world, and we will get to live through all of it. just think, a thousand years of doing it God's way and not man's, remaining for us to know.

just before that, God's wrath must be poured out on the unbeliever. known as the time of jacob's trouble, it will trouble the whole world. they shall know the darkness they have loved more than light. but believers, He will hide us in His pavilion; in the

secret place of His tabernacle. "God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 thess 5:9 that is our blessed hope.

yes, i do believe and expectantly hope our rapture is imminent and set to fulfill an appointed feast day. i have said before to watch the month of september closely, but also my watch will extend into the middle of next month if it be required. the month, day and hour are open to various possibilities but the season is screaming, "harvest time is near." "and then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven." mark 13:27 maranatha!