

the best of times - the worst of times  
(a repeat daily)

"it was the best of times, it was the worst of times,  
it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of  
foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the  
epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it  
was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope,  
it was the winter of despair, we had everything before  
us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct  
to heaven, we were all going direct the other way ..."  
charles dickens ~ a tale of two cities

does that sound anything like today? yes, there has  
been good and bad throughout all generations. i think  
dickens might have expressed best how people may exist  
in the midst of such contradiction. while one may be  
dominant in a life, another the opposite.

might his be another expression of what God said in the  
beginning? "I have set before you life and death,  
blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both  
you and your descendants may live". deut 30:19

there are always two choices one must make. good and  
evil, light and darkness, life and death. if one  
rejects the love and life offered by our Lord, there  
remains only one judgment. "and this is the  
condemnation, that the light has come into the world,  
and men loved darkness rather than light, because their  
deeds were evil." john 3:19

there are those who revel in their deeds of darkness.  
i saw evil manifested one day while watching the news.

a young man strolled past an old person on a walker. he deliberately tripped them and walked on, glancing back smiling, to see how much pain he had inflicted. perhaps because i am older and afflicted, that to me, is evil manifested; to joy in the suffering of others.

does that mean one is beyond reach? there is no one beyond God's reach! however, it may mean they are getting close though. "and even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting". rom 1:28

it is one thing to have entertained the notion "of God", and having rejected it. it may be another thing for one to have doubted, may have never heard or really understood. i feel only one thing in my heart. unless my Lord has directed me to deal differently with someone, i must offer them love as a choice, as a witness. they are not rejecting me, but the One who sent it. i have heard testimonies from some of the cruelest people having come to His saving grace.

i do know that a life lived without Him is often filled with fear, torment and consequences. too many just want to get the "hurt off" and are not truly repentant for the things they have done. "the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – these, o God, You will not despise." psa 51:17

yes, we must come broken, to the end of our rope often. as one looks to gaze on Him and His holiness, they become conscious of far they have fallen short of His glory. it's only the washing blood of the lamb of God

that can remove the years of regret and sorrow one could quickly drown in. some restitution may be required. others may receive a reprieve from Him. God will lead you.

one is truly "born again". they have become a new creature and desire different things. "delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." they will not be the old evil things that once filled your heart. they will be "His desires" birthed anew in your heart. these are the ones He will fulfill.

we fall totally and completely in love with Jesus. He becomes all our desire and we long to please Him. to please Him will cause us to become more like Him. that is the light, the blessing, the love.

i must repeat again the urgency the Lord has placed in my heart. "behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 cor 6:2 now is the time if you're going to serve Him. "the night is far spent, the day is at hand". rom 13:12

look at this world around us, the turmoil, the pain. any doubters, any scoffers, i beg you to join the army of believers as we march for His glory and His kingdom. we go forth not in fear but faith. "now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." luke 21:28

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addendum: it is now the worst of times as we see such darkness and depravity, such lawlessness being openly displayed. our God warned us what the end times would

look like; little did we imagine. but yes, the two times can exist simultaneously. and so exists the best of times. for those of us who believe, we know that our Lord is coming soon to rescue His bride from the wrath to come; from the hour of trial that shall come upon the whole earth. and when we see Him. we shall be like Him; immortal, incorruptible. even so, Lord Jesus, come!