

living horizontal with a vertical view

"while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen." 2 cor 4:18

even now my body is aging and breaking down. it was not built for eternity. that will necessitate this corruptible putting on incorruption; this mortal putting on immortality. sound familiar to anyone?

i have had my share of pain and suffering, more than some and much less than others. the why of it all remains in the safe hands of He who knows best. but this one thing i do know. "as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation." 2 cor 1:7 if you are not "feeling" that consolation, perhaps one needs to move closer to the Lord. consolation is not deliverance. instead, the balm of gilead applied.

"that i may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." phil 3:10 no one enjoys suffering, but like it or not, there are times it has a purpose to fulfill. trust and obedience will lead you through it. bitterness and rejection will only prolong it. "if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it – lest you even be found to fight against God." acts 5:38-39

along with printing, i have had a hand in the graphic arts for most of my life. do you have any idea how many individual pixel it takes to make up a high

resolution picture. depending on the size, it could take millions.

now let that single pixel - no, a tiny fraction of that pixel - represent our lifespan here on earth laid on the timeline of eternity. yet how immeasurably significant that time is in God's eyes. the investment we spend is so minuscule compared to the reward we shall reap. the trials, temptations and pains we endure here are indeed not worthy to be compared. "for i consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." rom 8:18

"we are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed - always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body." 2 cor 4:8-10 our Lord said we would have tribulation in this world, but not to worry. "I have overcome the world." john 16:33

we live horizontally but we need to be viewing things vertically. "the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 cor 4:18 life must be lived forward, but it can only be understood backwards. the things we cannot understand the "why" of, we must commit into His loving hands.

"trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." prov 3:5-6

He shall direct your paths in your horizontal living if your vertical view is upwards and not forwards. a worldly view can only see that mountain before you or that army of obstacles coming against you. "who are you, o great mountain? before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! and he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of 'grace, grace to it!'" zech 4:7

a vertical view will reveal the truth, just as elisha's did. "and elisha prayed, and said, 'Lord, i pray, open his eyes that he may see.' then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around elisha." 2 kings 6:17

if i might, i would make another reference to my experience in the graphic arts. colors are composed of either cmyk or rgb, depending on printed material or whatever. all other colors and shades are created from them. red and blue combined make up the color purple; the color of royalty. when one combines the purity and beauty of the blue heavens with the red blood of Jesus, that is exactly what they get. they get to be kings and priests; children of the almighty God. "behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" 1 john 3:1

we are given a multitude of helps to accomplish the purpose for which we are sent. "for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways." psa 91:11 just keep your eyes on the prize. keep your eyes on Jesus! we cannot, but He can!