

stirred up or stagnate

"therefore i remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." 2 tim 1:6

that was paul's exhortation to timothy. we don't all need the hands of an apostle laid on us to have a gifting of God. there are talents He has given to each of us to use as we will; either for our own advantage or for God's. free will allows each of us to decide.

"salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? it is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out." luke 14:34-35

in like manner, have you lost your saltiness? they used to call sailors salty because of their language. while we do not imitate their cursive language ours should be just as offensive; offensive to those who have their heart set towards perdition. remember how the superman slogan used to go? "truth, justice and the american way." may our slogan be, "truth, justice and God's way."

america was once a beacon that shined forth to many nations in many ways. our export was love and charity, truth and honor. that is why we were blessed. no, we were never the seal of perfection but the closer we drew to God the brighter we shined. now as we have turned our face from God, His face is turning from us.

i'm not confessing american has exceeded God's grace

but we are definitely standing on the edge. jude says, "but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh." jude 1:23 our garment has been defiled by our fleshy ways and only the fire looms ahead.

the enemy seems to have successfully bridled most Godly tongues. we have, as it were, allowed our waters to become stagnate. it is indeed the time to stir up the waters, the gifts and the passion. let them be stagnate no more!

awhile back i wrote a daily entitled "how smelly are you?" you see, scripture says, "for we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." 2 cor 2:15 it is our job to be smelly and salty both.

if one will not accept Christ's gift out of guilt and needed repentance, then they need to learn the fear of God and His judgement to come. "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." prov 9:10 just awhile back we spoke of john newton and the "amazing grace" he found. there is grace to relieve that fear one tasted by a repentant heart.

i pity - truly pity the one who says there is no God. pity because there is no grace that can surface in a godless heart. even if there were no god, there is so much consolation to be found in hope, it buries all doubt with the lie. "if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." 1 cor 15:19

"for there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its tender shoots will not cease." job 14:7 hope is the resting place for a weary heart. it is our shield against the deception of darkness and our sword to stay it's progress against confusion. these are satan's weapons. and "hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." rom 5:5

"therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech." 2 cor 3:12 we stir up that great calling which beckons us on to more glorious things than this life offers. we are salty, smelly and spicy. we "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." heb 4:16

we are on a great commission. "and Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" amen. matt 28:18-20