

almost home

"for man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets." eccl 12:5

i honestly can't believe we are still here. i believe we are that close to His coming, and i am not alone in my thinking. i keep hearing phrases like, "if we're still here," and "we're almost there," and questions like "are we still here?" the convergence of signs convince me that "this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place." matt 24:34

my friend and mentor used to take short trips together on occasion. she once commented to me how her and her boys used to take trips together and, being children, they used to bombard her asking, "how much further is it?" she would reply, "we're almost home." from then on we used to take up the chant when we were nearing home from a trip. "we're almost home," we would chant. now my friend is departed and i am left alone to chant, "we're almost home." it appears she beat me there but we are all, almost certainly nearing there - rounding the final turn, so to speak.

yes, i have become like her little boys were. excited and anxious about getting home. to me getting home is kind of like christmas, only magnified a million times over. i just can wait to unwrap all the wondrous things He has prepared for those who love Him.

i've never been a parent, but i can only imagine the parents have as much joy watching the children as they had opening the gifts. i believe that is how God is

with us. He anxiously wants to give us our gifts. He waits only because He has other gifts He wants to hand out to those who might be late getting up.

in the beginning, the God of joy made a world of joys – a creation full of good, altogether “very good,” and primed to delight his creatures with it. being the work of his hands, we know joy. we have tasted his goodness in his world, even on this side of sin’s curse. we have experienced, however meagerly or infrequently, the blessed emotional surges of God-made delight – in a kind word, in a friend’s hug, in our team’s victory, in a cool breeze, in good food and drink. we know normal joy.

but Christmas is not normal joy. christmas, the gospels say, is great joy. christmas is not natural joy, but supernatural. God set christmas apart. He himself has come down in the person of his Son. the Word has become flesh. the long-awaited Savior is born. when the angel heralded his arrival, he says, “i bring you good tidings of great joy.” luke 2:10

God gave us a world of joys to get us ready for this moment when announcing that “joy” no longer would be enough of expression. it has become “joy unspeakable.” 1 pet 1:8 kjv God delights in giving us unspeakable joy. “fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” luke 12:32

knowing all this, do you think God grows weary or angry we keep pestering and bombarding HIM with the question, “are we almost home?” i think not. instead, i think He questions why His other children are sleeping late.

we are told to watch for that day - the christmas day of our blessed hope.

being so soon after our "natural christmas," i now await our "supernatural christmas," and our presents. "eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 cor 2:9