

THE DAY OF THE LORD IS DRAWING NEAR

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore, encourage one another with these words" **(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).**

Have you noticed the clouds lately?? They have been absolutely beautiful!! They have been the huge white puffy clouds, the kind that looks like you could settle in for a long peaceful nap, all snuggled down into the fluffiness of them! As I watched their changing beauty, I could almost picture our Lord there among them. I could only imagine His coming and that the clouds in all their glory could not even begin to match the glory of our Lord!!

Paul writing to the church in Thessalonica says he doesn't want his brothers and sisters to be taken by surprise!! He wants them to understand what will happen in the end days! He is informing them that the Lord is coming back for those who are sleeping in Christ, who have died and have been waiting, and for those who are still alive on this earth!! THE LORD!! THE KING!! ALMIGHTY GOD!! is coming back for His beloved children!! He is keeping His promise to them that have repented and turned and followed Him with their whole heart!! Paul wants to make sure they know the truth of the Word of God!! He was telling the believers to encourage one another in this promise!!

"And then they will see the SON OF MAN coming in a cloud with power and great glory!! Now when we see these things begin to take place, STRAIGHTEN UP! and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" **(Luke 21:27).**

"Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN coming on the clouds with power and great glory!!" **(Matthew 24:30).**

WAKE UP CHURCH!! Your Savior is coming!! You have been warned!! You have been informed!! HE IS COMING BACK FOR HIS CHURCH!! All those things that we have put before Him will be seen!! Everything that has been done in darkness, spiritual and physical, will be revealed!! We will be judged according to our faithfulness, not our works!! We are to be sold out to Jesus, THE RISEN LORD!!

An angel of the Lord said to a church in Laodicea, "I know your works, you are neither cold nor hot!! Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are LUKEWARM and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of My mouth!! **(Revelation 3:15-16).**

Strong words, truth filled words!! Following Jesus is serious business! It is a matter of eternal life and eternal death!! My concern for the church today is that we are worse than dead, worse than cold, we are LUKEWARM! At least when we are dead, Christ can bring us back to life!! And when we are cold, He can light a fire in us and get us moving again!! To be lukewarm is the worst kind of situation we can be in . . . it is an attitude of "I don't really care about telling others about Jesus or growing in my faith, as long as I get into heaven, that is my goal." Or "I am good the way I am, I am comfortable and happy; don't rock my boat, Jesus!!"

"Behold he is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of all the earth will wail on account of Him" **(Revelation 1:7).**

Dear church, we are all going to meet Jesus, face to face!! What a terrible day that will be for those who have lived in rebellion to the Truth, mocking the Word of God and living their lives as their own god. But what a glorious day it will be for His children, His beloved, the ones He calls His own!! We have so much to look forward to!! That is our joy, our hope, and our strength!!

My prayer for the church is to **Awake!!** And to those who are sleeping to rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on us!! No more lukewarm church!! No more

social clubs in a church building!! No more filling the pews with the bones of dead men and women!!!

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1).

May we be always watching and waiting for our Lord's return!! Do not be uninformed church!!

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