

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

November 9, 2024 – The Forerunner Message in the End Times – Erlinda Cruz

Surviving This Present Evil Days (Part 3)

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As Joel Sorge put it in a recent MATTHEW 24:14 session of our MARANATHA GLOBAL BIBLE STUDY, “the bottom line of the Gospel is obedience.”[20] Our obedience to Jesus, or what He would call our “love” for Him,[21] is made evident when we carry our cross to emulate His cross and die to the things that disparage our souls. It is for freedom He has set us free,[22] and we are bound to that freedom by these splintered planks of bloody wood.

This is how we “overcome” by the blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony, and not white-knuckling our fledgling breath in our feeble lungs on this side of eternity.[23] This is how we become like the One who took on the form of a bondservant, the Word who was God and was with God and is God but took on flesh to live in our neck of the woods, who did not cower in the face of criminal execution.[24] No, He saw the joy on the horizon behind the resurrection and traded His sinlessness for our sinfulness so that we could one day shine just like Him in the Kingdom of our Father.[25]

Do not fear, little flock. It is the Father’s good pleasure....

“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies....”[26] Something in me needs to die. Paul calls it the “old man,” the thing with the fatal appetite clamoring for power and position and prayerlessness.[27]

That thing that leads us into the cesspool of envy and “every evil thing,” every twisted debauchery that once upon a time described all of us.[28]

“But,” thank God, “you were washed.”[29] But you were sanctified.

But you were washed in the water of His word, in the bloody flood of Emmanuel’s veins; do not, then, return to the mud from which you have been rescued.[30]

In all the grief and fatigue of “lawlessness increasing” and “cares of this world,”[31] we have been given a fireproof plan of preservation to survive this present evil age, and it is the cross that executes the old man of death dwelling in all of Adam’s sons and daughters, that we might die in Jesus’ death so that we can be resurrected to Jesus’ resurrection.[32]

So that we can trade the old man for the new man, the old death for the new life, the dying world for the regeneration to come.

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It is not easy. It is not always fun. But it will forever be worth it. Do difficult things. Die without regret.[33] We are all but seeds. Dust we are and to dust we must go.[34] Death in Christ is the only way to live free. And it is for freedom we have been set free. Jesus is the only “way, truth, and life.”[35] He is the only way to survive this present evil age.

We are definitely looking at the return of our Lord and King Jesus! The cross He obeyed to die on that once and for all our sins might be nail to it forevermore! Yes we will survive this present evil days but I see more than a survival ... I see a victorious future sustained in spite of this present evil days! “Be of Good cheer, Jesus said! I have overcome the world!