

9/24/2011

Brothers and Sisters,

Yesterday was the first day of autumn and the trees here in Denver are beginning to turn. Crimson sunsets and fiery sunrises make me glad I live where I do. Those colorful skies always make me think of the saying "Red sky in morning, sailors take warning; Red sky at night, sailors delight. I am not sure what that really means, but I am sure the sailing crowd does. I believe it came from the days before we had weather meteorologists. A while back, someone in the Smoky Mountains tried to revive the ancient art of weather telling and invented a weather rock. They hung a rock from a stick and said: "If it's wet, it's raining; if it's white, it's snowing; if it's hot, the sun is shining; if it's moving, it's windy; if it's gone, it's a tornado. It is simple but true and you can actually buy one online for 5 bucks. I'll bet somebody made a million dollars from that dumb idea. **I think I'll get one for Scott Johns' boat. He is the current Master of Centennial Lodge and yes he is like superman in that he has 2 first names. I love him even though he tried to drown me this summer.**

For the last 9 years I have been blessed to have a large bedroom window that faces east with a clear view of the horizon. I am often awakened by the rising sun as it shines through the clouds sending an array of colors that dance on my walls. I always think of it as God's alarm clock urging me to arise. **As if God were saying: "Check this out, watch my sky change from red to orange to gray and yellow. I did this for you, don't miss it!"** I love to sit with my Bible and a cup of coffee and read God's word while watching the sunrise. It really doesn't matter what time of the year it is, because time alone with the Almighty is one of the things I treasure most.

The other morning while watching the sunrise I read Isaiah 43:18-19 where God says: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." (NIV) I have read that scripture maybe 50 times and it always reminds me to keep moving forward and to focus on today and not on the failures and problems or success of the past. Today will be the yesterday I wasted if I am living in the past. **We all know that the sand moves through the Hour-glass pretty fast and Master Masons are taught that it is emblematical of human life. The lesson goes on to say: "Thus wastes man! Today he puts forth the tender leaves of hope; tomorrow blossoms, and bears his blushing honors thick upon him; the next day comes a frost which nips the shoot; and when he thinks his greatness is still aspiring, he falls, like autumn leaves, to enrich mother earth.**

In 2 months I will be able to say that I have gone around the sun 61 times and for 36 of those trips I have been a Mason. Yet someday the autumn of my life will come and yours too, but that is not the end. **God has given the keys of eternal life with Him, to all who call upon His name.** Too often because we are worried about the past or the future we find ourselves just going through the motions of life and we miss the living of it. If we are not paying attention we miss all the beauty that God provides every day. **Someone once said: "Wherever you are, be there!" That is good advice, don't you think?**

So here is my encouragement - don't miss the beauty of autumn this year. Watch a sunrise and a sunset; notice the changing colors of the sky and clouds and leaves; walk through a park that is full of fallen leaves with a friend or someone you love; let go of your past and live in the moment; read your Bible and ask God to show the "New Things" He is

doing in your life each day; seek God and ask Him to give you the keys of eternal life with Him; show kindness to those around you and do all of this before your sand runs out!

If you are in Denver come to the Robert Russell Eastern Star Chapel this Sunday September 25, 2011 at 6:30 pm. We are having a concert by the world renowned piano player and song writer Dr. Jerry Nelson. He spent the last year touring in Africa and he will make the keyboard come alive. Don't miss it. Everyone is invited; bring your family and friends.

I pray God will bless you and yours,
Rev. Steve Schroeder PM
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