



The Everlasting Nation

Ministry Update

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Now that the Feast of Trumpets—the Feast that prophetically foreshadows the moment when Messiah will return for His Bride, the Church—has come and gone, I want to ask, “Now what?” Do we just wait another year, hoping, waiting, looking, and praying, “Come Lord Jesus, come?” The apostle John writes in 1 John 2:28, *Now, little children abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming* (NASB).

When He appears, when He comes—that’s the Rapture, that’s the Feast of Trumpets—we don’t want to shrink away in shame when the trumpet sounds! This is why John follows these thoughts of shame at His appearing in the next chapter. *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure* (1 John 3:2-3).

When I read these two verses, I must confess, they brought me shame, because to be like Him is to be perfect—the pursuit of perfection! The apostle Paul was not waiting! *Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus* (Phil. 3:12). Paul was not perfect, but perfection was his goal, and the reason: it is God’s goal. *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus* (Phil. 1:6). *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren* (Rom. 8:28-29). God is working all things together for good, and that good has a purpose, and that purpose is to conform us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Everyone who has the hope of perfection does not wait for the Rapture, the Feast of Trumpets, or the trumpet to sound. The apostle John teaches us, *everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure* (1 John 3:3). Now what? What should the preoccupation of our hearts be? We examine a life lived, confess our sins, and repent—turning from everything and anything that interferes with the goal of perfection! *That you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Tim. 6:14).

Do you think the writers of Scripture want us preoccupied with His appearing? These thoughts created a challenge for my life: if I were one of those select few who are alive next September and the trumpet were to sound, would I shrink away in shame because I was not keeping the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing?

Because of Him,

Michael Campo Jr.

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