

The Rowland Report

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Youth Unlimited

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“Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts.” Joel 2:12 (NLT)

Dear Friends and Family,

This month I have a difficult message to share, a very different message from our normal reports. But after seeking the Lord's face, I am compelled.

In Matthew 24:12, it seems as though Jesus is describing our current world situation when He says that **“Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.”** Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't this the case today? Isn't sin (and even the celebration of sin) running rampant? And hasn't the love of many (even within the Christian community) appeared to have grown cold? Does it sometimes make you feel weary like it does us? Jesus goes on to say in verses thirteen and fourteen that **“The one who endures to the end will be saved. And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.”**

I don't want to be one who lets my heart grow cold (or even lukewarm). I am repenting of any involvement in “project lukewarm” and asking the Lord to help me and my family and fellow believers to endure, to be faithful, and to continue running the race that He has set out before us. I want to be one who participates in any way I can in preaching the Good News about the Kingdom - here in my own neighbourhood and all around the world.

It is my observation that many of us (perhaps all of us) have been deeply wounded during our journey through this life. This “wounding” seems to come to almost all of us at one time or another. The evil one then takes this as an opportunity to whisper in our ear and say, **“Does God really love you? And if He does, why did He allow _____ to happen to you?”** If we take the bait into our hearts, we become trapped in a downward spiral of self-centredness, compromise and faithlessness.

Psalms 106:24-25 speaks of the Israelites (and perhaps even some in this modern day), saying, **“The people refused to enter the pleasant land, for they wouldn't believe his promise to care for them. Instead, they grumbled in their tents and refused to obey the Lord.”** Do you believe God's promise to care for you, even though you have been wounded in this life? I strongly believe that we must replace the whispers of the evil one with the absolute truth of God's word. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 says,

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him... For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.”

This is the truth that we must meditate on as we continue forward in faith. Don't let *anything or anyone* hold you back from living the life that Jesus died to give you! He will help you to fulfil your destiny and complete your important assignment in the Kingdom. Let's walk this road together.

With Sincere Love, Sam & Rita

