

Notes: Shabbat – December 26, 2020

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and greet
2. Introduction
3. Announcements
4. Liturgy – Ma to vu, Sh'ma, Avenu
5. Music
6. Message
7. Time of prayer
8. Aaronic Blessing
9. Kiddush
10. Oneg

Title: Shepherding Through Uncertainty

I want to start today with an excerpt from a recent article by Susan Crabtree - *RealClearPolitics'* *White House/national political correspondent.*

It was already a deeply moving tour through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum when it became personal for one visitor. Senior State Department officials were wending their way through the sobering exhibits accompanied by recent survivors of religious persecution at an event kicking off the 2019 Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, a Washington gathering of high-level delegations from 106 countries around the globe.

When the group reached the display of a train car Nazis used to deport Jews to concentration camps eight decades ago, Wai Wai Nu, a Rohingya Muslim and Burmese human rights activist, stopped short.

“This reminds me of Burma today,” she told her American guide, Knox Thames, who was an adviser for religious minorities at the State Department. Wai Wai Nu was imprisoned for seven years because of her father’s political activism, an act of repression years before the brutal crackdown by Burma’s army against her fellow Rohingya, which began in 2017 and has left an estimated 24,000 dead. Nearly 1 million Rohingya have since fled into Bangladesh while some 600,000 who remain in Burma have been transported to camps and villages, cut off from access to adequate food, water, health care and education.

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2020/12/10/religious_freedom_will_us_emphasis_continue_under_biden_144817.html

The article is entitled - *Religious Freedom: Will U.S. Emphasis Continue Under Biden?*

This is but one example of what is transpiring in countries around the world whereby a group of people, a sect, who identify as followers of a specific religion are being persecuted for what they believe. I have shared accounts of China's oppression of Uyghur Muslims yet there is another group of people who may be expunged from the annals of time.

Here is yet another excerpt from an article originally published in the Telegraph of London shares the following horrific reality occurring in China today...

Kaifeng is a historic former capital of China. Jews settled here over a thousand years ago but there is now little evidence of their presence – Daily Telegraph
As well as Christians and Muslims, Mr Xi’s suppression has hit China’s tiny congregation of Jews, whose ancestors settled more than a millennium ago along the Yellow River in Kaifeng, then the capital of the Northern

Song Dynasty.

That such a small group can attract the Communist Party's ire shows how far the crackdown has spread. Only about 1,000 people in Kaifeng claim Jewish heritage, and of those, only around 100 or are practising Jews, experts say – barely a splash in China's sea of 1.4 billion. Even at its peak in the 1500s, the community only numbered around 5,000.

"It's government policy – China doesn't want to recognise us as Jews," one man, who dreams of training as a rabbi in Israel, told the Telegraph. "Their goal is to make sure the next generation doesn't have any Jewish identity."

A handful of schools that taught Hebrew and Judaism – established by foreign Jews visiting Kaifeng – have been forced to shutter. Exhibits in a museum and historic merchant guild hall that documented the history of Jews in the city have also disappeared in favour of large pictures of Mr Xi.

<https://www.theyucatanimes.com/2020/12/chinas-tiny-jewish-community-in-fear-as-beijing-erases-its-history/>

The Uyghurs are not the only people in China being oppressed by the Chinese Communist Party, the authoritative government vessel that implements and thus enforces such human rights violations. Such violations that the world has ignored as has this country until earlier this year...

China threatened retaliation after U.S. President Donald Trump signed legislation on Wednesday calling for sanctions over the repression of China's Uighurs, as excerpts from a book by his former national security adviser alleged he had approved of their mass detention.

The bill, which Congress passed with only one "no" vote, was intended to send China a strong message on human rights by mandating sanctions against those responsible for oppression of members of China's Muslim minority.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-xinjiang/trump-signs-bill-pressuring-china-over-ughur-muslim-crackdown-idUSKBN23O3EW>

A Pew Research survey from 2017, its 10th anniversary of its original study on religious restrictions around the world conveys the trend over the last 10 years to be equally disturbing as the three examples I have already shared with you. Pew's opening statement for the 2017 study reads as follows:

Over the decade from 2007 to 2017, government restrictions on religion – laws, policies and actions by state officials that restrict religious beliefs and practices – increased markedly around the world. And social hostilities involving religion – including violence and harassment by private individuals, organizations or groups...

<https://www.pewforum.org/2019/07/15/a-closer-look-at-how-religious-restrictions-have-risen-around-the-world/>

Religious liberty around the world is under attack, regardless of what faith you ascribe to be. We have seen a heightened aggression towards religion in general and Christianity specifically intensify. The question I want to pose today is... "What is in store for this nation should there be a transfer of power and thus a new administration?"

Rom 8:31 What, then, are we to say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

These things that came before verse 31 I will share with you later. For now, consider the condition, the state of what is transpiring today as Sha'ul is incorporating this passage in his letter to believers in Rome and what they were enduring then.

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare even his own Son, but gave him up on behalf of us all—is it possible that, having given us his Son, he would not give us everything else too?

Rom 8:33 So who will bring a charge against God's chosen people? Certainly not God—he is the one who causes them to be considered righteous!

Rom 8:34 Who punishes them? Certainly not the Messiah Yeshua, who died and—more than that—has been raised, is at the right hand of God and is actually pleading on our behalf!

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of the Messiah? Trouble? Hardship? Persecution? Hunger? Poverty? Danger? War?

Can anything truly separate us from the Love of Messiah. Sha'ul's answer is no. Yet this doesn't mean we are exempt of the things of verse 35.

- Trouble?
- Hardship?
- Persecution?
- Hunger?
- Poverty?
- Danger?
- War?

So, as believers what do we need to be prepared for given a potential transition to a new administration?

First, I still believe there is hope that this will not happen and I am not raising the white flag because if this year has shown me anything it is never to count Adonai out of any situation. No, what I am sharing with you is a means of preparation as I attempt to shepherd you through an uncertain time. There are still events that have not yet taken place that can further change the dynamic of the country.

The greatest variable right now is the two Senate seat elections in Georgia that takes place on January 5th. This more than anything could forever transform the framework and therefore the direction of this nation. In combination with a transition of the oval office and both Senate seats being secured by the Democratic party, there would be no means in preventing paradigm shifting changes for this nation. A 50 / 50 Senate would be in control of the Democratic party in that the Vice-President would be the tie-breaking vote. Along with the House of Representatives there would be no check of power or the overreach of power the Democratic party would wield.

I want you to go back four years ago when then President-elect Trump was in transition and thus preparing to take office on January 20th 2017. Believe it or not, he was an unknown at the time. Seen as a New York Liberal for many years, running within the Republican party, garnering the party's nomination and then the Presidency the biggest question I had was – Will he govern as he campaigned.

President Trump garnered 81% of evangelical voters and thus had promised to be our voice. Was he going to be true to his word or would he travel down the path of past politicians of empty campaign promises and hyperbolic rhetoric only to go back on his campaign pledges.

I taking you back in time because the same question from four years ago is the same question today. Would a President Biden govern as he campaigned? Yet this question does not remain in a vacuum because unlike President Trump, Mr. Biden has an extensive public record, first as a sitting Senator for 36 years and then as Vice President for 8 years.

Mr. Biden has been identified as a devout Catholic. Yet, as a devout Catholic Mr. Biden has changed his position regarding the Hyde Amendment. What is the Hyde Amendment?

*"The **Hyde Amendment** is a legislative provision barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except to save the life of the woman, or if the pregnancy arises from incest or rape. Originally passed in 1976, then Senator Biden was in favor of the amendment. Before the Hyde Amendment took effect in 1980, an estimated 300,000 abortions were performed annually using taxpayer funds."*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyde_Amendment

Then during a Vice-Presidential debate in 2012 then VP Biden made the following statement:

"I accept my church's position on abortion as a what we call de fide doctrine. Life begins at conception. That's the church's judgment. I accept it in my personal life," he said. "But I refuse to impose it on equally devout Christians and Muslims and Jews. I just refuse to impose that on others," he said.

He added: "I do not believe that we have a right to tell other people, women, that they can't control their bodies. That's a decision between them and their doctor, in my view, and the Supreme Court, I'm not going to interfere with that."

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/05/politics/what-is-hyde-amendment-joe-biden/index.html>

So, in one breath he believes in it yet in another "political" breath he refuses to impose such a belief on others.

Consider two of the most recent legal cases that made their way to the Supreme Court and are the result of the Obama Biden administration.

Speaking of Mr. Biden's desire not to impose such beliefs, this is exactly what transpired with "***Little Sisters of the Poor Saints Peter and Paul Home v. Pennsylvania***" and the contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care). The case went all the way to the Supreme Court.

Court arguments were made trying to balance religious freedom versus women's health.

The Supreme Court issued its ruling on July 8, 2020. The decision found that the rules put forth by the HHS and other departments were valid as they had the authority under the ACA to issue them, and that there were no procedural issues under the APA with how they were put into place. The ruling reversed the Third Circuit and remanded the case for review. The 7–2 majority opinion was written by Justice Clarence Thomas which was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. Thomas wrote that "We hold that the [administration] had the authority to provide exemptions from the regulatory contraceptive requirements for employers with religious and conscientious objections."

On election President Donald Trump implemented an Executive Order to the HHS to bypass the traditional regulation process, leading to HHS devising new rules in late 2017 to give for-profits groups the ability to exempt themselves for both religious or moral objections to the mandate.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Sisters_of_the_Poor_Saints_Peter_and_Paul_Home_v._Pennsylvania

A similar case was Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby - a landmark decision in United States corporate law by the United States Supreme Court allowing closely held for-profit corporations to be exempt from a regulation its owners religiously object to, if there is a less restrictive means of furthering the law's interest, according to the provisions of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burwell_v._Hobby_Lobby_Stores,_Inc.

Why am I mentioning these cases?

They both involve sanctity of life for which a Biden campaign was strikingly silent as to how they would view such cases. Regarding the Little Sisters of the Poor, it was simply an executive order that further established a change in policy. If you are not aware, executive orders can be somewhat easily reversed by a new administration.

One such executive order signed by President Trump involved the Johnson Amendment.

What is the Johnson Amendment?

*The **Johnson Amendment** is a provision in the [U.S. tax code](#), since 1954, that prohibits all [501\(c\)\(3\) non-profit organizations](#) from endorsing or opposing political candidates. Section 501(c)(3) organizations are the most common type of nonprofit organization in the United States, ranging from [charitable foundations](#) to universities and churches. The amendment is named for then-Senator [Lyndon B. Johnson](#) of Texas, who introduced it in a preliminary draft of the law in July 1954.*

In other words a Pastor or Rabbi speaking out against a political candidate's policy could lead to complications as imposed by the Department of Treasury. What agency resides under the umbrella of Treasury – The Internal Revenue Service.

On May 4, 2017, Trump signed the "Presidential Executive Order Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty." The executive order does not repeal the Johnson Amendment, nor does it allow ministers to endorse from the pulpit, but it does halt the enforcement of its consequences by directing the [Department of Treasury](#) that "churches should not be found guilty of implied endorsements where secular organizations would not be."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnson_Amendment

Technically, we are not a 501c3 corporation but should this executive order be nullified, we could become a target. We have already seen challenges State governments have been making towards Religious groups, NY State and the Orthodox community, California and churches. Removal of further protection such as the ability restricting enforcement of the Johnson Amendment, and what has occurred in other countries with no push back could be coming to America.

These are just a few observations pertaining to faith and government and what it may look like should there be a transition to a new administration.

What is in store for us as believers in Yeshua?

If this past summer is any indication, it doesn't look promising.

Yet, let's go back to this primary verse...

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of the Messiah? Trouble? Hardship? Persecution? Hunger? Poverty? Danger? War?

Sha'ul is writing this verse in the midst and height of Roman oppression of Y'hudah. Thus the potential for the powerful Roman empire to inflict such actions upon the Jewish people would be considered a "clear and present" threat. Think of the threat of war being imminent within Europe in the 1930s. The pending threat was ever noticeable.

Today, we as believers have experienced something of a reprieve, yet this reprieve may be coming to an end.

Is Trouble on the horizon?

What about Hardship and even Persecution?

As a congregation, we started in the midst of the Obama Administration and witnessed the absence of the body of Messiah from the battle...not physical, but spiritual. An absence in 2012 when same sex marriage was on the ballot. An absence in their voice being heard at the ballot box. The difference in the vote for the referendum that would make same sex marriage legal in the state of Maine, one of four states to vote, prior to it becoming the law of the land in June 2015 as a result of a Supreme Court decision...

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/obergefell-v-hodges-ruling-same-sex-marriage-legalized-nationwide>

was 35,000 votes for which only 50% of Christians actually voted in 2012.

So, we have been in the midst of this nation moving away from Adonai and His Word for decades. So, unfortunately, I am not here to tell you I believe it will get better, but to offer you hope when the aspects of Romans 8:35 do occur.

- What does Scripture say about Troubles?

Joh 16:29 The talmidim said to him, "Look, you're talking plainly right now, you're not speaking indirectly at all.

Joh 16:30 Now we know that you know everything, and that you don't need to have people put their questions into words. This makes us believe that you came from God."

Joh 16:31 Yeshua answered, "Now you do believe.

Joh 16:32 But a time is coming—indeed it has come already—when you will be scattered, each one looking out for himself; and you will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone; because the Father is with me.

Joh 16:33 "I have said these things to you so that, united with me, you may have shalom. In the world, you have tsuris. But be brave! I have conquered the world!"

Yeshua's talmidim experienced troubles. The Roman empire was egregious and oppressive. We are nowhere near that...yet.

- What Does Scripture Say About Hardship?

Hardship can take on many forms, whatever they may be remember this...

Jas 1:2 Regard it all as joy, my brothers, when you face various kinds of temptations;

Jas 1:3 for you know that the testing of your trust produces perseverance.

Jas 1:4 But let perseverance do its complete work; so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.

Jas 1:5 Now if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all generously and without reproach; and it will be given to him.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in trust, doubting nothing; for the doubter is like a wave in the sea being tossed and driven by the wind.

- What Does Scripture Say About Persecution?

Yeshua's talmidim were made aware of what would occur because of their relationship to Yeshua. He told them...

Mat 10:18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as a testimony to them and to the Goyim.

Mat 10:19 But when they bring you to trial, do not worry about what to say or how to say it; when the time comes, you will be given what you should say.

Mat 10:20 For it will not be just you speaking, but the Spirit of your heavenly Father speaking through you.

Mat 10:21 "A brother will betray his brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against their parents and have them put to death.

Mat 10:22 Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever holds out till the end will be preserved from harm.

Mat 10:23 When you are persecuted in one town, run away to another. Yes indeed; I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Isra'el before the Son of Man comes.

Whereby Sha'ul conveys this encouragement to Timothy who will then convey Sha'ul's words to others...

2Ti 3:10 But you, you have closely followed my teaching, conduct, purpose in life, trust, steadfastness, love and perseverance—

2Ti 3:11 as well as the persecutions and sufferings that came my way in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

2Ti 3:12 And indeed, all who want to live a godly life united with the Messiah Yeshua will be persecuted,

2Ti 3:13 while evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves.

2Ti 3:14 But you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, recalling the people from whom you learned it;

2Ti 3:15 and recalling too how from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which can give you the wisdom that leads to deliverance through trusting in Yeshua the Messiah.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living;

2Ti 3:17 thus anyone who belongs to God may be fully equipped for every good work.

- What Does Scripture Say About Hunger and Poverty?

Mat 6:25 "Therefore, I tell you, don't worry about your life—what you will eat or drink; or about your body—what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing?

Mat 6:26 Look at the birds flying about! They neither plant nor harvest, nor do they gather food into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they are?

Mat 6:27 Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to his life?

Mat 6:28 "And why be anxious about clothing? Think about the fields of wild irises, and how they grow. They neither work nor spin thread,

Mat 6:29 yet I tell you that not even Shlomo in all his glory was clothed as beautifully as one of these.

Mat 6:30 If this is how God clothes grass in the field—which is here today and gone tomorrow, thrown in an oven—won't he much more clothe you? What little trust you have!

Mat 6:31 "So don't be anxious, asking, 'What will we eat?,' 'What will we drink?' or 'How will we be clothed?'

Mat 6:32 For it is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

Go back to Exodus 16 for a minute. Consider the trust that was required on a daily basis by the children of Israel.

Exo 16:15 When the people of Isra'el saw it, they asked each other, "Man hu? [*What is it?*]" because they didn't know what it was. Moshe answered them, "It is the bread which Adonai has given you to eat.

Exo 16:16 Here is what Adonai has ordered: each man is to gather according to his appetite—each is to take an `omer [*two quarts*] per person for everyone in his tent."

Exo 16:17 The people of Isra'el did this. Some gathered more, some less;

Exo 16:18 but when they put it in an `omer-measure, whoever had gathered much had no excess; and whoever had gathered little had no shortage; nevertheless each person had gathered according to his appetite.

Exo 16:19 Moshe told them, "No one is to leave any of it till morning."

Exo 16:20 But they didn't pay attention to Moshe, and some kept the leftovers until morning. It bred worms and rotted, which made Moshe angry at them.

Exo 16:21 So they gathered it morning after morning, each person according to his appetite; but as the sun grew hot, it melted.

You couldn't gather more and store it but you had to gather a day's measure for each person and that was your provision. They were required to do so, day in and day out, unless it was the day prior to Shabbat when they would gather a double measure that would sustain them through Shabbat. The premise here, is if Adonai provided for Isra'el in the desert, why wouldn't He provide for those who have accepted His Son.?

- What Does Scripture Say About Danger?

Danger conveys that you will experience harm,,,that is that you will be put in danger and thus experience harm. It could be physical, mental, spiritual. Consider Kefa's inspired words...

1Pe 4:12 Dear friends, don't regard as strange the fiery ordeal occurring among you to test you, as if something extraordinary were happening to you.

1Pe 4:13 Rather, to the extent that you share the fellowship of the Messiah's sufferings, rejoice; so that you will rejoice even more when his Sh'khinah is revealed.

1Pe 4:14 If you are being insulted because you bear the name of the Messiah, how blessed you are! For the Spirit of the Sh'khinah, that is, the Spirit of God, is resting on you!

1Pe 4:15 Let none of you suffer for being a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or a meddler in other people's affairs.

1Pe 4:16 But if anyone suffers for being Messianic, let him not be ashamed; but let him bring glory to God by the way he bears this name.

1Pe 4:17 For the time has come for the judgment to begin. It begins with the household of God; and if it starts with us, what will the outcome be for those who are disobeying God's Good News?—

1Pe 4:18 "If the righteous is barely delivered, where will the ungodly and sinful end up?"

1Pe 4:19 So let those who are suffering according to God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator by continuing to do what is good.

Finally...

- What Does Scripture Say About War?

Mat 24:6 You will hear the noise of wars nearby and the news of wars far off; see to it that you don't become frightened. Such things must happen, **but the end is yet to come.**

Mat 24:7 For peoples will fight each other, nations will fight each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various parts of the world;

Mat 24:8 all this is but the beginning of the 'birth-pains.'

This warning is amongst several warnings conveyed by Yeshua when His talmidim asked Him when He would return. Yeshua says..."...but the end is not yet." When He warns of what is about to happen, we should remain sober minded, paying attention to what is happening around us.

Sha'ul warns of all these things yet the emphasis should not be place on what is going to happen but rather who we can trust. None of these things that will happen have the power to truly separate us from the love of Messiah. Thus indicating His love is more powerful than anything we will ever have to endure in this world. We have example after example of those who love Adonai and thus hold onto His promises.

The intentional silence of the Biden campaign is intended to conceal what they will unleash upon this nation. All the pieces are not in place yet. Again one big piece is what happens on January 5th.

The preview of what a potential cabinet will look like is rather disturbing. Retreds from the Obama Administration mixed in with some extremely socialist ideologies does not make for a shining city upon a hill. Administrations come and go, yet Adonai remains as does His Word...

Mat 5:13 "You are salt for the Land. But if salt becomes tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except being thrown out for people to trample on.

Mat 5:14 "You are light for the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Mat 5:15 Likewise, when people light a lamp, they don't cover it with a bowl but put it on a lampstand, so that it shines for everyone in the house.

Mat 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they may see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Light can overpower darkness where the darkness has to flee. Should you not live in this truth you will ultimately be defeated before you even start.

Joh 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not suppressed it.

Darkness does not have the power to overcome light. Darkness' power only exists in the absence of light.

Joh 3:18 Those who trust in him are not judged; those who do not trust have been judged already, in that they have not trusted in the one who is God's only and unique Son.

Joh 3:19 "Now this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness rather than the light. Why? Because their actions were wicked.

Joh 3:20 For everyone who does evil things hates the light and avoids it, so that his actions won't be exposed.

Joh 3:21 But everyone who does what is true comes to the light, so that all may see that his actions are accomplished through God."

Joh 12:36 While you have the light, put your trust in the light, so that you may become people of light." Yeshua

said these things, then went off and kept himself hidden from them.

Joh 12:37 Even though he had performed so many miracles in their presence, they still did not put their trust in him,

Joh 12:38 in order that what Yesha`yahu the prophet had said might be fulfilled, "Adonai, who has believed our report? To whom has the arm of Adonai been revealed?"

Joh 12:39 The reason they could not believe was—as Yesha`yahu said elsewhere—

Joh 12:40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so that they do not see with their eyes, understand with their hearts, and do t'shuvah, so that I could heal them."

Joh 12:41 (Yesha`yahu said these things because he saw the Sh'khinah of Yeshua and spoke about him.)

Joh 12:42 Nevertheless, many of the leaders did trust in him; but because of the P'rushim they did not say so openly, out of fear of being banned from the synagogue;

Joh 12:43 for they loved praise from other people more than praise from God.

Don't try to keep up with the Jones' but rather keep up with Yeshua. For the verses prior to Romans 8:31 – 35 were...

Rom 8:28 Furthermore, we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose;

Rom 8:29 because those whom he knew in advance, he also determined in advance would be conformed to the pattern of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers;

Rom 8:30 and those whom he thus determined in advance, he also called; and those whom he called, he also caused to be considered righteous; and those whom he caused to be considered righteous he also glorified!

Though we may not be certain what will transpire next year, next week or even tomorrow we are certain that what ever does we remain connected to Yeshua, so long as we choose to. None of these circumstances can separate us from Messiah nor His promises. Technically, you didn't know what you were signing up for when accepted Yeshua. Yet this is where the chaff is separated from the wheat for Yochanan the Immerser conveys...

Mat 3:11 It's true that I am immersing you in water so that you might turn from sin to God; but the one coming after me is more powerful than I—I'm not worthy even to carry his sandals—and he will immerse you in the Ruach HaKodesh and in fire.

Mat 3:12 He has with him his winnowing fork; and he will clear out his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn but burning up the straw with unquenchable fire!"

You are the wheat, not the straw or chaff.

This world is but a sauna. You may have to sweat a bit, but you shine.