

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Idealism and Realism

Introduction

I am aware of one creature that is a realist and idealist. It is the oyster. By whatever means a piece of sand gets into the shell greatly irritating the oyster is not condemned to an existence of irritation and pain. It begins to cover the piece of sand, and in time is produced a pearl.

It is a comfort to me to know God is not an idealist alone, but also a realist! It is easy to speak about the ideal quietness unflustered rest in the life of a believer, however, in the normal functions of life there are times of stress and realistically, in this real world life can have many disappointments and tears. In the stark moments of realism "peace" is far removed from our hearts and minds. For many saints the questions swirl; "What am I going to do, how will I manage?" Others are going through bereavement, the loss of a job, the sickness of a child, a missing loved one, and "still waters" (Psa. 23:2) are far removed from life. To them, God seeks to encourage by being an idealist, reminding them of the dark valley that He, the God of all comfort (2 Cor. 1:3) can come close by the Comforter (Jn. 14:16), the Holy Spirit, and the succouring of our High Priest (Heb. 2:18) bringing peace and rest to our hearts.

- a) The disciples knew the stress of situations the Lord let them be brought into. When in the boat in the storm and it was about to sink (Mk. 4:38), that was a stressful situation. They were realistic knowing that drowning was a definite possibility. When He asked the disciples about buying bread for the multitude (Jn. 6:5), that was a stressful situation. Philip answering realistically said that even 200 pennyworth of bread could not suffice.
- b) The answer is idealism, that is bring God into the equation.
- c) What was the answer to the stressful situations of life?
 - i) With the two on the Emmaus Road, for not only did He draw near but also it is recorded: "went with them" (Lk. 24:15). The reality of the conscious knowledge that the Lord was there and in complete control, tempered the stress and gave rest.
 - ii) Another truth that can temper stress is His words: "I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20); "let not your heart be troubled" (Jn. 14:1);
 - iii) Another truth is that the Lord is in control of the happenings of life and nothing has taken Him by surprise. He knows nothing of stress, but dwells in serenity and quietness. He knows nothing of rushing and the pressure to get things done, or is agitated about waiting for things to come to fruition. When we live in the reality of His sovereignty and complete control then we also can have peace and rest.

When we consider "rest", that is freedom from agitation, frustration, and panic, but where can this rest be found? True rest is living in the consciousness of God's abiding person and power.

Meditations on Some Aspects of “Rest”

- 1) The first time the truth of “rest” is mentioned is when we are informed that God rested (Gen. 2:2-3). This was not the rest from exhaustion from work, but the rest of all being in perfection and in conformity to His will. How lovely to know we have a God who is never weary (Isa. 40:28), and yet our Lord who is God knew what weariness was (Jn. 4:6). At a point of time after God finished His work sin came into the world and God began the great process of seeking to bring man back into fellowship with Himself. In this age the trinity is functioning in multi spheres to ultimately bring about conditions where sin will never again be found, and when God is “all in all” (1 Cor. 15:28), then all is peace forevermore.
- 3) One of the most beautiful thoughts of rest is when the Lord bowed His Head on the cross. The word means, “to rest”, and it is the word used when the Lord said: “The Son of man hath not where to lay His head (Matt. 8:20; Lk. 9:58).
- 4) Because of the righteously finished work of Christ He can offer salvation to the whosoever will. His words resound through the centuries: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matt. 11:28, 29).
- 5) The rest of salvation, ceasing from our works, depending in quiet assurance that we have a High Priest who is there for us to succour and present Himself before God in all His perfections.
- 6) There is one thing we soon learn in the Christian life, it is not a bed of roses! There are struggles and trials which the unsaved never have, and added to this there is the enemy who seeks to depress us constantly. One of the afflictions is to have constant turmoil from the unsaved and the agitation of the flesh to get even. To us God says: “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him” (Psa. 37:7). That is, do not respond to this in the natural way by taking things into your own hands. Just wait without inward or outward agitation, nor murmuring on the Lord, rest on Him.
- 7) The last time the truth of rest from labour is when it says concerning the saints: “They may rest from their labours” (Rev. 14:13).
 - a) My Dad loved the hymn; “When All My Trials and Labours Are O’er”, and thank God there is coming a day when the weariness from the labours, but not of the labours, will be over. The Lord was wearied in the work of God but not of it. Some have struggled in the mission field for many years, others at home in the local church, some have toiled in care for others, and others worked in obscurity from early morning to late at night. In heaven we shall not sit doing nothing, there will be total freedom to work, for the powers of sin and Satan will be forever gone, and in the purity of love we shall serve Him.

As we rest in the finished work of the Lord, and now as we face death, live and rest in hope, we look beyond the veil and anticipate the blessedness when we sing the truths of Charles Gabriels’ hymn:

When all my labours and trials are o’er,
And I am safe on that beautiful shore,
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore,
Will through the ages be glory for me.

Refrain:

*O that will be glory for me,
Glory for me, glory for me,
When by His grace I shall look on His face,
That will be glory, be glory for me.*

... Rowan Jennings

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