

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

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

No. 155

January 2025

Thank God For Eyesight

There can be no doubt that Abraham was one of the greatest men in the history of the world. He was raised in an idolatrous background (Josh. 24:2) yet became the living manifestation of the way of salvation (Rom. 4:1-5). As we consider this man, the Holy Spirit has used him to teach us wonderful lessons on the ongoing Christian life. There is recorded:

- a) One superlative sacrifice manifesting His faith and devotion to God (Gen. 22:9; Heb. 11:17)
- b) Two richly symbolic offerings (Gen. 15:9-18; Gen. 22:13)
- c) Three times referred to as the "Friend of God" (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; Jam. 2:23)
- d) Four times building altars (Gen. 12:7, 8; 13:18; 22:9)
- e) Five times there is reference to his "looking" (Gen. 18:2; 22:4, 13; Jn. 8:56; Heb. 11:10), and in this we observe God emphasizing His wonderful eyes.
 - i) He saw the angels coming and it resulted in communion and revelation from God. (Gen. 18:2, 17-19)
 - ii) He saw the place of testing of his devotion and faith. (Gen. 22:4)
 - iii) He saw the ram of substitution in the thicket. (Gen. 22:13)
 - iv) He saw the Lord's day (Jn. 8:56), and the city which hath foundations. (Heb. 11:10)

By contrast we sadly consider Lot who looked and saw the well watered plain of Jordan, and it was just like Egypt (Gen. 13:10). Lot looked earthward and ultimately lost everything, ending his days in shame (Gen. 19:30-36). Abraham looked Godward gaining everything, and ended his days in fellowship with God (Gen. 25:7-8).

When the Holy Spirit caused Paul to write to the church at Ephesus, he was made to take three great looks at how God has shown His love for us. He bids us look at:

- a) How God has shown His love toward us historically:
 - i) "He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4)
 - ii) "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself" (Eph. 1:5)
- b) How God shows His love toward us in the present:
 - i) "Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3)
 - ii) "We should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (Eph. 1:4)
 - iii) "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Eph. 1:7)
 - iv) "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance" (Eph. 1:11)
 - v) "Ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13)
 - vi) "That God . . . may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the

riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe” (Eph. 1:17-19)

- c) How God shows His love toward us in the future
 - i) The Holy Spirit is the “earnest of our inheritance” (Eph. 1:14)

Then Paul lifts our eyes to another level. Brethren and sisters, lift your eyes and see the richness and purpose of God’s blessings:

- a) They are according to His purposes / His will. (Eph. 1:6, 9, 11)
- b) They are for “the praise of His glory”. (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14)

Who or what shall we fix our eyes upon?

As we stand at the beginning of the New Year we must face realities. There are saints who will end this year beholding the face of the Lord (Rev. 22:4). For others it will be a year to look back on with joy, and for others the memory of it will bring sorrow. For all of us it may be the year we shall be released from this vale of tears as we hear the shout: “Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away” (Song of Sol. 2:13).

If we look inward we see failure and weakness, if we look abroad we see catastrophic events on earth and the wickedness of man accelerating, if we look upward we see a Throne and the Throne Sitter with all under His control (Rev. 4:1-11). However, while still in this world the Lord bids us by saying: “Looking unto Jesus” (Heb. 12:2). We can look for His soon return and ultimately His glory (Jn. 17:24); or the time when the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth (Hab. 2:14). But, as I live now in this scene of time with afflictions, sorrows, and tears, what is it that can spur me on now? It is the constant: “Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith”. As we muse pondering deeply and worshipping our Lord, we quickly say “Amen” to the hymn writer who wrote: “Thy glories all excelling, in pure effulgence shine”; or to the words of the Queen of Sheba: “The half was not told me” (1 Kgs. 10:7); or to that which the young woman said about her beloved: “He is altogether lovely” (Song of Sol. 5:16).

The most spiritual minds and highest spirit taught individuals, using the greatest oratory and literary skills, can never convey in fulness the supernal excellencies in the Lord. He is not a subject to be studied, but a person to be admired. His works are things to be meditated on and His words are matters to be mused upon.

It is irrelevant what aspect we contemplate, whither it is His characteristics of gentleness without harshness, accessibility without aloofness, generosity without belittlement, humbling without humiliating, faithfulness without agitation, joy without hurtfulness, sorrows without hypocrisy, love without emptiness, and hate without mercy; each is perfect in itself and never detracts from any other. In His offices, whether they be kingship, judgship, mediator-ship, or any other, He is perfectly qualified and fulfills each in perpetual perfection. He is the full revelation of the heart of God the Father and the only unblemished man who ever lived.

He is high above all for he is the:

- a) “High and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity” (Isa. 57:15)
- b) “Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last” (Rev. 1:11)
- c) “Beginning of the creation of God” (Rev. 3:14)
- d) “Firstborn from the dead” (Col. 1:18)
- e) “Firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29)
- f) “Apostle and High Priest of our profession” (Heb. 3:1)

Blessed is the privilege of casting aside this world’s vanities for the joy of seeing Him.

Search the annals of history of every age and clime and it will be discovered that no other man reveals so perfectly God and the Father, discloses so many facets of truth in perfection, nor controls every sphere of administration. He will never be outshone or deficient in any degree, or in any area of true evaluations. No one can compete with Him and He has no peers. In Him every characteristic, every capacity, every attribute and faculty is perfection personified. He is the all glorious for He has:

- a) A glorious Name: “Then the Levites . . . said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise” (Neh. 9:5)
- b) A glorious Body: “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” (Phil. 3:21)
- c) Glorious power: “Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness” (Col. 1:11)

The incomparable, inexpressible, inconceivable glories of Christ are excellencies which only God can not only comprehend, but comprehend in fulness.

As we gaze with adoring wonder on our glorious Lord, it is with awe we repeat the words of the ancient King: "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come before Him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (1 Chron. 16:29).

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Saviour,
And life more abundant and free!

Refrain:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

. . . Helen Howarth Lemmel

. . . . Rowan Jennings



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