

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

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

No. 61

March 2017

The Beauty Of His Wounds

Introduction

Many years ago my dad came to visit us in Canada. When with us, he saw one area of the house which needed wall papering and very kindly offered to do it for us. As he papered the wall something happened and the paper tore across, almost the width of the roll. There was no more paper so he fixed it as best he could. However, no matter how he tried, the paper was marred and it showed. The rest of the walls were perfect but to me the most beautiful part was the torn paper. You see, more than anything, it told me of his love for us in seeking to give us something beautiful, it told of his striving after perfection to remedy that which had been damaged, and it told me of his patient endeavors to make it invisible. It spoke of his love for us and reminded me of the wounds of the Lord. To me the wounds in the Lord's hands and feet, the wound in His side, and His marred visage are the most beautiful wounds we shall ever see, either in time or eternity. One day I shall look upon those hands, feet and side, and they will forever tell of love which caused Him to take my place, and the sufferings He bore for me.

- a) They are also, to the unsaved, wounds which will forever tell the fulness of His love to save them from eternal damnation and Hell, wounds which they in hideous careless indifference rejected the proffering of His love.

Well did the hymn writer pen the words:

By and by when I look on His face, beautiful face, thorn-shadowed face,
By and by when I look on His face, I'll wish I had given Him more.

More, so much more; more of my life than I e're gave before,
By and by when I look on His face, I'll wish I had given Him more.

By and by when He holds out His hands, welcoming hands, nail-pierced hands,
By and by when He holds out His hands, I'll wish I had given Him more.

By and by when I kneel at His feet, beautiful feet, nail-riven feet,
By and by when I kneel at His feet, I'll wish I had given Him more.

The Physical Wounds of The Lord Are Divided Into Two Avenues of Thought

1) Those inflicted by man

- a) These were the venom of Satanic hatred and cold callous indifference. None of these were sufferings for sins in the providing of redemption. They were part of the experiences the Lord would know which would fit Him to be made perfect as our High Priest.

2) Those inflicted by God

- a) These were what the Lord suffered in the three hours of desolation and darkness. It was in these hours the Lord suffered for our sins as the penalty Bearer.

In this paper I am not speaking of the various words used for the death of the Lord, but only for those sufferings He endured while alive as the sin bearer. Furthermore, it must never be said that our Lord was a dying man. Death had no power over him and dying had no domination over Him. He deliberately entered the dominion of death and rising again, defeated death forever.

The Beauty of The Lord and His Passion

The beauty of His wounds is only one of the many aspects of the beauty of the Lord regarding His passion. Some of the other avenues are the beauty of:

- a) His composure when:
 - i) Facing His crucifixion when with the disciples (Jn. 13:1-17:26)
 - ii) The motley throng with Judas came to take Him (Jn. 18:4-8)
 - iii) Standing before the chief priests and political leaders (Lk. 23:7-12; Jn. 18:13; Jn. 18:19-19:16)
- b) His tears in Gethsemane (Heb. 5:7)
- c) His prayers of intercession for those who hated Him and cried for His death (Lk. 23:34)
- d) His fortitude in setting His face like a flint and moving with unhesitating steps (Isa. 50:7)

If it dawned on our hearts the fulness of any one of these avenues, then we would realize He endured this because He loved us. Paul wrote that which each could say, “The Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). In the Lord’s sufferings for our sins God held nothing back. The devastation of separation from God, eternal torment and hopelessness was poured out as in a funnel on the solitary person of the Lord, “He spared not His Son”, no mercy was shown, justice in fulness must be meted out. He bore the penalty for my sins at Calvary, He suffered, I mean He really suffered for me, His agony was for me. This is not a theoretical story. The sufferings, death, and sorrows were very real, and it was all because He loved me.

By understanding that the blows the Lord felt as man slapped Him with their hands, inflicted bruising and injury in direct proportion to the viciousness of strength of the persecutor, void of any sympathy were his mockers as they crowned Him with the crown of thorns, and depleted of any feeling, they plucked the beard from His face and scourged Him in sadistic wickedness. Who could describe the searing pain on His whipped lashed back as the cross was put upon Him?

The Hebrew / Greek Words Used For The Wounds of The Lord

The first observation is that His wounds are never called “scars”. A wound always refers to that which is freshly made, whereas a scar is that which is now old and has lost the original pain and tenderness. Thank God the question is asked, “What are these wounds in thine hands?” (Zech. 13:6) for the marks of Calvary will eternally be fresh in their effectiveness and preciousness to the saint, and more so to God. There is an observation which is often made without justification when Revelation 5:6 is quoted. The passage reads, “And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain” (Rev. 5:6). The word “sphazo” (slain) does not mean “freshly slain”, it is the same word used in Revelation 5:9, 12; 13:8; 18:24. None of them indicate “freshly slain”. It is profound to consider that He, who “healeth the broken in heart and bindeth up their wounds” (Psa. 147:3) has known what it is to be wounded; He who spoke of the good Samaritan who saw the man by the wayside and “bound up his wounds” (Lk. 10:34); had no one to bind His wounds.

A careful reading of Isaiah 52:13-53:12 will show a repetition of some words but they do not all refer to the same thing. He was marred (Isa. 52:14); wounded (Isa. 53:5); bruised (Isa. 53:5, 10); chastised (Isa. 53:5); stricken (Isa. 53:4); smitten (Isa. 53:4); afflicted (Isa. 53:4); travail (Isa. 53:11). These are only words and words can never convey the anguished pain and suffering the individual is enduring. I once had a dog, which I had to get put down. I shall never forget the look in his eyes as he saw me leaving, nor shall I ever forget the sorrow and emptiness in my heart when I thought of giving him to death. As I look at Christ and the beating He endured before the cross, how sadistic man is, and yet, for those who reject Him as Savior and Lord are joining with them saying, “Crucify (Mk. 15:13) and, “We will not have this man to reign over us” (Lk. 19:14). Such is the depth of coldness that man remains unaffected, and it becomes as a story which is told.

[The Types of Wounds](#)

I am not a doctor and am void of medical knowledge. However, in oftentimes being a patient in the hospital emergency, I am aware of the medical staff speaking about wounds under varied headings. For instance, they speak of a body part being pierced, or a puncture, a laceration, or an incision. In reading the accounts of the bodily sufferings of the Lord, I am made aware that His holy body was pierced, punctured, lacerated and marked by incisions.

For those who as yet know not the Lord as their personal Savior, my prayer is that you will realize your need of Him, confess your sin, and put your faith and trust in Him so that you will be able to sing:

Wounded for me, wounded for me,
There on the cross He was wounded for me
Gone my transgressions and now I am free
All because Jesus was wounded for me.

. . . . *Rowan Jennings*

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