

Calvary - the Place of Peace and Pardon

by Bishop J.C. Ryle

CALVARY, WHERE WE SEE GOD'S LOVE AT ITS BEST, AND MAN'S SIN AT ITS WORST. CALVARY, WHERE THE SON OF GOD DIED, IN ORDER THAT THE SONS OF MEN MAY LIVE FOREVER.

MARK 15: 16-20; 24-28.

And the soldiers led Him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. And they clothed Him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about His Head. And began to salute Him, Hail, King of the Jews!

And they smote Him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon Him, and bowing their knees worshipped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple robe from Him, and put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

And when they had crucified Him, they parted His garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. And it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. And the superscription of His accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

And with Him they crucify two thieves; the one on His right hand, and the other on His left. And the Scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And He was numbered with the transgressors.

THE SON OF GOD SUFFERING FOR SINNERS

The passage we have now read is one of those which show us the infinite love of Christ towards sinners. The sufferings described in it would fill our minds with mingled horror and compassion, if they had been inflicted on one who was only a man like ourselves. But when we reflect that the sufferer was the eternal Son of God, we are lost in wonder and amazement.

And when we reflect further that these sufferings were voluntarily endured to deliver sinful men and women like ourselves from hell, we may see something of St. Paul's meaning when he says, "The love of Christ passeth knowledge." "God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Ephes. 3:19; Rom. 5:8.)

Here we see Jesus shedding His blood for sinners. His blood flowed freely from His head which was pierced with the thorns, from His hands and feet which were pierced with the nails, and from His side which was pierced with a spear.

Why was this? Only His blood could make atonement for man's transgressions. Only His blood could pay man's enormous debt to God. By His precious blood a road was made from Heaven to earth, by which God could come down to man. His blood made a road from earth to Heaven by which men can draw near to God, and yet not feel afraid. Without the shedding of the blood of Jesus there could have been no remission of sin.

TRUE CHRISTIANS HAVE PEACE WITH GOD

Through the blood of Jesus true Christians have peace with God. They are pardoned, and brought nigh to God. Here is rest and peace for the conscience. The blood of Jesus can cleanse you from all sin. Though your sins be as scarlet, they may be made white as snow. Here is the secret of a happy heart. Blessed be God, there is a fountain opened for sinners, even the precious blood of the Lamb, and washing daily in that fountain, we are clean from sin.

Let us leave the passage with a deep sense of the enormous debt which all believers owe to Christ. All that they have, and are, and hope for, may be traced up to the doing and dying of the Son of God.

Through His condemnation, they have acquittal, - through His sufferings, peace, - through His shame, glory, - through His death, life. Their sins were imputed to Him. His righteousness is imputed to them. No wonder that St. Paul says, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (2 Cor. 9:15).

Finally, let us leave the passage with the deepest sense of Christ's unutterable love to our souls. It should make us ready and willing to present our bodies a living sacrifice to Him who lived and died for us. (2 Cor. 5:14; Rom. 12: 1). Let the cross of Christ be often before our minds. Rightly understood, no object in all Christianity is so likely to have a sanctifying as well as a comforting effect on our souls.

COME, AND BE SAVED

To be saved, is to be delivered in this present life from the power of sin, by receiving a new nature through the working of Christ's Spirit. It is to be freed from the hateful dominion of sin, the world, and the devil, by having a new nature put in us by the Holy Ghost. Whosoever is thus renewed in the spirit of his mind, is a saved soul. He shall not perish. He shall enter into the glorious kingdom of God.

"COME NOW, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. And the Spirit and the bride say, COME. And let him that heareth say, COME. And let him that is athirst COME. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

INVITATION

If you desire to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, send your Name and Address in BLOCK CAPITALS and we will send you a free copy of the booklet, "PARDON FOR SIN, AND ASSURANCE OF PEACE WITH GOD," by Rev. W.J. Patton

Send to;

Every Home Crusade, 43 Oakland Avenue, Belfast, BT4 3BW, N.Ireland, United Kingdom
E-mail; 106461.3452@compuserve.com

Tracts such as the one above are produced by Every Home Crusade who distribute many millions of tracts freely around the world each year, in a number of languages. Do write to them if you would like to know more of the message of Salvation or about the work they are involved in. We are grateful to **Every Home Crusade** for all their help and support in this outreach.