

## Malcolm's Monday Musings : 20 April 2020

### (i) Scripture.

'I call to you when my heart is faint [or 'overwhelmed']. Lead me to **the rock that is higher than I**, for you have been my refuge, a strong tower ... Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings!'

Psalm 61. 2-4 (English Standard Version)

'... **the gospel of the glory of the blessed God**, which was committed to my trust'.

'... the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify **the gospel of the grace of God** .

'... having heard the word of the truth, **the gospel of your salvation**'.

'... the god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of **the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them'.

1 Timothy 1. 11; Acts 20. 24; Ephesians 1. 13; 2 Corinthians 4. 4. (Revised Version)

### (ii) Food for thought.

During the current pandemic, it is all too easy for our fear of a microscopic virus to loom large, and for our vision of the glory of our Lord Jesus to grow fainter. And so, today, we will attempt to catch brief glimpses of 'the glory of Christ'.

#### **Christ in John 1:**

(a) 'In the beginning', v.1.

(b) 'In the world', v.10.

(c) 'In the bosom', v.18.

(d) 'In the law', v.45.

#### **The Lord Jesus 'before' in John's Gospel:**

(a) Before *John the Baptist*, John 1. 15;

(b) Before *Abraham*, John 8. 58;

(c) Before *the world*, John 17. 5

[Cf. Paul's 'before *all things*', Col. 1. 17.]

#### **'Himself':**

(a) He '*made Himself*' ('of no reputation', 'of no account'), Phil. 2. 7.

(b) He '*humbled Himself*', Phil. 2. 8.

(c) He '*gave Himself*', Gal. 1. 4; 2. 20; Eph. 5. 2, 25; 1 Tim. 2. 6; Tit. 2. 14. [See the attached document.]

(d) He '*offered Himself*', Heb. 7. 27; 9. 14.

(e) He '*committed Himself*', 1 Pet. 2. 23.

(f) He '*pleased not Himself*', Rom. 15. 3.

(g) He '*glorified not Himself*', Heb. 5. 5.

#### **Stated objectives of His incarnation, suffering and death:**

'Who gave himself for our sins, *that He might* deliver us from this present evil world [age]', Gal. 1. 4.

'*That He might* reconcile both [Jew and gentile] to God in one body by the cross', Eph. 2. 16.

'Who gave Himself for us, *that He might* redeem us from all iniquity', Tit. 2. 14.

'Jesus also, *that He might* sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate', Heb. 13. 12.

'Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, *that He might* bring us to God', 1 Pet. 3. 18.

'For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil', 1 John 3. 8.

**John 16. 28:** The 'days of His flesh' here (Heb. 5. 7) were framed between *two impossibilities*: a virgin's womb and an empty tomb. He entered the world through a door marked 'No entry', and He left it through a door marked 'No exit'!

'What do we find in the birth and life of our blessed Lord Jesus? God came to man in the person of Christ. And what appeared in the Lord's death? That man, believing man, can now come boldly to God'.

(William Kelly, '*Lectures on the Day of Atonement*', Lecture 1.)

**Luke 2. 8-9:** 'On the night Jesus was born something spectacular took place. The plains of Bethlehem became the theatre for one of the most spectacular sound-and-light shows in human history. All heaven broke loose'.  
(R C Sproul, *The Glory of Christmas*.)

**Matthew 2. 16:** Herod tried to kill Jesus—but he failed. Instead, Herod himself died soon after, and was *buried in the Herodium overlooking Bethlehem*, the very town where the true 'King of the Jews' was born.

**Mark 1. 9:** When Joshua 'came' to the river Jordan, the river was divided before him (Joshua 3. 7, 16-17); when Elijah came to the banks of the Jordan, the river was divided before him (2 Kings 2. 7-8); when Elisha came to the banks of Jordan, the river was divided before him (2 Kings 2. 13-14). But when Jesus 'came' to Jordan, it wasn't *the river* which was opened up *before* Him, but *the heavens* which were opened up *over* Him, when He saw the heavens 'rent asunder'.

**Hebrews 1. 1-2:** Genuine prophets of God in the Old Testament often thundered their characteristic, 'Thus says the Lord', an expression we encounter some 360 times; cf. 'the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord', James 5. 10. But the Lord Jesus was no mere prophet. He was the Son of God, and as such on no occasion was He heard to use the prophets' formulation. He had His own! In marked contrast to the prophets, He stood up and simply announced, 'I say to you'; e.g. Matt. 5. 38-39. Contrast the tone of Malachi in the last book of the Old Testament to the tone of the Lord Jesus in the first book of the New Testament. In the space of just four chapters, the prophet declared his 'Thus says the Lord' no less than 25 times, whereas, in the gospel of Matthew alone, the Lord Jesus declared His distinctive 'I say unto you' over 55 times. The prophets spoke *for* the Lord; the Lord Jesus spoke *as* the Lord.

**John 2. 13-17 and Luke 9. 52-56:** 'If it be the defilement of His Father's house, He will let zeal consume Him; if it be His own wrong at the hand of some Samaritan villagers, He will suffer it, and pass on'.  
(J. G. Bellett, *The Moral Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ*, page 9.)

**John 10. 22, 30-33** ... the feast of the dedication' (celebrating the re-dedication of the Second temple in the days of the Maccabees) is known to the Jews as 'Hanukkah' ('Dedication'). 'Whatever you do at Hanukkah, don't claim to be God, unless you want to get used for target practice! John brings out the utmost in irony: on that day when they're celebrating their victory over that villain who set up [an idolatrous] image in the Temple and claimed to be a god [Antiochus IV Epiphanes], Jesus stands in the Temple and claims to be God!'  
(Tom Hobson, *Jesus' Shocking Words at Hanukkah*.)

To be continued, God willing, next Monday.

**Detailed notes.** [See the attached Word document, 'He gave Himself'.](#)

And, separately, see the attached 'Land of the immortal' picture.

**(iii) Go on, smile.**

*First, alligators.*

Once there was an American multi-millionaire who collected live alligators. He kept them in a large pool at the back of his mansion. The millionaire also had a beautiful, single daughter.

One day he decided to throw a huge party, and during the party he announced: 'My friends, I have a proposition to make to every man here. I will give either one million dollars or my daughter to the man that can swim across this pool full of alligators and emerge unharmed!'

No sooner had he finished speaking when there was the sound of an enormous *SPLASH!* One of the guests was in the pool, swimming as fast as he could, with the crowd cheering him on. Finally, he made it to the other side unharmed.

The millionaire was mighty impressed. 'My boy', he said, 'that was simply incredible! Fantastic! I didn't think it could be done! Well, I am a man of my word. So which do you want: my daughter or the million dollars?'

The breathless guest replied with feeling, 'I don't want your money! And I don't want your daughter! *I just want the fella who pushed me into the pool!*'

Separately, an article in the Florida News once complained, 'Now they are using alligators to make belts'. It is simply amazing what you can get alligators to do!

*And (here we go again) another smile courtesy of the Irish.*

When out walking one day, two Irishmen who were 'a sandwich short of a picnic' noticed a couple of lads loitering on a bridge. Suddenly, the one lad dropped over the wall of the bridge, supported by the other lad holding his ankles.

After five minutes, the lad hanging over the bridge shouted loudly, 'Quick, pull me up'.

His friend pulled him up, and in his hands he was holding a 10lb salmon.

The one Irishman said to the other, 'We sure'll have t' have a go at that'.

Later, they came to another bridge, and the one Irishman dropped over the wall, with the other gripping his ankles.

After only three minutes, the Irishman hanging over the bridge shouted loudly, 'Quick, Paddy, pull me up'.

'Have you got a big 'un?' Paddy asked.

'Nope', the other replied, '*there's a train coming!*'

And, finally, see the attached 'Knitting for husband' picture.



**WE HAVE SUFFERED  
BEREAVEMENT AFTER  
BEREAVEMENT, BUT WE  
ARE GOING TO THE LAND OF  
THE IMMORTAL WHERE  
GRAVES DO NOT EXIST.**

**CHARLES SPURGEON**

**QUARANTINED WITH  
HUBBIE FOR TWO WEEKS –  
GERTRUDE IS KNITTING  
SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR  
HIM!** 🤩

