

Malcolm's Monday Musings : 11 May 2020

(i) Scripture.

That ... we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us; which we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil; whither as a forerunner Jesus entered for us.

Hebrews 6. 18-20 (*Revised Version*)

(ii) Food for thought.

The 'perfections' of God.

His work is perfect: 'He is the Rock; His work is perfect' (Deut. 32. 4).

His way is perfect: 'as for God, His way is perfect' (2 Sam. 22. 31; Psa. 18. 30).

His word is perfect: 'the law of the Lord is perfect' (Psa. 19. 7).

His will is perfect: 'that good and acceptable and perfect will of God' (Rom. 12. 2).

Also:

His knowledge is perfect: 'those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?' (Job 37. 16), and

His gifts are perfect: 'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above' (James 1. 17).

'Out of ...'.

The same God (i) who brought Abraham 'out of Ur of the Chaldees' (Gen. 15. 7), (ii) who brought the people of Israel 'out of Egypt' (Exod. 13. 9; 20. 2; Acts 13. 17), and (iii) who brought the remnant 'out of the captivity' (Ezra 2. 1; Neh. 7. 6), has (iv) brought us 'out of darkness' into His marvellous light (1 Pet. 2. 9).

God – 'against' or 'for'.

Job felt, he said, that 'the terrors of God are arrayed *against me*' (Job 6. 4). Jacob felt, he said, that 'all these things are *against me*' (Gen. 42. 36). Naomi felt, she said, that 'the hand of the Lord has gone out *against me*' (Ruth 1. 13). Jeremiah felt, he said, that God 'turns His hand *against me* ... the whole day long' (Lam. 3. 3). Thank God, we have the assurance that, 'If God is **for us**, *who can be against us?*' (Rom. 8. 31).

On His'.

The Lord can be said to have His people:

(i) *on His wings* - 'I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself' (Exod. 19. 4);

(ii) *on His shoulders* - our Great High Priest 'shall bear their names ... on His two shoulders' (Exod. 28. 12);

(iii) *on His heart* - our Great High Priest 'shall bear the names ... in the breastplate of judgment on His heart' (Exod. 28. 29); and

(iv) *on His hands* - 'I have graven you on the palms of my hands' (Isa. 49. 16).

Leap year.

'When the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies', David sang, 'by my God I leap over a wall' (2 Samuel 22. 1, 30; Psa. 18. 1, 29). Bearing in mind that 2020 is 'a Leap Year', let us determine, with God's help, to 'leap over' any walls of fear, anxiety, despondency or past defeat which block the way before us.

'Not as the Gentiles' (Eph. 4. 17; 1 Thess. 4. 5).

Four times in the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord Jesus warned His disciples not to behave like 'the Gentiles' (in effect, to behave like pagan unbelievers). His followers were not, He taught:

(i) as the Gentiles, to greet only those of like mind (Matt. 5. 47);

(ii) as the Gentiles, to offer meaningless, repetitive prayers (Matt. 6. 7);

(iii) as the Gentiles, to be anxious about material things (Matt. 6. 32); or

(iv) as the Gentiles, to exercise lordship over others (Matt. 20. 25).

Tempted.

Demas fell when tempted by *the world*, 2 Tim. 4. 10. David fell when tempted by *the flesh*. 2 Sam. 11. 2-4. Peter fell when tempted by *the devil*. Matt. 16. 22-23.

The monument to God's love.

'Many years ago I visited an aged saint who had lain on his bed with partial paralysis for many years. Some Seventh Day Adventists had been to see him the previous day and had suggested to him that he was suffering from paralysis because he had not kept the Sabbath! In the course of relating me the answer he gave them he said : "I do not read the love of God in circumstances. God has erected one

monument to His love. That was at Calvary. Having spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things. That is enough for me”.

(J. M. Davies, *The Christian's Statue of Liberty*, page 103.)

Vindicated.

Our Lord's *death* vindicated God's righteousness (Rom. 3. 25-26), and His *resurrection* vindicated *His own* (Rom. 1. 4; 1 Tim. 3. 16).

Empty.

The apostle Paul knew that, unless the Lord's grave was empty (1 Cor. 15. 4), then both his preaching and the Corinthians' faith were (1 Cor. 15. 14)!

'The best is yet to come'.

'I really don't want to know my day-to-day future in intimate detail. That would take all the romance and adventure out of my life ... Having said that, there is a sense in which I do want to know the future. I want to know that God has an ultimate plan for the universe and for all that is in it. I want assurance that from heaven's standpoint all is planned, under control, and on schedule. The Book of the Revelation tells me that the future is in God's hands, and the best is yet to come'.

(Adrian Rogers, *Unveiling the End Times*, pages 1-2.)

I have read that Dr. Leith Anderson (the president of the National Association of Evangelicals in the U.S.) told of a very hospitable lady in his congregation who had a favourite saying when she had someone come to her home for a meal. After the main course, she would say, 'Save your fork ... the best is yet to come'. When this lady grew old and ill, knowing that her death was approaching, she requested her family, 'When I die and they fold my hands in the casket, have them put a fork in one of them'.

Yes indeed, we know that, when the time comes for us to leave this sorry world (whether by death or when the Lord comes), 'the best is yet to come'.

In his book *'The Best is Yet to Be'*, Henry Durbanville told the story of a man who lay dying and was fearful, even though he was a Christian. He expressed his feelings to his Christian doctor. The physician was silent, not knowing what to say. Just then a whining and scratching was heard at the door. When the doctor opened it, in bounded his dog, who had accompanied him on that house-call. The doctor thought, 'I now know what to say to this man'. He went to the bedside and said, 'My dog is here. I let him in. My dog has never been in your house before. He did not know what it was like in here at all. He just knew that I was here. And so he wanted to come. I can tell you that I am looking forward to heaven, not because I know a lot about it, but because my Saviour is there, and that is all that I need to know'. How true!

Well do we sing, 'When by His grace I shall look on His face; that will be glory, be glory for me!'

(Chas. H. Gabriel, the hymn, *'When all my labours and trials are o'er'*.)

With such a glorious hope before us, surely we shouldn't be complaining constantly about our present relatively-minor trials and discomforts. You tell us, Mr Newton:

'Suppose a man was going to York to take possession of a large estate, and his [carriage] should break down a mile before he got to the city, which obliged him to walk the rest of the way. What a fool we should think him, if we saw him wringing his hands, and blubbing out all the remaining mile, "My [carriage] is broken! My [carriage] is broken!"'

(John Newton, *The Works of the Rev. John Newton* by Richard Cecil, Volume 1, page 66.)

'God is sovereign – He is in control – and I am sustained in the fact that *the end has already been written*'.

(John MacArthur, *interview with Evangelical Times*, May 2020.)

'Our citizenship is in heaven; from which *we await the Saviour*, the Lord Jesus Christ', Phil. 3. 20.

'Our proper hope is to see Him as He is ... *We have a hope in death, but death is not our hope*'.

(J. N. Darby, *Collected Writings*, Volume 26, page 367.)

(See the attached picture, 'Keep calm'.)

Detailed notes. [See the attached Word document, 'I stood between the Lord and you'.](#)

(iii) Go on, smile.

Around the world – Part 2 (continued from 4 May).

Israel

An archaeologist, digging in the sands of the Shephelah of Judah, came upon a coffin containing a mummy. After examining it, he phoned to the curator of a prestigious natural-history museum.

'I've just discovered a 3,000 year-old mummy of a man who died of heart failure!' the excited archaeologist exclaimed.

'Bring it in', the curator responded. 'We'll check it out'.

A week later, the astounded curator phoned the archaeologist. 'You were dead right about the mummy's age, and about the cause of death', he said, 'But how on earth did you know?'

'Oh, that was easy', the archaeologist replied, 'in one of his hands there was a piece of papyrus which read, "*10,000 shekels on Goliath*".'

Ireland (of course!)

One day, two Irishmen were working for the local public works department. The one would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked their way up one side of the street, down the other side, and then moved on to the next street.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard toil, but for the life of him couldn't guess what they were doing. Unable to stifle his curiosity, he asked the first Irishman, 'I'm sure impressed by all the effort which you two are putting into your work, but, tell me, why do you dig a hole, only to have your mate follow right behind you and fill it up again?'

Wiping his wet brow, the hole-digger sighed, 'Well, let me tell you. We're normally a three-man team, but *today the lad who plants the trees called in sick*'.

China (well, almost!)

See the attached 'Mis-fortune cookie' picture.

And, finally, **England**

(*First, topical.*)

Over breakfast, a woman said to her husband, 'I don't think that you even know what special day it is today'.

The husband didn't, but he thought it dangerous to admit it. 'Of course I do', he answered indignantly, 'How could I ever forget'. And he shot off to work.

A few hours later the doorbell rang. When the woman opened the door, she was surprised when she was handed a dozen long-stemmed red roses by a deliver man. In the afternoon, a two pound box of her favourite chocolates arrived. The woman just couldn't wait for her husband to come home.

'First the flowers, then the chocolates', she exclaimed when he arrived.

'In all my life, *I've never had a more wonderful VE Day!*'

(*Second, a true story, recounted by a daughter of Horatio Spafford {the author of 'When peace like a river'}. Bertha Spafford Vester was born to Horatio and Anna Spafford some four years after the tragic loss of their four earlier daughters. Mrs Vester wrote the following in her book 'Our Jerusalem', page 309.*)

'Over the radio we listened to Lady Astor's seat in Parliament being contested by a Labour candidate. He said Plymouth was a rural constituency and Lady Astor knew nothing about farms.

"Why should she represent it? I should like to ask her", he shouted, "*if she knows how many toes a pig has?*"

Quick as a flash Lady Astor retorted, "*Take off your boots, man, and count 'em*".'



**KEEP
CALM**

**JESUS IS
COMING**

