

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

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

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Thanksgiving

Introduction

In considering life, which we at times think is hard, overall it is good. While not decrying the afflictions of life, perhaps at times we need to stop and consider two things:

- a) The blessings we have, whither they are health, clear minds, we are loved and can love, and the freedom we have in the country in which we live. Compare this to the horrendous situations others live in, whither it be lack of clean water, a roof over their head, a clean bed, nourishing food, and a dollar in the pocket. Then I ask, "What have we to complain about?"

However, beyond these blessings of life, that which I am truly thankful for are the spiritual blessings which we can enjoy now. Often the words of Paul are cut short and at times we will say, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor. 2:9) and apply it to the future. I perceive there is a need to read the entire verses (9-14) and then we realize that there are blessings which will come to full fruition in the future, but we can enjoy them now as foretastes of that coming day. The context shows that the ones whose eyes have not seen are not those who are saved, but the unsaved! The context reads:

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

(1 Cor. 2:9-14)

I thank God for the blessedness of the truth that Christ has come into this world to be the Light of the world (Jn. 8:12); the Light of men (Jn. 1:4); the "True Light" (Jn. 1:9); the Light to them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death (Lk. 1:79).

The Lord is not a light as one of many spiritual leaders proclaim, for Christ alone is the "brightness of glory" (Heb. 1:3). As the Light He has done that which no other could ever do. He has declared / revealed God (Jn. 1:18) and the Father (Jn. 14:9); He alone has manifested God's name (Jn. 17:6); that is, God's character; and He has done it without distortion or diffusion. He was never guilty of any of the distortions leveled against others and lived life beyond reproach. Standing

amid a hostile throng He asked the question, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" (Jn. 8:46). At His judgment in response to a question He said, "I spake openly to the world: I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing" (Jn. 18:20). Undoubtedly the two greatest commendations of His perfections came concerning Satan and God.

- a) Concerning Satan, the Lord could say, "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me" (Jn. 14:30). Try as much as Satan could, let him scrutinize every activity, word and deed, he could find nothing to hold against the Lord.
- b) Concerning God, He looked at the Lord and opening the Heavens declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

[The Perfections Of Christ As The Light](#)

The Lord was and is the Light in at least three great areas:

- 1) He was the Light of God being the "brightness of glory (Heb. 1:3).
 - a) He fully and perfectly revealed the mind, the will, and power of God. That had never been done before nor since.
- 2) He was the Light in illuminating the tactics of Satan and how to overcome him.
- 3) He was the Light of man, and as such:
 - a) He revealed the life beyond. None other had ever done that (Lk. 16:22-26).
 - b) As the Light, He showed the disciple that he was being used of Satan (Matt. 16:22-23).
 - c) The way back to fellowship with God (Jn. 14:6).

Being the Light meant that the Holy Spirit was free to work unhindered in the mortal frame of the Lord. There was nothing in His life intellectually, physically, spiritually, or morally which in any way dimmed the outshining of the Light of His Person. It was only due to His own curtailments that the blaze of His glory did not beam forth to be seen by man, for such a sight would have been too much for sinful man. Universally all would have fallen or bowed before Him. The glory that radiated from His person on the mount of Transfiguration would have caused man to die (Mk. 9:1-3).

I am thankful that the Lord ever came into this world, living a public life as a carpenter doing manual jobs (Mk. 6:3); going to a graveside to weep (Jn. 11:35); physically suffered in His body (1 Pet. 4:1); yet no matter how severe the temptation, never sinned (Heb. 4:15).

I am thankful God manifested His infinite mercy, grace, and love in sending the Lord to be the Saviour of the world (Jn. 4:42). Well did the hymn writer pen the words:

Can it be true, the things they say of You?
You walked this earth, sharing with friends You knew
All that they had, the work, the joy, the pain
That we might find the way to heaven again.

And day by day, You still return this way
But we recall, there was a debt to pay
Out of Your love for Your own world above
You left that Holy thing, Your endless love to prove.

Can it be true, the same things they did to You?
The death, the shame, and were Your friends so few?
Yet You returned again alive and free,
Can it be true, my Lord? It had to be.

I am deeply thankful to the Lord for offering Himself to be the sacrifice for sin and suffering in my place as my substitute. To know that on that cross in the three hours of darkness, He was bruised, chastised, afflicted by God (Isa. 53:4-5). Marvelous truth. He endured the forsaking from God that was my just deserts for all eternity.

[He Showed With Perfect Provision The Way Back To God](#)

There were some who, by all outward appearances, indicated that they were in fellowship with God. Some would have been taught (as many are today) that there is no assurance of going to heaven before the judgment. They honestly feel it is the height of presumption to declare, "My sins are forgiven and when I die I will be in heaven". They would view the judgment of God like a pair of scales, on one side would be put their honest endeavors and good works and on the other

side their sins. If by striving and well doing the good works outweighed their sins, then they would enter Heaven. The Lord let the light of His assuredness shine on such warning them, “The axe is laid unto the root of the tree” (Matt. 3:10), and man is universally “condemned already” (Jn. 3:18), not in some future far off day, but as man lives at this moment on earth he or she is already under the condemnation of God. The Light of the Lord makes it clear that an individual can assuredly say, “I am under the condemnation of God” or “I am no longer under the condemnation of God”. The Lord made it clear, there is no middle ground. It is an “either” or “or” situation. Either I am under condemnation or not under condemnation, either I am assured of Heaven when I die or I am assured of Hell.

The Lord as the Light said in unmistakable language, “I am the way . . . no man cometh unto the Father but by me” (Jn. 14:6). Again, it is an “either” or “or” situation. Either I will accept reconciliation with God through Christ and His work alone, or I will reject it or add it to my works and hope to get to Heaven. Either I thankfully take His salvation or as Sinatra sang, “I’ll do it my way” and never be in Heaven.

As the Light, the Lord showed that the way is not by my works, but by faith alone. Just as I have faith that a road unseen due to a corner continues on, or when there is an agreement to meet someone I turn from my own way which I have been depending on, where my faith is placed and transfer my faith to the finished work of the Lord on the cross. Again it is an “either” or “or” situation, either I will continue to put my faith in my works or I will accept the gift of God.

I thank God that there is a way back to God and today as I sit and write this paper, I am no more assured of Heaven than I was the night I accepted Christ as my Saviour back in 1957. That is what gives peace in the darkest hour, for when I am about to die, that will not be the darkest hour for me, but the brightest, for I will be casting off the last ropes holding me to this sphere of sorrow and tears, and entering my eternal home. That will be glory for me.

. . . Rowan Jennings

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