

The Wednesday Word, November 28, 2018: Our Glorious Sin-Bearer - Part 1

"Who himself bore Our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For you were as sheep going astray but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" 1 Peter 2: 24, 25.

Briefly, let's consider 4 main points from this lovely text

1. A Glorious Person;
2. A Great Substitution;
3. A Grand result;
4. A God blessed evidence.

1. A Glorious Person

Who is this glorious person? He is the Lord Jesus or as Robert Hawker used to call Him, "Our most glorious Christ." He is God and Man in one Person. In these days when some preachers and teachers are denying the essential Deity of Christ, we have the joy and responsibility to exalt our Master in every way. He bore our sins! God Himself, as a man, stepped into our shoes and died in our place.

The Gospel is the good news of Christ. What an excellent statement of His glory we have in the opening words of the Epistle to the Hebrews. There we learn that Christ has been appointed heir of all things. He made the worlds; He is the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of His person. He upholds all things by the word of His power. Yet this exalted One became the person of the cross. What humility! What astonishing truth! What a glorious sin bearer!

2. A Great Substitution

" Who himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree."

We are sinners-great sinners. How are we, then, to get rid of the guilt of our sins?

There is only one way.

There is only One person who can remove it, ...Jesus...and this He did by His substitutionary death. He is the great substitute.

"Christ bore our sins in His own body on the tree." The word " bore" means to be carried-in a sacrificial sense. It is used in the Greek version of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) of the placing of the victim upon the altar. The sin offering, in the Old Testament, carried the people's sins to and upon the altar. However, it was merely a type and picture which looked forward to the arrival of the great Substitute. But Christ, the true sin offering, bore our sins- not typically- but by imputation. As Isaiah 53:6 tells us, " The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

On the day of atonement, when we read "Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat .. , and the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited" (Leviticus. 16: 21, 22). This was all done in anticipation of the arrival of the glorious sin-bearer.

Perhaps you are reading this, and you know you are lost. You know you are very far from God. Consider this: The iniquities of all Christ's people met on Jesus. "Christ has once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). In the beautiful language of Toplady, we may say:

"From whence this fear and unbelief?
Has not the Father put to grief
His spotless Son for me?
And will the righteous Judge of men
Condemn me for that debt of sin
Which, Lord was charged to Thee?"

"Turn then, my soul, unto your rest
The merits of your great High Priest
Have bought thy liberty;
Trust in His efficacious blood,
Nor fear thy banishment from God,
Since Jesus died for thee."

And that's the Gospel Truth!
(To be continued next week)