
Ministry Memo

Bringing many sons to Glory!

by Richard A. Bennett

The day was still young when our home telephone bell rang. Ed, a regular participant at CCIM's local weekly prayer meeting, shared some sad news. It had just been medically confirmed that his dear wife had cancer of the liver! Her life-expectancy was very short. Though Ed's voice was subdued with sorrow, yet, as we prayed together, his deep trust in the love and goodness of God was unmistakable.

Twenty-six days later, Dorothy and I stood with Ed and his daughters at the grave-side of his beloved wife. There, after I had read the poem (which I will quote later) we all sang: "When by His grace, I shall look on His face; That will be glory, be glory for me."

At such times as this, those who know the Lord Jesus experience a strange paradox-their grief mingles with gladness! Singing that hymn at the grave-side I was reminded of the midnight hour when, alone, beside the shell of my mother's body-the body that she had just vacated to be clothed with her new body in Heaven. At that time, I too sang: "When all my troubles and trials are o'er; and I am safe on that heavenly shore; when by His grace I shall look on His face; that will be glory, yes, glory for me!"

Providentially, only 48 hours before my mother went to glory I knelt beside the aged and failing body of my father. Being unsure whether in his deafness he could hear my voice, or even comprehend what I said, I quoted: "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and am sat down with My Father in His throne." Then, in prayer, we rejoiced that before long my father would behold the "Lamb upon His throne" and join with multitudes in their praise of Him. A gentle tear rolled down his nose. Yes, father had heard, and, within the hour he was in Heaven; just 48 hours before my mother joined him !

This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable Friend;
Whose love is as great as His power,
And neither knows measure nor end.

'Tis Jesus, the first and the last
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come!

Joseph Hart, 1712-68.

So we can rejoice, that when sorrow casts its shadow upon the lives of true believers, there can never be a shadow without there also being rays of light. For example: Imagine the illustrious light of the sun as it casts its rays upon a noble oak tree. On the one side there is sparkling luminosity; on the other side of the tree there is shadow.

Because David knew the Lord was his Shepherd, when he penned the Shepherd's Psalm, he too was totally assured that every shadow - even "the valley of the shadow of death" - presupposed the existence of glory on the other side. Knowing the glory that awaited him in "the house of the Lord" David triumphantly affirmed: "I will fear no evil."

You too might reflect upon your own loved-ones who have gone ahead of you to Heaven. And with ourselves, you too might wonder - "Where is Heaven?" I don't know where Heaven is, but, one thing I do know; **where Jesus is - that is Heaven!**

*Imagine the illustrious light
of the sun as it casts its rays upon
a noble oak tree. On the one side is
sparkling luminosity; on the other
side of the tree there is shadow.*

Today, the glory that awaits believers on the other side of the valley is personified in the glorified humanity of Jesus: "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor ... " Hebrews 2:9. Thank God, the glory of the Man, Christ Jesus, is shared in Heaven with those who

are the redeemed children of God. "Where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus ..." Hebrews 6:20.

As another has written: "The glory of a thing; be it an object or a person, is it's intrinsic worth or excellence. To 'glorify' is to remove anything that could hinder the full revelation of the excellence." Sadly, the excellence of man (who was created in the image of God) was marred at the beginning of the human race.

The "first man", Adam, was created to express the life of His Creator. But because he sinned, the glory for which he was made was put on hold. The "second Man is the Lord from Heaven", and He perfectly exhibited to mankind; to angels; to the devil and his demonic hosts; and to His Father in Heaven, what God intended man to be. On the Mount of Transfiguration, the glory of God shone through that perfect Man on earth, and now that glory shines through the perfect Man in Heaven-Christ Jesus our Lord.

In His resplendent vision of the glorified Christ on the Isle of Patmos, the aged Apostle John testified how he saw "One like the Son of Man." Yes, there is a Man in Heaven and He is "crowned with glory and honor."

The writer to the Hebrews tells us in Chapter two, verse ten: “ ... *it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*” And again: “*For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted*” v18.

Had Jesus, as a Man, not suffered being tempted; He could not, as a Man, have been perfected by having been tested as other people. Exactly where the ‘first man’ was vanquished, the ‘second Man’ was Victor. Now, as Victor over Satan, He is not only the ‘second Man’ but He was also the ‘last Adam’. In God’s new creation, there can never be another Adam. Praise God “*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil*” Hebrews 2:14.

Having vanquished death, and having conquered Satan, Jesus is now as our Great High Priest; to bring many sons to glory: “*For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren*” Hebrews 2:11.

For now, in the process of our being sanctified, there is the constant removal of everything that hinders the full revelation of the purpose for which we were created i.e., the expression of His life and glory through our redeemed humanity.

Preceding His vicarious death on the cross, Jesus prayed to His Father: “*I have glorified You on earth, I have finished the work which You gave Me to do*” John 17: 22. He also prayed: “*And the glory which you gave Me I have given them, that they may be one as We are one ...*” John 17:22. Wonderful! Glory now - but greater glory when we see JESUS because: “*We know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is*” 1 John 3:2.

But even before that glorious day, the Apostle Paul reminds us that: “ ... *we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord*” 2 Corinthians 3:18. Yes, praise God, we have been created in God’s image, we have been redeemed by His precious Blood, and we are now indwelt by His resurrection Life. As King David was assured: “*The Lord will perfect that which concerns me*” Psalm 138:8. I am sure that you feel like we do - we can hardly wait! In the meantime we sing with praise and excitement:

**Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in Thee;**

**Changed from glory into glory,
Till in Heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.**

Charles Wesley, 1707-88.

“WITH THE LORD”

We wept; t’was Nature wept; but Faith
Can pierce beyond the gloom of death,
And in that World, so fair and bright,
Behold you in refulgent light!
We miss you here; but Faith would rather
Know you’re with your Heavenly Father.

Nature sees the body dead,
Faith beholds the spirit fled;
Nature stops at Jordan’s tide,
Faith beholds the other side;
That; but hears farewell and sighs,
This; thy welcome in the skies;
Nature mourns the cruel blow,
Faith assures it is not so;
Nature never sees you more,
Faith but sees you gone before;
Nature tells a dismal story,
Faith has visions full of glory.

Nature views the change with sadness,
Faith now contemplates with gladness;
Nature murmurs; Faith gives meekness,
‘Strength, is perfected in weakness,
Nature writhes, and hates the rod,
Faith looks up and praises God;
Sense looks downward; Faith above;
That sees harshness: This sees love.

Oh! let Faith victorious be,
Let it reign triumphantly!

But you’re gone! not lost, but flown;
Shall I ask you back, my own?
Back - and leave your spirit’s brightness?
Back - and leave your robes of whiteness?
Back - and leave the Lamb Who feeds you?
Back - from founts to which He leads you?
Back and leave your Heavenly Father?
Back - to earth and sin? - No, rather
Would I live in solitude!
I would not ask you, if I could;
But patient wait the high decree
That calls my spirit home to thee!

[This anonymous poem was found in the belongings of my dear mother - written in her artistic hand - soon after her Home-call in 1978].