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## BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



### CHRIST NOT CURSED BUT BLESSED

**Isaiah 53:10** *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

We return to the chapter which describes the sufferings and exaltation of our Lord Jesus Christ. This passage contains the gospel in all its fullness, and it is profitable for us to meditate on it. As we do, let us realize these truths are not just facts of history alone, but affect us for time and eternity. Our response to the truths proclaimed here will decide our destiny, whether we will spend eternity in the presence of God or apart from Him.

This verse offers some problems, for how could the LORD be pleased to bruise the Son He loves. Some take these words as if they were describing further the sufferings of our Lord. So many take it that not only was He rejected and despised by men, not only was He cut off out of the land of the living; but the hand of the LORD was directly involved in it. Though this truth is taught in the Scripture, it is not taught here. The reason is that verses 8-9 had already dealt with His death and burial and the word 'pleased' is the same word as 'delight' in such passages as **Psalm 1:2**, *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night;* and **Psalm 40:8**, *I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*

So it is hard to believe that Jehovah had any pleasure in inflicting his Son. He was His beloved Son, in whom He was well pleased. So what can possibly explain this pleasure in the bruising of His Son? It is best understood if we translate it as 'the LORD was pleased with his bruised one.' What the text is saying is that Jesus suffered by divine ordination; it was for this that He was appointed. Jehovah was entirely satisfied with what He underwent for by His sufferings He vindicated His law as well as ransomed many from the doomed sons of Adam. So what is expressed here is Jehovah's satisfaction in the work of His Son. The sacrifice He made was pleasing to God. For by such sacrifice He honored God's law

My friend, if Jehovah was pleased with His Son, should not sinners be pleased for whom He made such a costly sacrifice? It is the height of folly to set our wisdom against the Most High. Adam and Eve contradicted the Word of Jehovah, and we are still seeing the result as men and women and children are buried daily. Do not despise the one who is Jehovah's delight in, for He will call you to account for it.

This offering, my friend, was an 'offering for sin' and it fully accomplished its purpose, for God was pleased with it, and fully satisfied with it. It is foolish to look to seek salvation by any other sacrifice, be it good works or repentance. This sacrifice is the only one with which God is pleased, and if you reject this, there is no more sacrifice for sin. Cast all your hope in the finished work of Christ, which has satisfied His Father.

Have you my friend, trusted to this Savior, who is the delight of heaven. If so, how have you conducted yourself as a result? He devoted Himself entirely for our sakes, and willingly made every sacrifice. Ought not then we to present ourselves as 'living sacrifices, holy and acceptable' for His glory?

The Lord performs His purposes by using sinful men and women to bring His Word to a lost world. What encouragement it is to us, to reach out to those around us, that His purpose may prosper as new believers are brought in.

My friend, if you have trusted in Christ and are resting in His perfect sacrifice for sin, then be assured you are destined for holiness and happiness, for that is the end to be attained in your salvation, so you may be for the glory of God.

The sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ are still regarded as a stumbling block to belief in Him; but I pray the exposition of this passage has shown they were undergone for our sins. God was pleased with His Son's work, and how much should we, who are the recipients of His blessings, be pleased. Let those who have been born from above serve the Lord with zeal and live to His glory all their day.

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more than the obedience of the whole world of innocent creatures. He satisfied God's justice in a way that could never be satisfied by the damnation of men to hell, for they never exhaust its penalty.

The sacrifice of our Lord was one which gave God pleasure unlike the ancient sacrifices in which He had no pleasure. For this sacrifice accomplished what the others only typified. This was indeed "a sacrifice of a sweet smelling savor to God."

So though men thought Jesus was condemned, in actual fact they could not have been more wrong. He was not cursed of God, but He was the delight of His Father as He carried out the work He had been given to do. Men, as they saw Him carrying His cross and nailed to it, would have thought God had forsaken Him and that He was the object of His greatest displeasure, but it was just the opposite. The Son could not have pleased His Father more than when He hung upon that cross, being obedient to His Father even unto death! This is what He did when He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

This is wonderful news for sinners for it means His sacrifice for sin was accepted by Jehovah, and all who trust in it will enter into His favor. God will not require payment twice, once from our Surety and then from us. This is good news. God was pleased with the offering of His Son. What about you? Do you delight in the cross of Christ where sin was atoned for and justice was fully satisfied? Is it not foolish to be opposed to what God is delighted in? Repent of your folly. For only this sacrifice is saving. If this is not accepted and delighted in, you will have to make atonement yourself. The Scriptures make it clear we as sinners can never make atonement for sin, so if we will not accept this sacrifice of the Lord, we are undone.

The rest of the verse tells us the consequences of this sacrifice, both what followed as a result and what was effected by it. We will examine each of the three phrases.

**He shall see his seed.** The Lord Jesus Christ was cut off out of the land of the living. It would seem there would be no one who would continue His cause. He would have no successors. It was most unlikely that His disciples would continue seeing they had not even believed His prediction about His resurrection. But the words of our Lord were fulfilled, which He had spoken during His lifetime, "*Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit*" [John 12:24]. So it will be that our Lord will have a seed that bear His image and are produced by His Spirit, giving them birth. There is one passage in which the Messiah is represented as a Father of His followers and others which describe His followers as His seed.

**Psalm 22:30** *A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.*

**Hebrews 2:13** *And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.*

**1 Peter 1:23** *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

This seed is not just a few but many, for we are told in verse 11 He will justify many. The text tells us **he shall see his seed**, for they are produced by the Word and Spirit sent from Him; they are continually under His eye, and His delight is in them.

**He shall prolong his days.** His new life will be an unending one. He died once to sin, and now He lives forever as the glorified Savior to die no more. He is exalted to God's right hand, never to be cut off again. He has ascended to the throne on high, from which He can never be toppled. What comfort this is to His disciples who live in a world which threatens their existence; but He who is their Lord is on the throne and as a result they are safe.

**The pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.** What is this pleasure which is spoken about here? Jeremiah gives us what it is in these words, *But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.* [Jeremiah 9:24]

The pleasure of the LORD is the manifestation of the Divine glory in administration of His government, in which are displayed His divine attributes, especially His loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, where God's honor is preserved and His creatures rendered holy and happy forever. This our Lord accomplishes as He is exalted to the throne of the universe as a result of His sacrifice. *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* [Matthew 28:18]

As a result of this exaltation, the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. His exaltation is not only the result of His sufferings, but it is also the means to accomplishing the pleasure of the LORD in bringing many sons to glory; so the emphasis on the future 'shall' prosper in His hand. This prediction has been fulfilled, is being fulfilled, and shall be more wonderfully fulfilled when He returns in glory for His bride, the church. Think of how the church began, in hostile territory, yet the Lord by His Spirit brought even those who had been responsible for His death. The church has been under attack, and at times it seemed it would be no more, only to see it prosper under persecution. Those who oppose it have been written in the dust, but the kingdom of our Lord is prospering still. Praises ascend to Him daily from all over the world, as captives of Satan and sin are set free by His power. He will bring multitudes to glory and they shall be his delight and He will be theirs for all eternity.