

“...I thirst.”

The Scripture-Conscience Savior

John 19:28

- a. What an unspeakable joy and comfort it is for believers to know that they are so loved by God, that Christ would endure the reality of eternal suffering, the torments of hell in their place!
- b. The hymn writer has better expressed that amazing love of Christ, when he wrote, “Alas and did my Savior bleed...” (hymn #254 in the new Trinity Hymnal)
2. Are you one of those totally depraved sinners for whom the Savior has suffered, bled and died? Are you one of those totally depraved sinners that the Savior so greatly loved that He endured the torments of hell for you?
 - a. IF you KNOW this to be true of you, THEN rejoice and rejoice greatly! **Be persuaded** that nothing will separate you from the love of God which in Christ Jesus your Lord! **Be inflamed** with holy love and zeal to “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...*” – a mind in which the Scriptures occupy a place of prominence and a mind whose abiding concern is **doing the revealed will of God!**
 - b. IF you do NOT KNOW whether or not you are one of those totally depraved sinners for whom Christ suffered, **BUT you earnestly desire to know**, beyond the shadow of any doubt, that you are, THEN do not neglect the God-appointed means > the Scriptures! Seek the Lord Jesus in the Scriptures and you will find Him! THEN you will rejoice and rejoice greatly!

III. Applications

- A. To Believers: **Be conformed to the image of the Son of God!** (Rom.8:29) **Have a “Scripture-Conscience” mind** that knows the written word of God and knows what is required of you! Make it your abiding concern throughout your earthly life to do the revealed will of God, to **live a “Scripture-Conscience” life.**
- B. To Unbelievers: Cry out for God’s mercy to be upon you! Go to God in prayer confessing your sins against Him and believing in the salvation that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished for penitent sinners. Plead with God to work in you both the desire and the ability to live according to His good pleasure. (Phil.2:13) Know this: the person who comes to Christ Jesus for salvation will by no means be rejected. (Jn.6:37)

I. The Place of Prominence that the Scriptures occupied in the mind and life of the Lord Jesus.

- A. His abiding concern throughout His earthly life, from the beginning to the end, was **doing the revealed will of God the Father** for the glory of God and for the salvation of His redeemed (given, elect) people.
 1. Our first glimpse of this is at age 12, when His earthly parents traveled 65 miles from Nazareth to Jerusalem to observe the annual feast of the Passover, Lk.2:41-52.
 2. During His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus’ **abiding concern** was **doing the revealed will of His heavenly Father.**
 - a. This He stated generally in John 8:29b “...for **I always do those things that please Him.**” More specifically, look at and listen to what the Lord Jesus said:
 - 1) in Jn.6:38 “*For I came down from heaven, NOT to do My own will, BUT the Will of Him who sent Me.*” (some capital letters were added)
 - 2) in Jn.7:16 “...*My doctrine is NOT Mine, BUT His that sent Me.*” (some caps. added)
 - 3) in Jn.12:49 “*For I have NOT spoken on My own authority; BUT the FATHER who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say, and what I should speak.*” (some caps. added)
 - b. At the outset of His earthly ministry, in His ‘Sermon on the Mount’, the Lord Jesus said: (Matt.5:17) “*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets, I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 5:18 For assuredly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*”
 - c. This is reaffirmed AFTER Christ’s resurrection in Lk.24:44 – “...*These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.*”
 3. So it should come as **no surprise** that in the last moments of His earthly life, that we find the Lord Jesus with the Scriptures

occupying a place of prominence in His mind, even while hanging on the **cross**.

B. The Application:

1. What place do the Scriptures occupy in your mind and thinking? Is your abiding concern to do the revealed will of God for His glory?
1. Note some of the functions of the revealed will of God (the Bible):
 - a. It is a **deterrent to sinning**, according to Ps.119:11
 - b. It is a **directive to how to live** a God-glorifying, God-pleasing life, according to Ps.119:105
 - c. It is the God-given **means to spiritual growth and to being thoroughly equipped for every good work**, according to 2 Tim.3:16, 17
 - d. It is a **spiritual weapon**, according to Eph.6:17
 - e. It is a God-given **source of hope**, according to Ps.119:49 & 50

C. The Exhortation: “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*” (Phil.2:5) A mind in which the Scriptures occupy a place of **prominence**. A mind whose **abiding concern** is **doing** the revealed will of God.

1. But HOW? HOW practically can I, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, ever come to this kind of mindset and be like Christ Jesus?!?
2. Answer: By knowing the Scriptures (2 Tim.2:15), By hiding it in your heart (Ps.119:11), By meditating on it day and night (Ps.1:2), By having the sword of the Spirit in battle-ready condition at all times.

II. The Reality of the Physical and Eternal Suffering that the Lord Jesus endured in the place of His redeemed people.

A. “When we read of how well the Savior endured the intensity of His bodily sufferings, some may be tempted to suppose that such miraculous calmness and patience was the result of being miraculously **freed** from **really** feeling that suffering.” (J.C. Ryle)

1. In contrast, the Bible states that the Lord Jesus felt what all severely wounded persons, and especially what all crucified persons felt – a burning and consuming **thirst**
 - a. Psalm 69:21 *They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar (sour wine) to drink.* This is the Scripture that the Lord Jesus fulfilled. The Lord Jesus said, “*I thirst*” so that all would know what He was experiencing while hanging on the cross.

b. Ps.22:15 *My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaves to My jaws; and You have brought Me into the dust of death.*

c. C.H. Spurgeon on Ps.22:15 (Spurgeon called Psalm 22 “The Psalm of the Cross” in his introduction to this chapter) “*My strength is dried up like a potsherd.*” Most complete debility is here portrayed: Jesus likens Himself to a broken piece of earthenware, or an earthen pot, baked in the fire till the last particle of moisture is driven out of the clay. No doubt a high degree of feverish burning afflicted the body of our Lord. All His strength was dried up in the tremendous flames of avenging justice, even as the paschal lamb was roasted in the fire. “*My tongue cleaveth to my jaws:* thirst and fever fastened His tongue to His jaws. Dryness and a horrible clamminess tormented His mouth, so that he could scarcely speak. “*Thou hast brought me into the dust of death:*” so tormented in every single part as to feel dissolved into separate atoms, and each atom full of misery; the full price of our redemption was paid, and no part of the Surety’s body or soul escaped its share of agony.”

2. The Lord Jesus’ thirst was also a **representative of the torments of hell**, Lk.16:22-24

a. Turn to and read Lk.16:22-24

b. M. Henry observes that “The torments of hell are represented by a violent thirst in the complaint of the rich man who begged for a drop of water to cool his tongue. To that everlasting thirst we had all been condemned, had not Christ Jesus suffered for us” The pronoun “us” referring to God’s elect people.

c. This account is spoken by the Lord Jesus Himself. Being God as well as man, Christ Jesus knew exactly what hell is like and He knew the best ways to accurately represent and verbally express in words, its eternal torments to the human soul.

d. It is this same Christ Jesus, who said “*I thirst*”, while hanging on the cross.

B. Observations:

1. We stand amazed at the foot of the cross at the **infinite love** of God for some totally depraved sinners! Rom.5:8 “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us (believers), in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*”