

## Malcolm's Monday Musings : 2 November 2020

Greetings.

This is your weekly 'Musings' email from me.

Those of you who courageously undertook last week's journey with me (figuratively speaking) to 'one of the mountains' in 'the land of Moriah' may wish (again figuratively speaking) to leap forward a thousand years and (by means of this week's attached Word document) to join me on another visit to the very same spot.

Yours in our Lord Jesus,

Malcolm

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### (i) Scripture.

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 3. 22-26 (*English Standard Version*)

### (ii) Food for thought.

#### **'Is anything too hard for the Lord?' (Gen. 18. 14).**

'That God who brought Isaac out of a dead womb, and the Messiah out of a virgin's womb, what cannot He do?' (Thomas Watson, 'A Body of Divinity', page 145.)

#### **The incarnation and virgin birth of the Lord Jesus.**

'His *incarnation* is the fact that He became man; His *virgin birth* is the means by which He became man.

(F. F. Bruce, 'Our Lord's Incarnation and Virgin Birth', Treasury of Bible Doctrine, Precious Seed, page 150.)

#### **'Me' in John's Gospel.**

(i) 'Unto me': Attraction (John 12. 32).

(ii) 'Against me': Treason (John 13. 18).

(iii) 'By me': Access (John 14. 6).

(iv) 'Without me': Failure (John 15. 5).

(v) 'In me': Peace (John 16. 33).

(vi) 'With me': Glory (John 17. 24).

(W. T. Rae, 'Christ the Centre' in '1000 Subjects for Speakers and Students' by Henry Pickering, page 33.)

#### **The believer in John chapters 10-13.**

The believer belongs to:

(i) The 'one flock' (John 10. 16).

(ii) The 'children of God' (John 11. 52).

(iii) The 'much fruit' (John 12. 24).

(iv) 'His own' (John 13. 1).

#### **'His own'.**

Paradoxically, the Lord Jesus did not suffer or die for *any sins of His own* (for He had none), but He did suffer and die for *all the sins of 'His own'* (John 13. 1 with 1 Cor. 15. 3).

#### **The Lord's prayer for 'His own' in John 17.**

(i) That they may be kept loyal to the Father's 'name' ('character) which Jesus has revealed (v. 11).

(ii) That they may share the full measure of His joy (v. 13).

(iii) That they may be kept from the evil one (v. 15).

(iv) That they may be set apart for God's service through God's truth (vv. 17, 19).

(v) That they may enjoy complete unity with all other believers (vv. 21-23).

(vi) That they may one day be with Him and behold His heavenly glory (v. 24).

### **The ascension of the Lord Jesus.**

#### 1. 'Up':

- (i) 'He was *received* up' (Mark 16. 19).
- (ii) 'He was ... *carried* up' (Luke 24. 51).
- (iii) 'He was *taken* up' (Acts 1. 9).
- (iv) 'He *ascended* up' (Eph. 4. 8.)

#### 2. 'The heavens':

- (a) He 'passed *through* the heavens' (Heb. 4. 14 – literal translation).
- (b) He is 'made *higher* than the heavens' (Heb. 7. 26).
- (c) He 'ascended up *far above* all heavens' (Eph. 4. 10).
- (d) He 'entered ... *into* heaven itself' (Heb. 9. 24).  
[He has 'entered' as (i) *Forerunner* (Heb. 6. 20), (ii) *Redeemer* (Heb. 9. 12), and (iii) *Representative* (Heb. 9. 24).]

### **'Your word is truth' (John 17. 17): 'he is a liar' (John 8. 44).**

'Adam learned the hard way that the devil lies and God tells the truth. Since then, almost everything has changed, but this hasn't: the devil's still lying, and God's still telling the truth'.  
(J. B. Nicolson Jr., 'Petition Mission: October 27', uplook.org.)

### **Examples of threefold evil.**

- (i) 'The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life' (1 John 2. 16).
- (ii) 'The dragon ... the beast, and ... the false prophet' (Rev. 16. 13).
- (iii) 'The leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees ... and of Herod' (Matt. 16. 6; Mark 8. 15).
- (iv) 'The way of Cain ... the error of Balaam ... the gainsaying of Core' Jude 11.

### **'The fruit of the Spirit' (Gal. 5. 22).**

'Every gardener knows that mature fruit does not appear overnight. It takes time to grow — and so does the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Start tending your garden today'.  
(Billy Graham, 'Peace for Each Day'.)

### **Two ways in which God's grace can be abused:**

- (i) Legalism: 'You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have *fallen away* from grace' (Gal. 5. 4).
- (ii) Antinomianism (the belief that there are no moral laws and that men are not required to live holy lives): 'ungodly men, who *pervert* the grace of our God into sensuality' (Jude 4).

### **The apostle Paul's conviction about the timing of the Lord's return.**

'1 Thessalonians 4. 17 [*we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air*] no more proves Paul believed Christ would return during his lifetime than 1 Corinthians 6. 14 [*God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power*] proves he thought Christ would not return in his lifetime ... Although he uses the first person in both places, Paul is simply identifying himself with the Christians who will enjoy these experiences—whether meeting the Lord and thus escaping death, or dying and ultimately rising from the dead'.  
(D. A. Carson, 'For the Love of God', 21 October.)

### **Six major censuses mentioned in scripture:**

- (i) By Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai (Num. 1. 2–3)
- (ii) By Moses in the plain of Moab (Num. 26. 2)
- (iii) By David (2 Sam. 24. 1–10; 1 Chron. 21. 1–6)
- (iv) By Solomon (2 Chron. 2. 17–18)
- (v) In the days of Zerubbabel and Ezra (Ezra 2; Nehemiah 8)
- (vi) By Caesar Augustus (Luke 2. 1–3)

(Reproduced from Note 37 of the attached Word document.)

### **'A sweet-smelling savour'.**

- (i) The self-giving and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus for us (Eph. 5.2)
- (ii) The servant of God revealing Christ in the preaching of the gospel (2 Cor. 2. 15).
- (iii) The gifts of the local church to support God's servant in his work (Phil. 4. 18).

### **Service and the will of God.**

No service in itself is small,  
None great, though earth it fill;  
But that is small that seeks its own,  
And great that seeks God's will.

**Growing old (2 Cor. 5. 1)**

This frail old shell in which I dwell  
Is growing old, I know full well—  
But I am not the shell.  
Why should I care if Time's old plough  
Has left its furrows on my brow?  
Another house, not made with hand,  
Awaits me in the Glory Land.  
(John E. Roberts)

**Detailed notes.** [See the attached Word document, '2 Samuel 24'.](#)

**(iii) Go on, smile.**

For those who are 'young-at-heart' (alias 'over-the-hill').

1. Two elderly ladies were having tea together. The subject came around to their husbands. 'I just wish', said the one, 'that my Henry would stop biting his nails. It upsets me'. 'My Albert used to do the same', the other replied, 'but I broke him of the habit'. 'How ever did you do that?' asked the one. 'Easy', answered the other, '*I hid his teeth*'.

2. Thinking that the political candidate needed to show a more human side of himself, his committee advised him to visit a Retirement Home. Entering the room of one elderly man, with the cameras whirring, the visitor was surprised when the old man offered him some peanuts from a bowl on the table. 'Thank you, they are very nice', he said after being offered more for the third time, 'but why don't you have some yourself?' 'Oh, I can't eat them', said the resident, 'I don't have any teeth'. 'So why do you have them?' asked the confused candidate. 'Oh', replied the old man, '*I like sucking the chocolate which comes around them*'.

3. The senior citizens at the Methuselah Retirement Home had been taught how to send text messages on their mobile phones. They soon got the idea and enjoyed doing it. Having quickly mastered basic text abbreviations such as of BTW ('By The Way'), CU ('See You'), and NNTR ('No Need To Reply'), they felt confident to add a few of their own:

LMHA ...	Lost My Hearing Aids.
DFYT ...	Don't Forget Your Teeth.
BFFA ...	Best Friend Fallen Asleep.
MGPBL ...	Must Go, Pacemaker Battery Low.
HIFOOB ...	Help, I've Fallen Out Of Bed.
WYSMWNI ...	What'd You Say My Wife's Name Is?
JLMDO ...	Just Laughed My Dentures Out.

Finally, see the attached 'Personised toothbrush' picture.

