

## Malcolm's Monday Musings : 25 April 2022.

Greetings.

This coming Friday marks the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the home-call of John Nelson Darby on 29 April 1882.

I have no wish to use this email to provide any biographical details of Mr Darby. I prefer to 'feed' you seven quotations (which I have personally appreciated) from his many writings—one for each day of the week. Enjoy.

1. 'The gospels display the One in whom was no selfishness. They tell out the heart that was ready for everybody. No matter how deep His own sorrow, He always cared for others. He could warn Peter in Gethsemane, and comfort the dying thief on the cross'.

(*'The Perfections of Christ'*, Pilgrim Portions: Fifth Week.)

2. 'Never was divine love so shewn forth as in Christ coming down so low; and it was because He is what He is that He could do it. If Adam left his first estate, it was sin; but Christ could humble Himself, and it was the perfectness of love'.

(*'The Good Shepherd and the Sheep'*, Collected Writings, Volume 16, page 318.)

3. 'In the measure in which He knew what it was to be holy, He felt what it was to be made sin before God. In the measure in which He knew the love of God, He felt what it was to be forsaken of God'.

(*'Jesus the Sufferer'*, Collected Writings, Volume 21, page 71.)

4. 'How precious, how strengthening it is to know that Jesus is at this moment feeling and exercising the same love towards me as when He died on the cross for me'.

(*'Growth through the Truth'*, Collected Writings, Volume 12, page 183.)

5. 'There is no other subject of praise for heaven than for earth; the blood of Christ has the same efficacy on earth as in heaven: that for which they praise God there is equally true for us. Their harps are better tuned than ours, but their song is the same'.

(*'Christ, the Faithful Witness'*, Collected Writings, Volume 16, page 218.)

6. 'It is not in the time of combat, in the evil day, I am to put on my armour [Eph. 6. 11]. I enter into it armed, at least if I enter into it aright, and in the way to be victorious. The armour we wear is our abiding state'.

(*'The Whole Armour of God'*, Collected Writings, Volume 17, page 270.)

7. 'When my heart is filled with Christ I have no heart or eye for the trash of the world. If Christ is dwelling in your heart by faith it will not be the question, "What harm is there in this, or that?" Rather, "Am I doing this for Christ?" "Can Christ go along with me in this?"

(*'A word on Cleaving to the Lord'*, Collected Writings, Volume 34, page 396.)

The remainder of this week's Musings follow.

Happy reading.

Yours in our Lord Jesus,

Malcolm

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### (i) Scripture.

They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep. For He commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.

They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He bringeth them out of their distresses.

He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so He bringeth them unto their desired haven.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalm 107. 23-31 (King James Version)

## (ii) Food for thought.

### **The Bible.**

'It is an armoury of heavenly weapons, a laboratory of infallible medicines, a mine of exhaustless wealth ... It is a guidebook for every road, a chart for every sea, a medicine for every malady, and a balm for every wound ... Divinely adapted to our circumstances, whatever these may be, we can say of this book as David said of the giant's sword, "Give me that, there is none like it". Rob us of our Bible and our sky has lost its sun'.

(Thomas Guthrie, 'The Unchangeable Word', in 'The Way to Life; Sermons', page 91.)

### **'The earth is my footstool ... and what is the place of my rest?' (Isa. 66. 1).**

'Because ... the earth itself is no more than a resting-place for God's feet (His 'footstool'), no structure erected on that earth could function in any semi-physical sense as the 'place' of His 'rest'.

'Nevertheless, in His grace, God does condescend to manifest His presence in a special way in and among His people.

(i) 'In the past, He dwelt among His people in both the tabernacle, Exod. 25. 8, and the temple at Jerusalem, 2 Chr. 6. 2.

(ii) 'In the present, He dwells (a) in the local church as His house, 1 Tim. 3. 15, and His temple, 1 Cor. 3. 16-17; 2 Cor. 6. 16, and (b) in the individual believer, 1 Cor. 6. 19.

(iii) 'And, in the future, He will dwell in both the millennial and the eternal city, Ezek. 48. 35; Rev. 21. 2-3.

'What an immense privilege His people enjoy!

('Bible Questions', Precious Seed Publications, page 138.)

### **'O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness' (Psa. 107. 8, 15, 21, 31).**

'Gratitude is the return justly required from the objects of His beneficence; yet is it often withheld from our great Benefactor simply because His goodness is so constant and so abundant. It is lightly esteemed because it is exercised toward us in the common course of events. It is not felt because we daily experience it'.

(A. W. Pink, 'The Attributes of God', page 60.)

### **'He will not allow you to be tested beyond your power' (1 Cor. 10. 13 – Good News Bible).**

'The circumstances surrounding our lives are no accident; they may be the work of evil, but that evil is held firmly within the mighty hand of our sovereign God. ... All evil is subject to Him, and evil cannot touch His children unless He permits it. God is the Lord of human history and of the personal history of every member of His redeemed family'.

(Margaret Clarkson, 'Grace Grows Best in Winter', pages 40-41.)

### **The hardening of Pharaoh's heart.**

'In all there are ten places where "hardening" of Pharaoh is ascribed to God (Exod. 4. 21; 7. 3; 9. 12; 10. 1, 20, 27; 11. 10; 14. 4, 8, 17). But it must be stated just as firmly that Pharaoh hardened his own heart in another ten passages (Exod. 7. 13, 14, 22; 8. 15, 19, 32; 9. 7, 34, 35; 13. 15). Thus, the hardening was as much Pharaoh's own act as it was the work of God. Even more significant is the fact that Pharaoh alone was the agent of the hardening in the first sign and in all the first five plagues. Not until the sixth plague ... was it stated that God actually moved in and hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exod. 9. 12), as he had warned Moses in Midian that he would have to do (Exod. 4. 21)'.

(Walter C. Kaiser Jr, 'Exodus (The Expositor's Bible Commentary)', on Exod. 4. 21-23.)

### **'They know not what they do' (Luke 23. 34).**

'Many of the agents of Providence "know not what they do". The hirelings who made the cross little supposed it was to be the world's ladder to heaven, and with all the vulture-keenness of the vision of fiends, hell's Craftiest has been astounded at the issue of his own deeds. A mightier mind than Satan's has foiled his craftiness, and yoked him captive to the Redeemer's car ["triumph carriage"]'.

(Samuel Coley, quoted by R. P. Downes, 'Samuel Coley: The Illustrative Preacher', page 81.)

### **Beheld but not fully known.**

Although the Son was contemplatable ('which we looked upon', 1 John 1. 1), He was incomprehensible ('no one knows the Son, but the Father', Matt. 11. 27).

### **'I say unto you, Swear not at all' (Matt. 5. 34).**

'What Jesus emphasized in His teaching was that honest men do not need to resort to oaths; it was not that they should refuse to take an oath if required by some external authority to do so'.

(John Stott, *'The Message of the Sermon on the Mount'*, page 102.)

***'Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him' (1 Thess. 4. 14).***

'Almost the same words are found in Hebrews applied to the resurrection of Christ: "Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus" (Heb. 13. 20). The same divine and almighty power therefore that raised up Christ from the dead will be again exhibited in the display of the saints in the glory with Jesus at His appearing.

'Having established this fact, the apostle proceeds to explain, by a direct communication ("the word of the Lord", 1 Thess. 4. 15) which he had received for this purpose, how all the saints alike would be gathered into the presence of Jesus before His appearing, so as to be able to return with Him ...

'If this interpretation be correct, the passage contained in verses 15-18 is parenthetical; and 1 Thess. 5. 1 will connect itself with 1 Thess. 4. 14. Thus taken, all is plain—1 Thess. 4. 14 speaking of the appearing of Christ with His people; while the parenthesis explains His coming for them, so that all might understand how they will be with Him previous to His appearing; and then the next chapter returns to the appearing: "the day of the Lord" (1 Thess. 5. 2)'.  
(Anon., *'Scripture Note'*, The Christian Friend, 1889, page 26.)

***'Be vigilant; because your adversary ...' (1 Pet. 5. 8).***

'As in all warfare, the two essential elements in victory are knowing your enemy and knowing your resources'.

(Sinclair Ferguson, *'Healthy Christian Growth'*, page 19.)

***The past.***

'To fight the fight of faith successfully we have to learn to commit not only the future but also the past to the Lord'.

(Daniel P. Fuller, *'The Unity of the Bible'*, page 286.)

***A salutary warning to Bible students.***

'It is tragic to go through our days making Christ the subject of our study but not the sustenance of our souls ... You can starve reading books on bread. You can search the Scriptures and not come to Him for life'.

(Vance Havner, *'Day by Day'*, the devotion for 16 May.)

***'Preach the word' (2 Tim. 4. 2).***

'When a man goes to church, he often hears a preacher in the pulpit rehash everything that he has read in the editorials, the newspapers, and the magazines. On the TV commentaries he hears that same stuff over again, yawns, and goes out and plays golf on Sunday. When a man comes to church, actually what he is saying to you is this: "Preacher, I know what the TV commentator has to say; I hear him every day. I know what the editorial writer has to say; I read it every day. I know what the magazines have to say; I read them every week. Preacher, what I want to know is, does God have anything to say?" If God has anything to say, tell us what it is.'

(W. A. Criswell, *'What Happens When I Preach the Bible as Literally True'*, in *'Can We Trust The Bible'*, 1979, page 103.)

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

**1. The 'meat' interview.**

An Ethiopian, a North Korean, an American, and an Englishman were being interviewed.

The interviewer asked each of them, in turn, "Excuse me, what is your opinion on the current meat shortage?"

The Ethiopian replied, "What's 'meat'?"

The North Korean replied, "What's an 'opinion'?"

The American replied, "What's a 'shortage'?"

The Englishman replied, "What's 'excuse me'?"

**2. The 'yeast' ditty. (\*)**

There once was a pious young priest  
Who lived almost wholly on yeast.  
For he said, 'It is plain, we must all rise again,

*So I thought I'd get started at least'.*

(\*) Reproduced from '*Studies in First Corinthians (Precious Seed Publications)*', page 257.