

Brought Near by the Blood of Christ

Scripture

“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh— who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (Eph 2:11-13 NKJV)

Devotion

If you stand in God’s favor, it is because Christ shed His blood for you. I don’t know if we meditate on this enough. We were without hope and without God in the world. This refers specifically to Gentiles as the Jews were God’s chosen people at least nationally. However, the believer may and should have a deeper, personal appreciation of this glorious truth.

We all sacrifice some for our loved ones. When they need our help, we put aside our own projects and seek to make their lives a little easier. However, the magnitude of Christ sacrifice for us is incomparable.

Physically, He went through torturous pain. Those who died on a cross died from suffocation. To prolong the agony the Roman guards would spike the condemned’s feet close enough that they could lift themselves up slightly to catch their breath which was being cut off because of their raised arms. Of course this momentary relief came with excruciating pain as the spike tore deeper into the flesh as the sufferer bore down.

Beyond the physical, Christ also suffered spiritually. In anticipation of His crucifixion, He sweats like great drops of blood (Luke 22:44). While hanging on the cross He cried out, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34) We cannot begin to comprehend what Christ went through to die for us. However, we should try to get a glimpse of it for it will humble us and motivate us.

My dear friends, as it is written, “. . . the sufferings of this present time are not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Ro 8:18 NKJV) Yes there are difficult times that we must plow through, but Christ went through far more to ensure that our end will be glorious, without pain, and eternal. So, keep yourselves in holiness.

“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be [in the likeness] of [His] resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with [Him], that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For [the death] that He died, He died to sin once for all; but [the life] that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness to God.” (Ro 6:5-13 NKJV)