

A Lord's Day Snippet!

Biblical And Southern Studies

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1 To the name of our salvation
 laud and honour let us pay,
 which for many a generation
hid in God's foreknowledge lay,
 but with holy exultation
 we may sing aloud to-day.

2 Jesus is the name we treasure,
name beyond what words can tell;
name of gladness, name of pleasure,
 ear and heart delighting well;
name of sweetness passing measure,
 saving us from sin and hell.

3 'Tis the name that whoso preacheth
 speaks like music to the ear;
who in prayer this name beseecheth
 sweetest comfort findeth near;
who its perfect wisdom reacheth
 heavenly joy possesseth here.

4 Jesus is the name exalted
 over every other name;
in this name, whene'er assaulted,
 we can put our foes to shame:
strength to them who else had halted,
 eyes to blind, and feet to lame.

5 Therefore we in love adoring
this most blessed name revere,
 holy Jesu, thee imploring
 so to write it in us here,
that hereafter heavenward soaring
 we may sing with angels there.

J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

God's Reality Tableau

“That I should preach among the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see what the fellowship of the mystery is, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God which made all things through Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 3:8-10

God’s reality tableau began at creation where He began to reveal His infinite wisdom, His ineffable providence, His impeccable Son, and His infallible redemption. Another has put it this way, “If creation is the theater in which God displays His glorious wisdom, and if the various outworkings of providence represent the drama played out, then the redemptive mission of Christ is the climactic act” [J. Bridges].

In this tableau is the proclamation of Christ’s unsearchable riches, the causing of all men to see the mystery hidden in God the Father and manifested in God the Son. Ephesians 3:9-14 reveals the mystery hidden in God from the beginning of the world. This is the God who created all things by Jesus Christ. Why did He do it that way? He would make known through the church unto the principalities and powers in the heavenlies His manifold wisdom according to His eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Christ Jesus our Lord we have boldness as well as confident access through the faith out of Him. Don’t faint at your tribulations in which you should glory. This is the reason you should bow your knees to the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s multifaceted iridescent wisdom was put on display by the church which is the object of the redemptive work of Christ. The splendorous display of God’s wisdom was a reality tableau through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ who through His substitutionary atonement and the Holy Spirit’s effectual calling brought about the called-out assembly called the ecclesia.

Christ was the demonstration of the eternal purpose of God and through Him “we see God’s justice reconciled with mercy, His law reconciled with grace, His holiness (reconciled) with His love, and His power (reconciled) with His compassion” [Bridges]. Christ’s atoning death was the hinge of history.

The wisdom of God is revealed through the rebellious rejection and historic crucifixion of His Son carrying out His eternal purpose in redemption. Yes, the wrath of man was turned to the fulfilling of His eternal will—“For to do (against thy holy child Jesus) whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done” (Eph. 4:28). What God had decided should be done to redeem us His enemies fulfilled. In the attempt of the Gentile rulers and Jewish leaders to destroy the outworking of God’s redemption they made it happen—“Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.” Isaac Watts wrote:

1 From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.

2 Eternal are Thy mercies Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

The reality tableau did not end at the crucifixion, for Christ was victorious over the grave. “Whom God hath raised up.” Christ was “raised again for our justification. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Oh, the jewel of peace which is under the control of our Prince.

Peace is through the Prince of Peace our Lord Jesus Christ. During the war between the states an officer approached a severely wounded soldier who lay dying on the battlefield, “Can I do anything for you?” He replied, “Nothing—nothing, thank you.” “Shall I go and get you a little water?” “No, thank you; I am dying.” “Isn’t there anything I can do? Cannot I sit down and write a letter to your friends?” “I have no friends you can write to. There is one thing I would be much obliged to you for. In my haversack, yonder, you will find a Testament. Will you open it? Will you be so good as to turn to the fourteenth chapter of John?—and near the end you will find a verse that begins with the word ‘peace.’” The officer turned to the fourteenth of John’s Gospel, and read, “*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*” “Thank you, sir,” said the dying soldier; “thank you, sir. I have that peace—I am going to that Saviour.” In a few moments more the glorified spirit left his poor wounded frame and soared away upwards to the hand of infinite love, which, like the hand of Noah from the ark, was reached from heaven, and safely drew him in.