

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

June, 2015

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. VII.06

You Asked for It!

Take up thy cross and follow Me, I heard my Master say."

The Bible states clearly that the servant is not greater than his lord.

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you (Jn 15.20).

Jesus Christ was crucified upon the Cross of Calvary because of His great love for the people of the world (1 Jn 3.1; 4.8, 16; 1 Cor 15.3, 4). It is interesting and amazing how the enemy came against Jesus because Jesus had a perfect heart; He is the Son of God (Lk 4.1-13). The Lord God is holy God and calls His people to be holy, to walk in His holiness, His righteousness ((Lev 20.7; 1 P 1.15, 16; Isa 61.10; Zec 8.8; Mt 6.33; Lk 1.73-75; Ep 4.24).

King David wrote in Psalm 84.2 that His heart longed for the living God.

My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

King David knew the cost of living for the Lord God in Jesus Christ. We find in Psalm 55 how those close to the King came against him.

The Gospels make it clear that the presence of holiness, the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, will bring conflict, will bring division, will divide families because those who walk in darkness, those who walk with the enemy, with Satan and the world, love darkness rather than light (Lk 12.50-59; Jn 3.19; 12.46).

The enemy never stops his working in the world or among the disciples, the followers of Jesus Christ. Notice in Luke 4.13 it is stated that the devil "departed from [Jesus] for a season." Can you imagine the audacity of Satan to even think that he could tempt Jesus, the Son of God, to sin? As you seek the Lord in what is going on in your life as you endeavor to live for the Lord Jesus Christ, know that the enemy, that Satan and his ministers, his apostles, continue seeking to take life from you (Acts 15.24; II Cor 11.12-15).

The preface has been laid for you to better understand what may be going on in your life. The enemy is vile, cunning, deceitful, the father of lies (Ps 10; 36.3; Jer 9; 1 P 5.8; Jn 8.44).

The king signs an edict that anyone praying to their god anytime the next 30 days would spend the night with the lions (Dan 6.7)! Hungry lions – at that. There is one who chose to pray to the God of Heaven where everyone could see him. Yes, this

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes (Rev. 7.9-17).

This is what they asked for – life with the Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven - forevermore.

Can it be said to you and me, "*You asked for it*"?

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

person chose to go before an open window where he was accustomed to praying – even though he would be seen. *He asked for it!*

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime (Dan 6.10).

Some might say that he was lacking in the ability of inductive reasoning. Some might say that he was not prudent, and some might say he could have hidden to pray; he could have changed his place of prayer for the next 30 days. *He asked for it!* And, you? What do you say?

Then there were Isaiah and Jeremiah, and many others – who spoke forth the Truth of God in obedience to their Lord and God. *They asked for it!* Jeremiah was thrown into a dungeon (Jer 38.1-6). Isaiah, wrote historians, was sawn asunder (Heb 11.37). All through history the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ have suffered greatly.

This persecution continues today as our brothers and sisters in other countries – as well as here – are horrendously persecuted for the Name of Jesus Christ; just listen to current events, the current news. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Tim 3.12).

Stephen, who was ordained a deacon, full of the Holy Ghost, having overstepped his authority, by most standards today, went out preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ (as did other deacons in the Bible) – only to be stoned for speaking forth the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 6 and 7). *He asked for it!* He could have stayed home, attended a board meeting, or a committee meeting.

Then there was Peter. Imagine someone who denied the Lord Jesus Christ when Jesus was taken captive by the religious ones and the government, then later the Lord used him mightily to preach to those who were part of this. Can you see the people, hear them say, “What a jokester he is! He denies Jesus, then comes against us for doing what we did when he could not even stand with Jesus”? Oh, **No!** They were pricked in their hearts, and salvation came to them because Peter repented and chose to walk on with Jesus all the way, his life given completely to the Lord – come what may (Acts 2)! History has recorded Peter was crucified on a cross for speaking forth the Truth of God. *That was asking for it!*

What about the great Pharisee who was against the Christians, as they were first called at Antioch, then had a life changing experience and had the courage to speak forth the Truth of God in Christ Jesus before rulers, kings . . . and – where did he end (Acts 9; 11.26)? On death row! *He asked for it!* He suffered horrendously for Jesus Christ because of his love for the Lord out of the love of God in Christ Jesus for him.

Remember: the servant is not greater than his Master. Paul suffered greatly (II Cor 11.21-33). Paul was a great follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. He loved His Lord and Savior. His life comes before us as one who knew the cost of discipleship, who knew the cost of loving the Savior, here on earth, but oh, how glorious to know life forevermore with the Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven.

I speak as concerning reproach . . .

. . . I [*am*] more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

Of the Jews five times received I forty [*stripes*] save one.

Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

[*In*] journeyings often, [*in*] perils of waters, [*in*] perils of robbers, [*in*] perils by [*mine own*] countrymen, [*in*] perils by the heathen, [*in*] perils in the city, [*in*] perils in the wilderness, [*in*] perils in the sea, [*in*] perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. . . .

In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

The Bible and history books are full of those who loved the Lord Jesus Christ with their lives and gave their lives for Him, those who were persecuted beyond thought. There are many about whom we could write. Read through the Old Testament and New Testament. Ten of the disciples were martyred for Jesus Christ. John was exiled on the Isle of Patmos. St. Polycarp in A.D. 156 was asked to deny his Lord and Savior to keep from going to the pyre. But, no, he could not do that – for he loved Jesus Christ with his life. *He asked for it!*

Yes, when they chose to repent of their sins, surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ to live for Him Who died for their sins that they might be forgiven – *They asked for it!* Yes, when they chose to rise to newness of life in Jesus Christ Who rose from the dead and lives forevermore in Heaven that they might live with Him in Heaven through all eternity – *They asked for it!*

Wait! What made them ask for it? **What** were they asking **for**?

What was it they asked for by their lives lived for Jesus Christ and through whom the Truth of Jesus Christ was preached as well as lived?

We are given the answer in Revelation 7.9-17 where we read of the vision of that glorious place called Heaven, of that place where the people of the Lord God of Israel having suffered such unbearable atrocities while on earth, are now and shall be forever experiencing the glorious presence of the Lord Jesus Christ and His love, joy, and peace.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And all the angels stood round about the throne, and [*about*] the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, [*be*] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.