

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

Altogether Lovely

Song of Solomon 5:16: He is altogether lovely

Let us agree with the prophet Isaiah's pathetic portrait of our suffering savior as a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" and, to the outward sense, there was "no beauty that we should desire Him". But this most certainly speaks of the agonies of the cross and the distortion of his visage that was so ingloriously marred by the unrelenting scourge, the plucking of the beard, the shame of the spittle, the brutal buffeting of which He endured to secure our redemption. The horrific spectacle of the cross and its accompanying indignities would be enough to make the most stoic of men recoil from the scene and hide their faces in disgust.

But there is an enduring beauty that is not dependent on the physical, outward expression. It is the pulchritude of the soul, the heart, the mind. This beauty cannot be captured with the artist's brush, the sculptor's chisel, nor the photographer's lens. It is intrinsic and finds its highest form of expression in the person of the Son of the Living God. What else can account for the centuries of devotion to this sacred person for whom, without ever seeing Him, countless believers have suffered torture and martyrdom without hesitation? What curious force of attraction is this that men have sacrificed fame, fortune, and families to become missionaries to strange lands in hopes of delivering the heathen from the bondage of superstition and debauchery? The only answer-He is altogether lovely.

John saw His radiant countenance and described it as a jasper stone. What fascination intrigues those who behold a brilliant gemstone? And so much the more did John in awe-inspired wonder behold the king in His beauty. Not only lovely but altogether lovely is our glorious Lord! Consider the many facets of the incomparable Christ: lovely in His incarnation, lovely in His immaculate life, lovely in His compassion for the afflicted, lovely in His grace to sinners, even lovely in His ignominious death, and lovely in His mediatorial position at the right hand of the majesty on high.

It is promised that we shall share in this loveliness for just as certainly do the children bear the image of their parents, so do the children of God bear the image of our Heavenly Father. We, though for now, are clothed in the defiled habiliments of Adam's flesh and blood, shall soon be transfigured for "we shall be like him"-altogether lovely!

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing; and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17