

## The Inexpressible Suffering and Glorious Satisfaction

Isa 53:11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

How often in this passage have we been reminded again and again of the suffering of our Lord in our behalf? In verse 4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, and again in verse 5 He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. Then in verse 6, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. We come next to verse 8, For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. Then again in verse 10 we read, yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief when He made His soul an offering for sin and finally in the passage this morning in verse 11, He shall bear their iniquities.

For over and over again God would have us, as His chosen people, mindful of the only means of our salvation. God would have us ever aware of the suffering of His Son in our behalf lest we forget His provision and turn to our labors or our self-righteousness as a means of salvation. Think how often in the history of the Church, God's visible people upon the earth have been neglectful of this glorious doctrine that speaks of the love, love beyond comprehension, of Almighty God for His people. We should be humbled, but never tired of nor bored by the hearing of God's mercy and love for His Elect.

Once again the voice of the one speaking changes from Isaiah to God Himself speaking to us. "*He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.*"

Let us then consider this passage before us this morning under these headings: 1. The heaviness of the labor our Lord undertook to redeem His people from their sin; 2. The satisfaction our Lord enjoys, and 3. the necessity of Biblical instruction, and in conclusion, the means of it all.

- A. The heaviness of the labor our Lord undertook to redeem His people from their sin. - *He shall see the labor of His soul.*
1. The Hebrew word translated by "labor" speaks of that aspect of labor which is a heavy burden, painful and hard to endure.
    - a. The word used here expresses the excessive weariness and arduous and wearisome labor and trial involved in the work of redemption.
    - b. It speaks of that which exhausted the very strength of the Messiah who, being in the flesh, cried out in the garden, "Let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not my will but yours be done.
    - c. We must understand that the labor, the travail, of our Lord was indeed a heavy, painful and hard to endure burden.
  2. I think it is best described by the words of the Apostles' Creed where we read, "He descended into hell".
    - a. And I believe these words are best explained for us by the instruction of our beloved Heidelberg Catechism where we read in question 44.

Question 44. Why is it added: "He descended into hell?"

A. That in my greatest temptations I may be assured that Christ my Lord, by His inexpressible anguish, pains, and terrors, which He suffered in His soul on the cross and before, has redeemed me from the anguish and torment of hell.

- b. In particular noting these words, "by His inexpressible anguish, pains, and terrors, which He suffered in His soul on the cross and before."
3. That which he suffered before the cross is best exemplified by His suffering in Gethsemane.

*Matt 26:38 Then He said to them, "My soul is **exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.**"*

*Luke 22:44 And **being in agony,** He prayed more earnestly. Then **His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.***

*Luke 22:41-42 He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*

- a. It was not the dread or fear of dying that caused our Lord to pray thus.

Calvin - And here again we ought to remember the cause of so great *sorrow*; for **death in itself would not have so grievously tormented the mind** of the Son of God, if he had not felt that **he had to deal with the judgment of God**.

- b. Let us understand then, that it was out of an awareness of the heaviness of the burden of sin, **our sin** that would be placed upon Him, and the wrath of God that would then fall upon Him.
- c. I think best understood by the word used in Heb. 5:8 translated "godly fear"

*Heb 5:7-8 ". . . who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*

4. The suffering our Lord endured on the cross is best described when He cried out: "My God, my God, why hast you forsaken me!" Matt. 27:46.
  - a. When, because our Lord who knew no sin had become sin in our place.
  - b. And because He had become sin His Father who cannot look upon sin withdrew His presence and communion from Him.
  - c. That glory, that continual presence which He had known and enjoyed with His Father from eternity past was removed and our Lord suffered the anguish and terror of those who are rejected of God.

B. The satisfaction our Lord enjoys - *He shall see the labor of His soul, **and be satisfied***

1. Our Lord is satisfied because He finished the work the Father sent Him to do.

*John 17:4 I have glorified you on earth, I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*

- a. He glorified the Father
- b. Provided salvation for God's elect.

2. He was satisfied because His joy was to lay down His life for the sheep.

*Heb 12:2 Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for **the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame***

3. He is satisfied for in so doing He has brought many sons to glory.

*Heb 2:9-10 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. **For it was fitting for Him**, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings*

4. He was satisfied in that He and He alone could provide this salvation. - *For it was fitting for Him*
5. Our Lord was satisfied for He has become the captain of our salvation, made perfect through suffering.

I trust we now understand the depth of the meaning of those words, ". . . who for **the joy that was set before Him endured the cross?**"

#### CONCLUSION:

Let us be filled with awe and amazement that God would love us so, that He would take upon Himself our flesh and thereby willing suffer inexpressible anguish, pains, and terrors, in His soul on the cross and before, that He might redeem us unworthy sinners from the anguish and torment of hell.