

The Wednesday Word, September 26, 2018: Astonished and Amazed!

Who is Jesus? He is the glory of heaven. His radiance is brighter than the sun. He was and is and always will be the Lord God. He is the eternal Word made flesh (John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16).

When I consider Him, I'm astonished and amazed!

He is the Image of the Invisible God (Colossians 1:15-17; John 1:17). He is the perfect manifestation of God.

When I meditate on this, I'm astonished and amazed!

He is the mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 8:6) – He is the only way to approach God.

When I reflect on this, I'm astonished and amazed!

He is Head over All Things (Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:27-28) – What a truth!

When I dwell on this, I'm astonished and amazed!

"He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: when He was reviled, He reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not, but committed himself to Him that judges righteously" (1 Peter 2: 22-23).

When I deliberate on this, I'm astonished and amazed!

Nevertheless, despite Him being sinless, "He was despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah. 53:3).

When I look thoughtfully at this, I'm astonished and amazed!

Many of his days upon earth were difficult days, clouded with care, and pain. So much so that he could say, "I am afflicted and ready to die even from my youth up" (Psalm 88.:15).

When I think about this, I'm astonished and amazed!

After the Kangaroo court they subjected Him to, "His face," we are told, "was so marred, more than any (other) man's, and his form more than the sons of men" (Isaiah 52:14).

When I envision this, I'm astonished and amazed!

How could they treat God in human flesh like this? What grace! What authority under control. He was the One giving them breath and keeping them alive as they brutalized Him.

When I visualize this, I'm astonished and amazed!

Listen to the groans of anguish as they beat and punched Him. The only mouth in the history of man that never uttered an unholy word was bruised and battered.

When I contemplate this, I'm astonished and amazed!

But, harder and more terrible than all this is the truth, "It pleased Yahweh to bruise him." It was the Father who " put him to grief" (Isaiah 53:10).

Quite frankly, I'm astonished and amazed!

Yes, it was the Father's voice that cried, "Awake, o sword, against my shepherd, against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd" (Zechariah 13:7). In His last and darkest hour, when the storm of wrath burst upon him in all its fury, his Father's arm was withdrawn!

Quite bluntly, I'm astonished and amazed!

At the cross, the light of God's countenance was replaced by the awful darkness of God's frown. The terrors of wrath fell upon Christ's lovely head and caused him to release that piercing cry, "My God, My God, why hast THOU forsaken me,"

When I picture this, I'm astonished and amazed!

"Alas! and did my Saviour bleed,
And did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote his sacred head
For such a worm as I?"

"Was it for sins that I had done,
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree.

"Well may I hide my blushing face,
'When his dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears."

David Brainerd, the famous missionary to the American Indians, said, "I never got away from Jesus and Him crucified in my preaching. I found that once these people were gripped by the great evangelical meaning of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, I did not have to give them many instructions about changing their behavior."

May we always be astonished and amazed by Jesus and thus live for His glory.

And that's the Gospel Truth!