

The Wednesday Word, October 10, 2018: None Can Perish There

“Approach, my soul, the mercy-seat
Where Jesus answers prayer;
There humbly fall before His feet,
For none can perish there.”
John Newton

We can all remember a time when we were sinners. Oh yes, I know we are (present tense) sinners (1 Timothy 1:15) but I’m talking about when we knew we were vile and base and living in despair. And do you remember what happened? Jesus interposed and led us to the cross and assured us that,

None can perish there!

Then by the Spirit and the Word we were taught precious truths like the Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:17-22). We learned that it was made of pure gold and thus a picture of Christ (Exodus 37:6). It pointed us again to Jesus the only sinless one who ever lived. Indeed,

None can perish there!

God told Moses He would commune with him from above the Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:22). It is no wonder then that in John 14:6, Jesus, being the Mercy Seat, said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by Me." It is only in Jesus that we commune with the Father. Christ is our Mercy Seat

None can perish there.

When we are tempted to doubt and fear and think that the Lord is not hearing us. It’s then we see that Christ has entered once into the Holy place (Hebrews 9:12). He entered that sacred place for us and representing us, therefore,

None can perish there.

And as we grow in grace and the knowledge of God we also discover that we are now settled in the Heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 2:6). What a delightfully precious resting place. And

None can perish there.

When we at times feel our insecurity and fear that we will never be admitted to glory, it is then we learn to see His injured hands and feet. As we consider His wounded side and see what our sin has done, and yet know that it was for us he bled and suffered. Then again, we see,

None can perish there.

When we are carrying cares for the future. When we worry about our finances as we grow old. We learn to trust tomorrow to His hands; they are strong hands and mighty.

None can perish there.

During the settling of the American West, a group of pioneers was making their way across one of the central plains. They traveled in covered wagons drawn by oxen, and progress was slow. One day they were horrified to note a long line of smoke in the west, stretching for miles across the prairie, and soon it was evident that the dried grass was burning fiercely and coming toward them rapidly. They had crossed a river the day before, but it would be impossible to go back to that before the flames would be upon them.

One man only seemed to have understood what should be done. He gave the command to set fire to the grass behind them. Then when a space was burned over, the whole company moved back upon it.

As the flames roared on toward them from the west, a little girl cried out in terror, "Are you sure we shall not all be burned up?" The leader replied, "My child, the flames cannot reach us here, for we are standing where the fire has been!"

What a picture of the believer who is safe in Christ!

None can perish there.

"On Him Almighty vengeance fell,
Which would have sunk a world to hell.
He bore it for a chosen race,
And thus becomes our Hiding Place."

The fires of God's judgment burned themselves out on Him, and all who are in Christ are safe forever, for they are now standing where the fire has been.

None can perish there.

And that's the Gospel Truth!