

Malcolm's Monday Musings : 13 April 2020

(i) Scripture.

'...the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things ... our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself'.

Philippians 3. 18-21 (*New King James Version*)

(ii) Food for thought.

Some jottings on Paul's letter to the Philippians.

General.

The apostle's Christ-centred desires:

- (a) to be found in Christ, Phil. 3. 9;
- (b) to know Christ, Phil. 3. 10;
- (c) to live for Christ, Phil. 1. 21;
- (d) to magnify Christ, Phil. 1. 20; and
- (e) to be with Christ, Phil. 1. 23.

Philippians 3. 18-21.

'The "*enemies of the cross*" are heading for destruction (Phil. 3. 19), but we are waiting for a Saviour from heaven (verse 20). They are devoted to the body, worshipping and making a god of its appetites. But we, quite the reverse, look for its transformation, for we consider it to be our lowly body, literally "the body of our humiliation" (verse 21). They have a perverted, topsy-turvy scale of values, glorying in shameful things, but we possess a true perception of value, having some appreciation even now of his glory (verse 21). And finally, they are earth-bound, while our commonwealth is in heaven (verse 20).

(J. Alec Motyer, *The message of Philippians*, page 193.)

'Paul is hinting, I suggest, that the Philippians, some of whom at least will have been Roman citizens, and all of whom may have found benefit in the city's status as a Roman colony, must sit as loose to their privileges as he has to his'.

(N. T. Wright, *Redemption*, page 96.)

Paul enjoyed no less than four citizenships:

- (a) of Israel, Eph. 2. 11-12 (literally, 'you Gentiles ... were alienated from *the citizenship* of Israel');
- (b) of Tarsus, Acts 21. 39;
- (c) of Rome, Acts 22. 27-28; and, best of all,
- (d) of heaven, Phil. 3. 20.

Philippians 3. 7.

The apostle Paul did not say, 'Whatever loss I suffered, turned out to be gain because of Christ' What he said was, 'What things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ'. Christ surpasses the best, not only the worst.

Philippians 3. 8.

'If an ancient philosopher had been asked what one thing would entirely have met all his wants, and satisfied all his hopes and desires, he would have been at a loss for an answer. But ask a Christian this question, and without a moment's hesitation, he replies, All I need, all I wish, is to "win Christ". Let me attain him, and I shall, I can, look no farther'.

(William Jay, *The Works Of William Jay*, Vol. 1. Page 78.)

'**Contentment**' in Philippians 3 and 4.

The Christian should always be content with his or her present physical circumstances and possessions (Phil. 4. 11-13; cf. Heb. 13. 5), but never with his or her present spiritual experience and attainments (Phil. 3. 12-14).

Philippians 4. 4.

'In Philippians is brought out the power of God's Spirit acting in one walking in the right path, and the result is a person entirely above it all, one who can "rejoice in the Lord alway". We may remember, too, that Paul had been four years in prison at the time, two of them with a soldier chained to him; and, what was still more trying, his work as an apostle put a stop to, his activity all come to an end. He might have reproached himself as to going up to Jerusalem, and so on, but he does not; he rises above it all'.

(J. N. Darby, article *'This one thing'* in *'Collected Writings'*, volume 32, page 347.)

Detailed notes. [See the attached Word document, 'The exaltation of Christ'.](#)

And, separately, see the attached 'Three days' picture.

(iii) Go on, smile.

Two smiles for today, courtesy of the Irish and the Amish, with no offence meant to either.

Two Irishmen walking toward each other down the street. One of them was carrying a sack.

When they met, the other man asked, "Whatcha got in that there sack?"

The man with the sack replied, "Just some chickens".

The second man said, "If I guess how many chickens you've got in y'r sack, would ya give me one?"

The man with the sack answered, "I'll sure do better than that, me lad. If you get it right, *I'll give you both of 'em*".

The second Irishman thought for a few minutes – and then hazarded his guess ... *"Five?"*

An Amish boy and his father went on their very first visit to the big city, and found themselves in a large shopping mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again. The boy asked, "What is this, father?" The father (never before having seen a lift) answered, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life. I've no idea what it is".

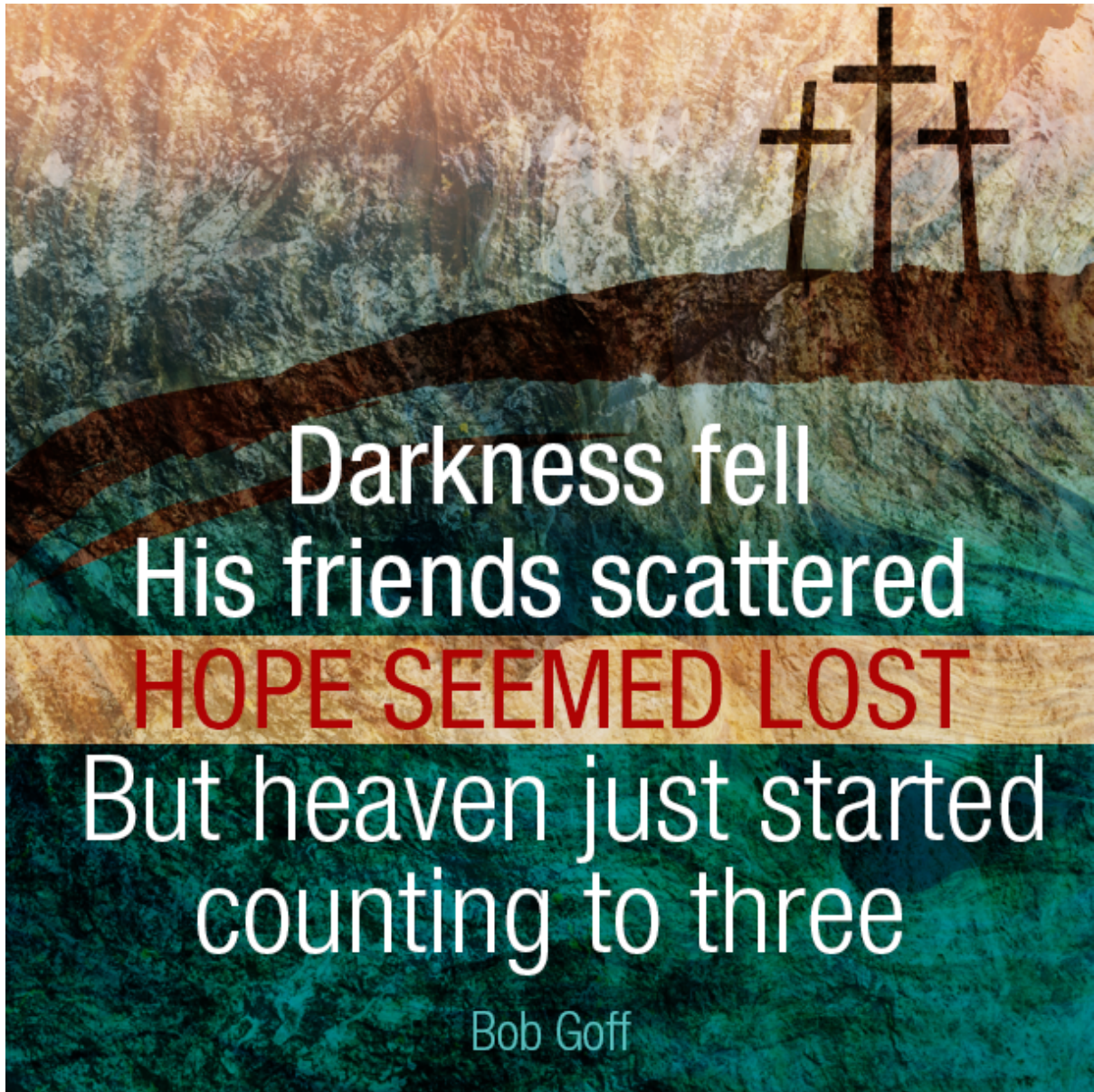
While the boy and his father stood watching, an over-weight old lady in a wheel chair came up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled herself between them into a small room.

The walls closed, and the boy and his father watched amazed when the small circular numbers above the walls lit up one after the other. They continued to watch until these reached the last number. After a few moments, the numbers began to light up in the reverse order.

Finally the walls opened up again, and a beautiful young woman stepped out.

With wide open eyes, the father whispered to his son ... *"Quick, go and get your mother"*.

Separately, see the attached 'Advertisement' picture.



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