

## 12.a. FURTHER CONSEQUENCES OF FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST

The Lord greatly values His Saints. The saints are described as the precious jewels in Christ's crown. Having gone to the uttermost to save the remnant - these are the ones which are precious in His sight. All that Christ did or does as Mediator are for the bride of Christ. He became poor and humiliated for our sakes - in order that we might inherit the co-regent's crown. This He did in His servant role.

Christ became obedient unto death - for our sakes. He lost the presence of His Father in His death. It could only be this way, because Adam severed his fellowship with God through his disobedience, and to restore this fellowship Christ had to give up all and suffer the wrath of the Father, shame, and humiliation. To pay such a price, Christ could only have done this with the foreknowledge of the Glory to come. There was a great value in the future lives of those that had been set aside from before the beginning of time to be raised in glory as the bride of Christ at His second coming. His great sacrifice demonstrated how greatly He loved them.

The rest of creation will be burned up, but those that are dear to Christ will be saved. The saints are Christ's inheritance, the rest are His enemies, of no worth in His eyes. Yet, we came from that very same cesspool ourselves, and it was only His very great love for us that could have rescued us from those dire circumstances. ROM 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those that love Him .... "

Christ rules, governs and disposes of all nations and their interests for the good of His saints. Do we realise and appreciate the situation in which we find ourselves?

In 1 PET 1:3FF, it talks about the living hope that we have, shielded by God's power, and although we may suffer trials here, these have come to build up our faith. There is not the meanest, weakest, or poorest believer on earth, that Christ does not value more highly than all the world besides.

Believers also value Christ above all the world and the things of the world. This is a condition that Christ demands of us. Jesus told the rich young ruler to sell everything, give to the poor and follow Him. And if there is not the same heart and mind in us, we are none of His. Do not value worldly things above Spiritual things. Jesus is the wisdom of God. He and His ways are better than silver and gold, and all other desirable riches of this world. We are stewards of the goods of this world, not the owners. Christ gave up all, to His very life, that we might be redeemed. If we are called upon to part from all the goods of this world, we will never part from Christ.

Christ's help for His people is in His sharing of their sufferings. "He suffers in their troubles". He sympathises in our temptations and infirmities ZECH 2:8 "He who touches them touches the apple of His eye". We will always have Christ's support and strength through the power of the Holy Spirit, in our trials and temptations. Are not our afflictions measured out to us as medicine, drop by drop, by the great physician? And their aim is to bring healing to us through obedience.

There are many different ways in which Christ's assists us in our daily trials and tribulations.

Christ sometimes strengthens the soul against sin that assaults us. Joseph was strengthened against the schemes of Potiphar's wife, that he was able to resist the temptation. Josephus describes this event as "the naughty intentions" of Potiphar's wife. But being enlightened, we would regard them in a more serious light.

Christ sometimes removes us from the very borders of sin. This we see when God rescued David from killing Saul in the sheep cave. 1 SAM 24:4-6 Saul was literally a dagger's thrust from death when God stayed David's hand.

Christ sometimes takes away the temptation itself. This we see in God protecting Lot from the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah before destroying those two cities. 2 PET 2:9

Christ sometimes gives more grace as temptations increase. We see this in the incident of Paul asking the Lord to remove the thorn out of his flesh. 2 COR 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you"

There are countless incidences in our own lives where the Lord Jesus intervenes in our trials and tribulations, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. In many of these interventions, Christ has rescued us from humiliation and bringing shame, not only on us as individuals, but preventing the sully of His most precious name, through our behaviour.

Christ supports the soul; He shows compassion to His people, and He avenges the elect. REV 6:10 "They called out in a loud voice, How long, Sovereign Lord, and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood". It will happen in God's time. But it WILL happen.