



Good Friday Devotion

Greetings Friends and Family:

I'm sending out this Good Friday Devotion written by a Theologian of great depth and erudition - Lancelot Andrews. He was one of the heroes of the King James Bible Translation Committee being a devout Christian and fluent in 18 languages (conversant in an additional 4).

His scholarship and godly disposition are not equaled by any of the so-called Bible translators of our time. Here is the devotion for this Good Friday as we commemorate that great and Divine Sacrifice made by our Lord, for us, some two thousand years ago in time, and from before the foundations of the world in Heavenly intent:

Preached as part of a Good Friday Sermon in 1605 in presence of King James I –

In pain we know the only comfort if we be in it, is to be quickly out of it. This the Cross hath not, but is, 'a death of dimensions, a death long in dying.' And it was therefore purposely chosen by them. Blasphemy they condemned Him of: then was He to be stoned; that death would have dispatched Him too soon. They indicted Him anew of sedition, not as of a worse fault, but only because crucifixion belonged to it; for then He must be whipped first, and that liked them well, and then He must die by inch-meal, not swallow His death at once but taste it, and take it down by little and little. And then He must have His legs and arms broken, and so was their meaning His should have been. Else, I would gladly know to what purpose provided they to have a vessel of vinegar ready in the place, but only that He might not faint with loss of blood, but be kept alive till they might hear His bones crash under the breaking, and so feed their eyes with the spectacle also. The providence of God indeed prevented this last act of cruelty; their will was good though.

And yet all this is but half, and the lesser half by far of the pain of the Cross. All this His body endured. Was His soul free the while? No; but suffered as much. As much? nay more, infinitely much more on the spiritual, than His body did on the material Cross. For a spiritual cross there was too: all grant a Cross beside that which Simon of Cyrene did help Him to bear. Great were those pains, and this time too little to show how great; but so great that in all the former He never shrunk, nor once complained, but was as if He scarce felt them. But when these came, they made Him complain and cry aloud, 'a strong crying.'

In all those no blood came, but where passages were made for it to come out by, but in this it strained out all over, even at all places at once. This was the pain of the 'press' - so the prophet calleth it, wherewith as if He had been in the wine press, all His garments were stained and gored with blood. Certainly the blood of Gethsemane was another manner of blood than that of Gabbatha, or that of Golgotha either; and that was the blood

of His internal Cross. Of the three passions that was the hardest to endure, yet that did He endure too. It is that which believeth itself doth wonder how it doth believe, save that it knoweth as well the love as the power of God to be without bounds; and his wisdom as able to find, how through love it might be humbled, as exalted through power, beyond the uttermost that man's wit can comprehend.

~ Lancelot Andrews

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".....Weeping may endure for a night, but Joy cometh in the morning." Psalm 30:5

May we comprehend at the limit of our understanding the great love expressed upward on this day of final devotion of penitence.

In Christ,

Jerry L. Ogles

Presiding Bishop

Metropolitan

The Anglican Orthodox Church

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, by whose

Spirit the whole body of the Church is

governed and sanctified; Receive our

supplications and prayers, which we

offer before thee for all estates of

men in thy holy Church, that every

member of the same, in his vocation

and ministry may truly and godly

serve thee through our

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Amen

(1928 Book of Common Prayer)