

“...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” Romans 8:37.

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Saying of J.C. Byle

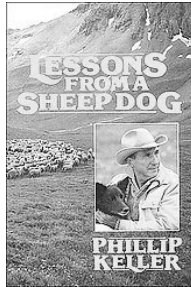
“Your understanding of some Scripture is wrong if it goes against another portion of it.”

Take and Read

From Our Library

Lessons from a Sheep Dog By Phillip Keller

What you see is not always what you get – and this true story of a man and his dog is no exception. Woven just under the surface of this simple parable, Keller presents profound spiritual truth. It is the story of Lass, a worthless animal thought to be untrainable, who becomes a magnificent and valuable sheepdog – not terribly unlike how God's love can transform our worst characteristics into blessings that serve to further His Kingdom.



For Phillip Keller, disciples are not sheep but co-workers with God. Through the captivating story of his life with Lass, his beloved border collie, he shows that only as Christians submit trustingly to the Shepherd's loving discipline do they become responsive to his love and discover purpose and fulfillment. As Keller explains, 'When we truly come to know his touch upon our lives, and sense the sweetness of his Spirit at work in our souls, we are aware of being liberated into joyous experiences and adventurous undertakings of enormous enthusiasm.'

Allow yourself to see Biblical truth in this classic tale of what can happen when you yield to the Master.

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Reading from A.W.Tozer

Capacity to think: God wants you to understand!

(Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee...Isa.26:3).

The Book of Proverbs tells us about the man who lies on his bed, turning like a door on its hinges, while the weeds grow up in his garden, choking and killing his crop. Then, when harvest has come, he has nothing and is reduced to begging for help.

How, staying in bed when he should be cultivating his garden may not be overly sinful - but I think there is no argument but what a willfully lazy man is a sinful man!

It follows, then, in my estimation, that a person who is intellectually lazy is a sinful person. God had a reason for giving us our heads with intellectual capacity for thinking and reasoning and considering. But what a great company of humans there are who refuse to use their heads and many of these are Christians, we must confess.

Many a preacher would like to challenge the intellectual and thinking capacity of his congregation, but he has been warned about preaching over the people's heads.

As a preacher, I deny that any of the truths of God which I teach and expound are over the heads of the people. I deny it!

Heidelberg Catechism

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own,[1] but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death,[2] to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.[3] He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil.[5] He also preserves me in such a way[6] that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head;[7] indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.[8] Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life[9] and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.[10]

[1] I Cor. 6:19, 20 [2] Rom. 14:7-9. [3] I Cor. 3:23; Tit. 2:14. [4] I Pet. 1:18, 19; I John 1:7; 2:2. [5] John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14, 15; I John 3:8. [6] John 6:39, 40; 10:27-30; II Thess. 3:3; I Pet. 1:5. [7] Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18. [8] Rom. 8:28. [9] Rom. 8:15, 16; II Cor. 1:21, 22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13, 14. [10] Rom. 8:14.

A Devotion from the Puritans

Shoes for the journey. *“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Eph.6:15).*

All of you that take the name of Christ, you are urged to put on these shoes of preparation, and to keep them on. In this way you will be ready at all times to follow the call of God’s providence, though it should lead you into a suffering condition. Consider these two motives:

First, suffering work may overtake you suddenly, before you are aware of it. Therefore see that you are shod. Sometimes orders come to soldiers for a sudden march; they may not have as much as an hour’s warning. They must be gone as soon as the drum beats.

So, as a Christian, you may be called before you are aware, into the field either to suffer for God or from God...God can soon change the scene in which you live, the public affairs and the conditions. Maybe, at present the authorities smile on the Church of God; but within a while it may frown, and the storm of persecution arise. There was a time when the churches had ‘rest throughout all Judea’ (Acts 9:31). It was a blessed time. But how long did it last? Alas! not long. Soon ‘Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.’ In this persecution James the brother of John lost his life by Herod’s cruel sword.

Second: if your feet are not shod with a preparation to suffer for Christ here on earth, your head cannot be crowned in heaven. Now mark the following words: ‘If so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together’ (Rom.8:17).

William Gurnall, *The Christian in Complete Armour*, Vol.1, pp.573-575.

The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

The primary and basic idea of the biblical word “peace” is completeness, soundness, wholeness. It means cessation from war; friendship among companions is expressed by it, as well as friendship with God through a covenant (Num.25:12; Isa.54:10). Contentment or anything working toward safety, welfare, and happiness is included in the concept (Isa.32:17,18).

Peace has reference to health, prosperity, well-being, security, as well as quiet from war (Isa.45:7). There is no peace for the wicked (Isa.48:22; 57:21), even though many of the wicked continually seek to encourage themselves with a false peace (Jer.6:14).

Peace is a condition of freedom from strife whether internal or external. Security from outward enemies, as well as calm of heart for those trusting God (Job 22:21; Isa.26:3), is included. Peace is so pleasing to the Lord that the godly are enjoined to seek it diligently (Ps.34:14; Zech.8:16,19). It is to be a characteristic of the New Testament believer also (Mk.9:50; 2 Cor.13:11). Peace is a valued and comprehensive gift from God, and the promised and climaxing blessing in messianic times.

In the New Testament the word has reference to the peace which is the gift of Christ (Jn.14:27; 16:33; Rom.5:1; Phil.4:7). The word ‘peace’ is used many times to express the truths of the mission, character, and gospel of Christ. The purpose of Christ’s coming into the world was to bring spiritual peace with God (Lk.1:79; 2:14; 24:36). There is a sense in which he came not to bring peace, but a sword (Mt.10:34). This has reference to the struggle with every form of sin. Christ’s life depicted in the Gospels is one of majestic calm and serenity (Mt.11:28; Jn.14:27). The essence of the gospel may be expressed in the term ‘peace’ (Acts 10:36; Eph.6:15), including the peace of reconciliation with God (Rom.5:1), and the peace of fellowship with God (Gal.5:22; Phil.4:7).

The innumerable blessings of the Christian revolve around the concept of peace. The gospel is the gospel of peace (Eph.6:15). Christ is our peace (Eph.2:14,15). God the Father is the God of peace (1 Thes.5:23). The inalienable privilege of every Christian is the peace of God because of the legacy of peace left by Christ in his death (Jn.14:27; 16:33). These blessings are not benefits laid up in eternal glory only, but are a present possession (Rom.8:6; Col.3:15).

Thus, peace is a conception distinctly peculiar to the Christian faith, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatever sort that is.