

## *“The Beauty of Christ”*

Proverbs 31:30 says, *“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.”* Webster says that “beauty consists in whatever pleases the eye of the beholder, whether in the human body, in a tree, in a landscape, or in any other object.” Yes, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. These words found in verse 30 were most likely directed to Solomon by his mother, Bathsheeba. She was a beautiful woman herself, but it was this outward beauty which brought about David’s sin with her. After years away from God, Solomon would say of his earlier life, *“And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.”* (Ecc 2:10-11) After Solomon built the temple of the Lord, he began to spend his time in vain, selfish pursuits of life. If he saw something that looked beautiful or that he liked or desired greatly, he would have all of it. This was done in the attempt to bring satisfaction to his heart and life. Just before God raised up Noah to prepare an ark for the flood, a great apostasy came about, and one of the main characteristics of this apostasy is seen in Genesis 6:2; *“That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.”* This is saying that those from the godly line of Shem looked upon the worldly daughters of the ungodly line of Cain, and they lusted after their beauty. Solomon’s observation was that his many wives, precious metals, possessions, etc... only brought temporary satisfaction, though. He would go on to say, *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time:”* (Ecc 3:1, 10-11b) Solomon sought beauty in his flesh for himself. Sin truly is beautiful on the surface, and it is pleasant for a season, but just like lemon candy, the “sweetness” is only a veneer. Just under the surface of sin is bitterness.

On the other hand, there is a passage like Isaiah 53:2 which reads, *“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”* This speaks of Christ who had no outward beauty or magnificence in His incarnation that would have appealed to man. In fact, the Cross of Calvary upon which He died is an emblem of suffering and shame! The beauty of Christ was purposely concealed to the carnal eye, but it is evident to the eye of faith. The only way that a man can ever come

to see the beauty of Christ is to know that God first loved sinful man, sending His Son. If a man will realize his sinfulness and turn to Christ, He can be found in the righteous and holy beauty of Christ. Such a forgiven one will then cry,

**Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.**

There is yet another danger that the Christian must face though. It is the danger of pride. When one accepts Christ into the heart and yields to the workings of His grace in the life, there will be beauty. Others may even be drawn to Christ through that beauty in the life. The danger that comes then is that which was said of Israel in Ezekiel 16:15, "*But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was.*" It must be realized that no matter how much a Christian comes to know or experience in Christ in this life, he will never be able to trust in His own beauty. Paul would say, "*But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*" (I Cor. 15:10) It must be in the Cross of Christ that I glory, and in that alone! All other beauty is vain.

Now that we understand outward beauty is vain unless Christ's beauty is found under that outward beauty, we must always make our choices in life with the eye of faith and not with the natural eye. The eye, the ear, and the heart alone will fail us. We must see beauty through Christ and in Christ! Our late Pastor Peacock once made the statement that "the world is anything that shuts God out." Let us close in meditation upon the words of "All For Jesus."

**Since mine eyes were fixed on Jesus,  
I've lost sight of all beside,  
So enchained my spirit's vision,  
Looking at the Crucified.  
All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
Looking at the Crucified.  
All for Jesus! All for Jesus!  
Looking at the Crucified.**