

John # 41

“Give and Let Live”

John 3:16

When did our Lord first realize that His death would come as it did?

As the Son of God, He always knew of it and anticipated it from eternity past as it was constantly on His mind.

Before He spoke the mountains into existence and laid the foundations of the earth, He knew He was to be the Lamb who would be slain for the sins of the world.

So, with that in mind, He voluntarily emptied Himself of His deity’s attributes to become obedient to a death on a cross.

And as a member of the human race, the Son of Man came to know these facts prior to the time when He began His public ministry; so for the majority of His earthly existence, He was living in anticipation of Calvary’s cross.

The greatest illustration of mixed emotions this world has ever seen had to come at the hands and heart of Jesus’ mother Mary in anticipation of her crushing sorrow at the sight of her dying son, while at the same time, its connection with her wondrous Savior dying for not only her sins but the sins of the entire world!

During all the difficulties our Lord faced in His soul while on this earth, He was sustained by God the Holy Spirit and encouraged by His application of the Word of God which gave Him an ever-present anticipation of the overwhelming happiness that awaited His victorious conquering of sin, death and the devil at the cross!

Hebrews 12:1-3 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

And what that redemption secure?

A time when we will no longer be influenced by demons that rule the darkness of this world; a time when God’s complete creation will be delivered from the bondage of sin’s corruption; a time when the Bride of Jesus Christ and her Bridegroom will share in His authority and glory; a time when we will judge angels and reign on earth; a time when God is utterly vindicated before all His creation!