

Daily Devotional, April 10, 2020

“Bind the Sacrifice” (Psalm 118:27, NKJV)

“God is the LORD, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.” (Psalm 118:27).

It was the custom of devout Jews to recite or sing the Hallel (Psalms 113-118) at the Passover meal. Our text today was the third to last verse that our Lord and the disciples sang before heading out to the Mount of Olives to pray (Matthew 26:30). Interestingly, the closing several verses of the 118th Psalm take us through the Passion Week. In verse 25, we have a reference to Jesus’ triumphal entry, and in our text we are reminded that Jesus is the Light that has come into the world. But on the day that we call ‘Good Friday’, Jesus would provide Himself as the sacrifice. Just as the animal would be bound *“with cords to the horns of the altar”* in the Old Testament economy, God’s Son would be bound with ropes to the wood of the cross.

Jesus knew that this verse would be fulfilled by Him the very next morning, yet He was able to sing this hymn. What courage! What singleness of mind! The Savior knew His mission, and its manner of accomplishment, and set His face to accomplish it! On that day our Lord hung bound on the cross in order to provide Himself as the once for all sacrifice to satisfy the wrath of God against sinners. *“This He did once for all when He offered up Himself”* (Hebrews 7:27). The blood of animals could only temporarily cover sin, but the blood of the sinless God-Man could cover all sins forever if appropriated by faith to one’s heart. Six hours the Savior hung on the tree, enduring the wrath of man and the wrath of God, on top of the pain that He experienced in human form. It should have been us. But Jesus Christ volunteered to take our punishment for us. *“Smitten by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed”* (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Receive Him today as your Sacrifice. Your Savior. Your Lord. Your God. Consider His amazing love today like never before. Weep on account of your sins. Your sins, those nails, are the reason He went to the cross. Jesus. Did. This. For. You.