

Rise Up And Build

"So They said, 'Let us rise up and build,' Then they set their hands to do this good work," Neh. 2:18

November 8, 2020

"The Joy That Was Set Before Him"

*"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross: (Phil. 2:5-8). He emptied Himself of the glory which he had with the Father even "before the world was" (John 17:5) and "became poor" (2 Cor. 8:9), having nowhere to lay His head (Matt. 8:20). He identified Himself **with** man, endured the reproaches **of** man, and was crucified **by** man. He was truly "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa, 53:3) throughout His earthly life, from Bethlehem's lowly manger to Calvary's glorious summit.*

Why, O why, did He surrender so much to be "*made in the likeness of man*" and suffer so much by the "*wicked hands*" of man? The Hebrew writer informs us that He did it "*for the joy that was set before Him*" (Heb. 12:2). Joy? Why joy? Joy for your and my salvation! He came to "*seek and to save that which was lost*" (Luke 19:10),.

Is this not the reason **we** should "*be...faithful unto death*" (Rev. 2:10)? Is this not the reason why **we** should be a people of conviction, principle, sacrifice, devotion, and dedication? It being "*for the joy...set before*" us? How glorious! Isn't it tragic that many people, who have been "*washed in the blood of the lamb,*" sometimes lose sight of the joy set before them and fall by the wayside? Brother or sister in Christ, have you become weary in "*well doing?*" Are you about to "*faint in your minds?*" Then look up, straighten up, and face up! Consider the joy set before you! You "*have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin*" (Heb. 12:4),. Heaven awaits if you will "*be thou faithful unto death*" (Rev. 2:10). Isn't it worth it?

—B. Witherington