

A WONDERFUL SAVIOUR

About 700 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah told of His coming, saying: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) Our Lord is described in sublime terms. He gives perfect counsel. He is God, the Son, and remains the only hope of peace for troubled men in a troubled world. Notice especially that His name is called wonderful. Everything about Him is wonderful. He Himself is throughout a wonder. There is nothing ordinary about him. JESUS CHRIST IS A WONDERFUL SAVIOUR.

Consider His wonderful person. He was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with power and He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him." (Acts 10:38) We measure men by their words and more especially by their deeds. In the great works of Jesus we are impressed by His marvelous power and authority. When He forgave the sins of a sick man and then healed his body, the people "were all AMAZED, and glorified God, saying, "We never saw it on this fashion." (Mark 2:3-12) After He delivered the sermon on the mount, "the people were ASTONISHED at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." (Matthew 7:28-29) He stopped a storm and His disciples exclaimed: "What manner of man is this! For he commanded even the winds and the water and they obey him." Luke 8:25

But His wonderful works show MORE than just marvelous power; they display amazing Divine pity. It was the wonderful compassion of Jesus that said to the adulterous woman: "Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more." (John 8:10-11) The same pity beckons to us: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11: 28) This is seen in His mission: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost." Luke 19:10

Let us also consider His wonderful sacrifice. When we mention this, your mind, no doubt, moves at once to the scene of Calvary and His death on the cross. That is the focal point of His unselfishness, but His sacrifice is not limited to that. To die for us, He had to leave heaven, and in the ministry leading to the cross He lived in poverty. Paul wrote: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. " (II Corinthians 8:9) Once Jesus told a man, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Matthew 8:20

Think, too, about the wonderful nearness of Christ. He promised: "lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. " (Matthew 28:20) He is constantly close to each of His disciples.

Jesus is truly a wonderful Saviour. His person, His words, His mighty works, His tender compassion, His loving sacrifice, His eternal presence: all make Him precious to us who believe.