

JOHN 18:12-14/19-23
THE FACE OF JESUS
ROME GEORGIA
June 2, 1991

*I visited with my old friend Paul Monroe and Gary Fallon yesterday in a restaurant in Sandy Springs. I had done likewise a year or so ago. Paul I have known since high-school, Gary since 1972. **I was amazed at how old they both looked.** Paul's hair is gray and he looks like Albert Einstein, Gary's hair is likewise long and gray, and he looks like the seasoned college professor that he is. Their faces were weathered, and not just by the ravages of sun and wind, but more accurately by the storms of life they have endured. **I wondered how these two old fellows felt sitting with a young fella like me.** Somewhere from within their aged bodies, familiar eyes peered and voices and laughter from a bygone decade filled the farthest corner of the restaurant where we were ensconced. 5 decades of separation from our high-school years could not cloud the recognition of Paul's laugh. We will see each other again today at a Mission reunion. Bob and Peggy Carter, the founders of Christ the Only Way Mission will be brought there (they have their 60th anniversary next week.) Recently Paul spoke with Bob who told him that he (Bob) will be easy to be recognized in heaven, because he will be the best looking one there*

READ **JOHN 18:12-14/19-23**

12 Then the detachment *of troops* and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him.

13 And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year.

14 Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

19 The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.

20 Jesus answered him, "**I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing.**

21 Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."

22 And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?"

23 Jesus answered him, "**If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"**

The Gospels of **Matthew**, **Mark** and **Luke** add more details of this incident:

Mark 14:65 ". Then some began to spit on him, **AND TO COVER HIS FACE**, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

Matthew 26:67 Then did **THEY SPIT IN HIS FACE**, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

ULTIMATELY - **Luke 22:64** . . . WHEN THEY HAD BLINDFOLDED HIM, THEY STRUCK HIM **ON THE FACE**, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?

BUT THIS FACE OF A MAN WAS NO ORDINARY FACE.

A MILLION FACES BEFORE AND A 100 MILLION MORE SINCE HAVE BEEN ABUSED - BUT THIS FACE, WAS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHERS.

ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION, PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN SAW HOW,

Matthew 17:2 He was transfigured before them: and **HIS FACE DID SHINE AS THE SUN**, and his raiment was white as the light.

AND, A SHORT TIME AFTER THIS EVENT WE READ THAT;

". . . HE STEADFASTLY **SET HIS FACE** TO GO TO JERUSALEM," **LUKE 9:51**

HE WENT RESOLUTELY, WITH THE PURPOSE OF FULFILLING HIS **FATHER'S WILL** - ERGO **HIS DEATH FOR THE SIN OF MANKIND**.

IT WAS **THIS FACE** THAT A FEW DAYS LATER WEPT OVER JERUSALEM AND ITS INDIFFERENCE TO GOD.

Mat 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a **hen** gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!

IT WAS **THIS FACE** WHICH HE FELL UPON IN THE GARDEN JUST BEFORE HIS ARREST - As WE STUDYING IN: **JOHN 18:12-27**

Matthew 26:39 (*Mathew's account of the events of that night*) And he went a little further, and **FELL ON HIS FACE**, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless NOT AS I WILL, but AS THOU WILT.

IT WAS THIS **SAME COMPASSIONATE, LOVING, CARING FACE**, THAT WAS SO VIOLENTLY ABUSED BY THE WORLDLY MOBS THAT CRUCIFIED HIM;

BUT, - JOHN DOES NOT MENTION HIS FACE IN HIS ACCOUNT IN JOHN 18!

PERHAPS THE MEMORY WAS TOO PAINFUL.

THE INCONGRUITY OF THE **CREATURE PUMMELING THE FACE OF THE CREATOR TOO INCREDULOUS** FOR HIM TO RECORD.

******* BUT JOHN HAS ANOTHER PICTURE FOR US TO PONDER ON THE "FACE OF JESUS . "**

THIS ONE, NOT AT THE MOMENT OF HIS HUMILIATION, BUT RATHER AS **HIS FACE REALLY IS FOR TIME AND ETERNITY**.

(GLIMPSE OF SAVIOR IN GLORY -

Revelation 1:14 "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;)"

THIS IS THE **FACE** THAT THE CROWD SO VIOLENTLY ABUSED AS THEY PUT HIM ON TRIAL AND FOUND HIM **GUILTY OF BEING GOD IN THE FLESH** -

BUT THE NEXT TIME THEY SEE THIS **FACE** - " WHEN HE COMES AGAIN, THE CROWD WILL NOT SMITE THAT FACE AND ASK FOR AN ACCOUNTING OF WHO HE IS, FOR IN THAT DAY THEY WILL KNOW.

THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COVER THOSE EYES OF LOVE THAT PIERCED THEIR HEART THE DAY THAT THEY BLINDFOLDED HIM TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF GOD,

IN FACT, IN THAT DAY - THE CHRIST REJECTING WORLD WILL **CRY TO THE MOUNTAINS TO: . . . FALL ON US, AND HIDE US FROM T H E FACE OF HIM THAT SITTETH ON THE THRONE, AND FROM THE WRATH OF THE LAMB: Revelation 6:16**

IN FACT, THAT **FACE** WILL BE SO WELL RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED THAT ALL OF HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL FLEE FROM THE **FACE OF THE LORD!**

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, FROM WHOSE **FACE** THE EARTH AND THE HEAVEN FLED AWAY; and there was found no place for them.

BUT - FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HIM - FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TRUSTED IN HIS NAME - THESE SHALL BEHOLD HIS FACE AND REJOICE!

PAUL CONTRASTS US AND THEM - IN **II THESS . 1:4**

II THESSALONIANS 1:4 . . . WE OURSELVES GLORY IN YOU IN THE CHURCHES OF GOD FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND FAITH IN ALL YOUR PERSECUTIONS AND TRIBULATIONS THAT YE ENDURE:

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be COUNTED WORTHY of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: SEEING IT IS A RIGHTEOUS THING WITH GOD TO RECOMPENSE TRIBULATION TO THEM THAT TROUBLE YOU; AND TO YOU WHO ARE TROUBLED REST WITH US, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In FLAMING FIRE taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; WHEN HE SHALL COME TO BE GLORIFIED IN HIS SAINTS, AND TO BE ADMIRIED IN ALL THEM THAT BELIEVE (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

WE DO NOT NOW SEE H I S F A C E - BUT WE KNOW THAT

". . . (HE) IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM FALLING, AND TO PRESENT YOU FAULTLESS BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF HIS GLORY WITH EXCEEDING JOY," **Jude 1:24**

AND - AS THE **PSALMIST** ASSURES US –

"IN THY PRESENCE IS FULLNESS OF JOY; AT THY RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOR EVER MORE.

AND:

God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD **IN THE FACE** OF JESUS CHRIST.

II Corinthians 4:6

"THE WELL-KNOWN JOHN W. PETERSON HAS WRITTEN THOUSANDS OF GOSPEL SONGS.

When he first started composing lyrics, he sometimes met with **rejections from publishers**. One such occurrence was especially disturbing. He had just written the beautiful "**Over the Sunset Mountains**," after meditating on that glorious day when we will enter the joys of heaven and see the Savior. Believing that the message and the melody would bless others, Peterson decided to see if someone would publish it. The first music editor he approached seemed pleased with his song, and said, "**YES, I THINK I'D LIKE TO USE IT, BUT I HAVE ONE SMALL SUGGESTION. TAKE OUT THE NAME OF JESUS AND ENLARGE A LITTLE MORE ON THE IDEA OF HEAVEN.**"

Peterson sat quietly for a moment. Heaven without Jesus? That was unthinkable! So, he picked up his manuscript and left. But God honored and rewarded him for not compromising the truth. Soon another song came to his mind which expressed his heart felt reaction:

"I HAVE NO SONG TO SING BUT THAT OF CHRIST MY KING
TO HIM MY PRAISE I'LL BRING FOREVER MORE!
HIS LOVE BEYOND DEGREE
HIS DEATH THAT RANSOMED ME
NOW AND ETERNALLY I'LL SING IT O'ER.

BOTH SONGS WERE EVENTUALLY PUBLISHED AND OVER THE YEARS THEY'VE BROUGHT COMFORT TO MILLIONS.

OVER THE SUNSET MOUNTAINS,
HEAVEN AWAITS FOR ME
OVER THE SUNSET MOUNTAINS,
JESUS MY SAVIOR I'LL SEE. *db 3-24-81*

OR, AS BRECK WROTE -

FACE TO FACE - O BLISSFUL MOMENT.
FACE TO FACE - TO SEE AND KNOW;
FACE TO FACE WITH MY REDEEMER,
JESUS CHRIST WHO LOVES ME SO.

THOT: "KNOWING HIS GRACE HERE - IS BUT A PRELUDE TO SEEING HIS FACE OVER THERE."

An aged veteran of the Crimean War told a stirring incident about one of his companions in the British service. "My friend had lost both his legs. The day came when he and some other war heroes were to appear before the queen to receive their medals. An officer of the crown was pinning the awards on the soldiers in her behalf, but, when she saw the legless man lying thin and white on the stretcher, she insisted upon honoring him personally. Bending over him, she exclaimed with affection and admiration . "MY BRAVE SOLDIER, MY WONDERFULLY BRAVE SOLDIER!" "Overcome by her emotion, her tears fell upon my friends **face**."The veteran continued, "He never mentioned his medal after that, but would always say."I'VE LOOKED INTO THE **FACE** OF THE QUEEN. THAT'S REWARD ENOUGH FOR ME!" db 7-19-78.

WHEN BY THE GIFT OF HIS INFINITE GRACE
I AM ACCORDED IN HEAVEN A PLACE
JUST TO BE THERE AND TO LOOK ON HIS FACE
WILL THROUGH THE AGES BE GLORY FOR ME. GABRIEL

FANNIE CROSBY One time a preacher sympathetically remarked to Fannie Crosby
,"I think that it is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when he showered so many
other gifts upon you.

. "She replied quickly

**,"Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been
that I should be born blind!**

"Why?" asked the surprised clergyman.

**BECAUSE WHEN I GET TO HEAVEN, THE FIRST FACE THAT SHALL EVER GLADDEN MY
SIGHT WILL BE THAT OF MY SAVIOR." DB 4-5-83.**

About her blindness, Fanny said:

*"It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I
thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not
accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the
beautiful and interesting things about me."*

*If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind...for when I die, the first face I will ever see
will be the face of my blessed Saviour."*

Her testimony and first public reading of her private poem: (at request of D.L. Moody)

*Kenneth Osbeck, author of several books on hymnology, says its revelation to the public came
about this way:*

*"One day at the Bible conference in Northfield, Massachusetts, Miss Crosby was asked by D.L.
Moody to give a personal testimony. At first she hesitated, then quietly rose and said, 'There is
one hymn I have written which has never been published. I call it my soul's poem. Sometimes
when I am troubled, I repeat it to myself, for it brings comfort to my heart.' She then recited
while many wept,*

*Someday the silver cord will break,
and I no more as now shall sing;
but oh, the joy when I shall wake
within the palace of the King!*

***And I shall see Him face to face,
and tell the story—saved by grace!"***

v. 1 "My Savior First of All" also to the tune of *I shall see Him face to face*, (not in current hymnal 5/20/16)

When my lifework is ended and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see;
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.

Chorus:

I shall know Him, (I shall know Him,) I shall know Him,
And redeemed by His side I shall stand;
I shall know Him, (I shall know Him,) I shall know Him
By the print of the nails in His hand.

Oh, the soul-thrilling rapture when I view His blessed face,
And the luster of His kindly beaming eye;
How my full heart will praise Him for the mercy, love and grace,
That prepared for me a mansion in the sky. [Chorus]

LAST MENTION OF THE FACE OF JESUS IN THE BIBLE?

Revelation 22:4 AND THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE; and his NAME shall be in their foreheads.

"THIS IS THE LAST REFERENCE IN THE BIBLE TO THE FACE OF JESUS." DOP 6-24-89

(IT IS ALSO THE LAST MENTION OF "THE NAME OF JESUS")

IT ANTICIPATES THAT MOMENT WHEN WE SHALL LOOK ON THE FACE OF JESUS - AND BEAR HIS NAME ON OUR FOREHEAD FOR ETERNITY!