

Bill's Bestowals A Thought as We Enter the Lenten Season

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ..."

BUT

*"... there is now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus,
because through Christ Jesus
the law of the Spirit of life set me free
from the law of sin and death."*

(Romans 3:23, 8:1-2)

It was a very weighty moment. A long silence ... then the words, "Picture yourself up there." He slowly pointed to the cross. It was one of the most powerful and memorable sermons I have ever experienced.

Have you ever pictured yourself on the cross, complete with nails, whip stripes and crown of thorns? I must admit that I had not until I saw that finger point. And the reality of what Jesus had done for me practically tore me in half and that very moment.

Do it now. Actually picture yourself on the cross, receiving the punishment Jesus took for you.

Are you trembling? If we can approach the cross with anything other than trembling, awe, unworthiness and gratitude, we need to consider God's gift to us anew! Consider what God has done for you and tremble!

Ray Boltz, a Christian songwriter, shared a thought both horrifying and inspiring in his song, "Does He Still Feel the Nails?" Here are the words:

*"They tell me Jesus died for my transgressions,
That He paid that price a long, long time ago,
When He gave His life for me on a hill called Calvary.
But there's something else I want to know:*

*Does He still feel the nails every time I fail,
Can He hear the crowd cry, "Crucify," again?
Am I causing Him pain? I know I've got to change.
I just can't bear the thought of hurting Him ...*

*Each time He forgives, what if He relives
The agony that He felt upon that tree?"*

That is what makes me tremble! May you live knowing the intensity of God's love for you, demonstrated through Jesus willing death on the cross. May you live to bring nothing but joy to the heart of God.

Blessings! Pastor Bill