



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

The life and death of Christopher Love is widely unknown. Born in 1618 (in Cardiff, Wales), this young Welsh preacher's life was cut short at the age of thirty-three. Christopher Love was converted at the age of fifteen and ordained into ministry on January 23, 1644 (approximately ten years later). Because of his political leanings and involvements, he was arrested by Oliver Cromwell's forces for his alleged involvement with a plan to raise money for the restoration of the monarchy, a charge Love denied. He and many others were arrested for treason (the honorable Thomas Watson being the most noted). They were all released after six months, except for Love who was to be beheaded as an example to all. On July 14, 1651, just over a month before his execution, Christopher's wife Mary wrote these words in a letter to her imprisoned husband:

"I dare not speak to thee, nor have a thought within my own heart of my unspeakable loss, but wholly keep my eye fixed upon thy inexpressible and inconceivable gain. Thou leavest but a sinful, mortal wife to be everlastingly married to the Lord of glory. Thou leavest but children, brothers, and sisters to go to the Lord Jesus, thy eldest Brother. Thou leavest friends on earth to go to the enjoyment of saints and angels, and the spirits of just men made perfect in glory. Thou dost but leave earth for heaven and changest a prison for a palace. ... When thou art putting on thy clothes that morning [of execution], O think, 'I am now putting on my wedding garments to go to be everlasting married to my Redeemer.' ... When thou goest up the scaffold, think (as thou saidst to me) that it is but thy fiery chariot to carry thee up to thy Father's house. And when thou layest down thy precious head to receive thy Father's stroke, remember what thou saidst to me: Though thy head was severed from thy body, yet in a moment thy soul should be united to thy Head, the Lord Jesus, in heaven. And though it may seem something bitter, that by the hands of men we are parted a little sooner than otherwise we might have been, yet let us consider that it is the decree and will of our Father, and it will not be long ere we shall enjoy one another in heaven again."

Believing that his death would glorify God, Christopher Love said, "I do more good by my death than by my life, and glorify God more in my dying upon a scaffold than if I had died of a disease upon my bed." As he prepared to lay his head upon the block Mr. Ashe [a fellow minister] called out to him, "Dear brother, how dost thou find thy heart?" Love replied, "I bless God, sir, I am full of joy and comfort as ever my heart can hold." Then, on August 22, 1651, Christopher Love uttered his final words, "Blessed be God for Jesus Christ" and knelt down and laid his head upon the block. He stretched forth his hands. The blade was raised and lowered.

The compelling question is this: *How can a man (and wife) be so supremely hopeful and abundantly blessed in the midst of incredible persecution and inevitable death?* Christopher Love's words are perhaps shocking until we compare them with similar expressions found in Scripture (cf. Matt.5:10-12; Acts 5:41; 2Cor.12:10; Phil.1:21). The reason for this joyful outlook on life and death is because they put their hope in God and not in this world. Biblically speaking, the Christian's hope is not wishful thinking or optimistic feelings. By definition, Christian hope is the confident assurance in something not yet obtained. It is the absolute unquestionable certainty that what God has promised is true and will come true. To be sure, this hope comes only in and through and because of Jesus Christ. He alone is the reason for, and the means to, our eternal hope (Rom.5:1-2).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(9/21/26)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #38):

Numbers 21-24; 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalm 111-113; Proverbs 25; Amos 5-9; John 19-21; Philemon

Recommended Reading:

"A Spectacle Unto God: The Life and Death of Christopher Love" by Don Kistler