

Reading: Song 1:1-9: Text: Song 1:9-10: "Thy cheeks are comely with rows of jewels, thy neck with chains of gold"

If you remember from (V5), we read the brides' confession of her own sinful infirmities and imperfections, but also of her comeliness and beauty.

Song 1:5: "I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as (the sun scorched) tents of Kedar, (I am outwardly sinful, afflicted, and even persecuted), but (on the inside I am beautiful) like the (hangings) or curtains of Solomon's (glorious palace)"

Psalm 45:13: "The King's daughter in all glorious WITHIN: her clothing is of wrought gold"

I am full of faults and imperfections, (saith the bride, the church), yet I am beautiful (within), to the bridegroom, to the King! And I love what she says:

Song 1:6: "Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me"

Do not behold my faults; but it isn't that our nature, aren't we so prone to looking upon the faults and sins of others, and upon that which is "NOT COMELY" and NOT BEAUTIFUL? The bride declared, do not look upon me in such a way, for the King hath set His love upon me!

And now, back to tonight's text, Song 1:10:

Song 1:10: "Thy cheeks are comely with rows of jewels, thy neck with chains of gold"

It is NOT the bride (HERE) who speaks of her comeliness and beauty, but it is the bridegroom, who admired her and looked upon her beauty:

But it was not "natural beauty" that He beheld in her, but her face or her "cheeks adorned with jewels"; her neck adorned with chains of gold!

What are we to understand in what He saw in His bride but the "church adorned" with grace from Christ? What are we without His grace?

What the Lord Jesus Christ SEES in His church, which is so beautiful and comely is what He has adorned her with and lavished upon her! There is nothing beautiful/naturally comely in any of us!

The church of Christ is made up of sinners; but NOT lost and fallen sinners who still love their sins...NO! The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is made up of sinners WHO ARE now saints, WHO HAVE been saved from their sins; sinners WHO WERE estranged from God, but who ARE NOW saints and reconciled to God!

EVERY saved sinner is NOW a "NEW CREATION" in Christ; if you are a Christian, YOU ARE SO because God (from eternity past) intended to save you, and because Christ was willing to suffer and die for your sins!

Christian, YOUR salvation was a gift from God, EVERY BEAUTIFUL GRACE given to you and that YOU NOW POSSESS is from God! THAT is what Christ the bridegroom SO ADMIRES in His church!

Ezekiel 16:1-14, Isaiah 61:10, Proverbs 1:8-9,
Ephesians 4:22-24

Every single one of us (in our own nature) are fallen, sinful, corrupt, and abominable; there is nothing naturally beautiful in any of us.

If Christ sees ANY BEAUTY, ANY GRACE to His admiration; ANY spiritual adornment in you that pleases Him, IT IS NOT OF YOU, NOR did it come from you, it is from Him! James 1:17, BTGOGIAWIA! (By the grace of God I am what I am)

I hope this helps you when you read of how Christ (the bridegroom) looks upon and admires His church (His bride)! Remember, her beauty is not her own, not natural, but she has been made beautiful from with His grace!

Song 1:6: "We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver"

This is the promise of the bridegroom THAT He will continue to adorn His bride with jewels of gold and silver; and does not Christ continue to adorn His church with His wonderful gifts and graces?

Are we NOT all to be growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? The longer we are "in the Lord", the more we should be adorned with His beautiful graces!

Do you remember when Abraham sent his servant to seek a wife for Isaac his son? Genesis 24:16 tells us, when his servant found Rebekah "she was very fair to look upon"!

But she was even MORE beautiful when Abraham's servant adorned her with the jewels of his master: Genesis 24:22, 51-53

Christ continues to ADD to the beauty of His church so that she becomes even more beautiful! Christ continues to give His people MORE GRACE!

What do these graces look like? Galatians 5:22-23, Colossians 3:12-17

This is the beauty that the Lord Jesus Christ SEES and ADMIRES in you, Christian, these (His) graces are what He promises to continue to lavish upon you!

Psalm 149:4: "For the LORD taketh pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with His salvation"
Psalm 90:14-17, Isaiah 61:1-3, 1 Peter 3:3-3:4, 5:5

And there is something else worthy of our attention (V11) in the word "We"!

WHY is this "WE", and not, "I" will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver? This language of love and care would seem to be coming from the bridegroom toward the bride, from Christ to His church!

Allow me to bring you to another reference in the Holy Scriptures, which is translated from the same word in the original Hebrew: Genesis 1:26

Genesis 1:26: "Let us make"; Song 1:11: "We will make thee"

We might gather from this that...in the perfecting of the saints, all three Persons of the trinity are intimately involved! 2 Corinthians 13:14