

"FIVE REASONS FOR CHRIST'S GREATNESS"**Introduction**

1. By his enemies: who see Christ as a defeated hero. In their books they describe Jesus as a man with high ideals who died in pursuing his dream.
2. By his people: even God's people unwillingly forget the glory of Christ. They emphasise his sufferings and forget that he has 'a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.'

1. GOD'S PROMISE:

- 1) The verse is in the future.
God the Father promised to his Son that as a result of his humiliation he will be exalted and have a portion with the great. Christ is exalted because the unchangeable Father has promised so.

2. HE Poured OUT HIS SOUL

- 1) What this expression means is that Christ gave everything of himself for his people. He offered his soul for us.
 - (i) Faithfully: According to the eternal covenant he made with the Father
 - (ii) Completely: This offering of himself is even unto death.
Jesus did not offer part of himself.
He offered his face to be spat upon and smitten.
He gave his back to be scourged.
He offered his hands and feet to be nailed.
He offered his person to be mocked.
He offered himself to die.
 - (iii) Willingly: This pouring is done by Christ as an act of his will.
He did it. He allowed his enemies to arrest him.
He laid down his life. No wonder he has a portion with the great.

- (iv) Vicariously: The Lord poured out his soul, offered himself for us.

3. HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS

- 1) Notice that he was not a transgressor. He was numbered as such!
 - (i) By the civil authorities: The Romans knew he was innocent, yet they condemned Christ and numbered him with the transgressors.
 - (ii) By the church: the General Assembly of those days condemned Christ
 - (iii) By God: Jesus was numbered with the transgressors by God himself. God 'has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him'.

4. HE BARE THE SINS OF MANY

- 1) Not of all men: Many Christians believe that Christ took upon himself the sin of all men and died for all men. But our text tells us that Christ poured out his soul and took upon himself the sins of his people.
- 2) Not a few: At the same time we should be thankful that it says 'many'.

5. HE MADE INTERCESSION

- 1) He does not intercede for the good. He does not pray for decent people. He intercedes for those who are guilty and deserve to be condemned.
 - (i) In his prayers: In John 17 we read Christ interceding for his people.
To Peter he said, 'Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not.'
 - (ii) At the cross: At the cross Jesus interceded for those who crucified him and said: 'Father forgive them...'

(iii) In heaven: Christ is 'at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.'
No wonder he had a portion among the great.