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73S/PM

Prayer meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on
Saturday evening 6.10.73.

Hymn 943

Reading Isaiah 53

This solemn and remarkable chapter is, I know, somewhat familiar. It is what we might term a sacred revelation of what the Gospel is, what is involved in it, what it cost the Redeemer, the sufferings He endured, the blessings He procured thereby, incorporating the eternal redemption of all for whom He suffered; and this means that if you and I have a religion that is inside this chapter we have a religion that will take us to heaven.

The main point here is His substitution. The sorrows that He carried, and the griefs that He bore, were His people's griefs and His people's sorrows, and those who grieve and sorrow for sin, and on account of their sins, and have some view of what is involved in their deliverance from its curse, will feel that this chapter is the essence of the Gospel as we have it in the Old Testament. His substitution gave absolute satisfaction. "He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied". His Father was satisfied with His substitutionary offering, and if we have an interest in this, and a gracious leading into this chapter, we shall be satisfied, and the one point that will matter with us will be whether we have any part or lot in this vital matter. What a wonderful evening this would be, if what we have just read was brought home with some feeling of an interest in it. It is a mercy indeed, for which we may be thankful, that we are not like those of whom we read who despised and rejected Him, and saw no beauty in Him or comeliness that they should desire Him. We might have been like unto them, and naturally we are, and it is a mercy indeed if we are not in such a state now but are looking to Him, confessing our sins before Him, putting our trust in Him, and great indeed if we should feel that our load of guilt was laid upon Him and borne away for ever. "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.", and all

for His people's sake. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." So that all the suffering He went through for every ransomed soul, securing his eternal happiness and joy through the merit of our precious Redeemer, gave complete and absolute satisfaction. Amen.

Hymn 991

Isaiah 54.4-8

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