

The Supreme Sacrifice

Many years ago a great plague broke out in Marseilles, a city in Southern France. The Doctors in that place arranged a conference and, after intense discussion, it was decided that a victim's body would have to be dissected or they would never know how to halt this fearsome plague. One of those Doctors, a Dr. Guyon, said, "Tomorrow morning I will proceed to carry out a dissection."

He dictated his last Will and Testament. That done, he made spiritual preparation for death. At last he set out for the hospital and, in one of the theatres, he commenced the dissecting of a body. As he did so, he wrote down his observations and the results of the dissection. Very soon he began to feel unwell and within twelve hours he was dead.

At the time, this was rightly regarded as a beautiful self-sacrifice, for his yielding himself like this to death provided the information and knowledge whereby the plague was at first arrested and then completely eliminated.

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, looked down from heaven and beheld Adam's race stricken with sin's dreadful plague and bound over to certain, universal misery and death. In the Eternal Conference

or Council, known as the Covenant of Grace, it was agreed that sin had to be dealt with and that God's only Son, in the fullness of time, should enter the reeking hospital of this world and, in a work of pure mercy, should do whatever was necessary for the removal of sin. Hence He came. He made His Will, giving everything of spiritual and eternal value to His people. Then He laid His hand to the work and, under the plague, He suffered and died. In a place outside of Jerusalem, 2,000 years ago, the healthy One laid down His life for the sick, the pure One laid down His life for the polluted; and the innocent One laid down His life for the guilty. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). This was amazing love! This was love beyond degree!