

Thought for the Week

Scars

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Rev. 21:4 NIV

DO YOU HAVE any scars from accidents in the past? I have a few, and there is a story behind each of them. There is a faint scar on the back of my right hand that I have grown fond of through the years, where the family dog bit me the day she died.

She had wandered out into the street against my orders and had been hit by a truck right before my eyes. As she lay dying in the middle of the road, I realized that I had to get her out of the way of traffic, so I grabbed her collar to drag her off to the side of the road. The pain must have been excruciating, because she suddenly chomped down on my hand to get me to stop. She sunk her teeth into my flesh, leaving a deep puncture wound. A minute later she took her last breath. Today the small scar is a reminder to me of a German shepherd I loved dearly as a boy.

It is interesting that God made our bodies to heal from injury, but also to scar. It may simply be the result of sin that we do not regenerate new tissue perfectly, but I do not resent those little bumps and creases. They remind me of mistakes, awaken memories of past events, and provide visual learning tools for my children. When they ask “How did you do that?” It affords me an opportunity to share experiences that may save them from future pain.

There are other kinds of scars – emotional ones, the kind you can’t see – that we carry with us as well. Many emotional scars do not heal perfectly either, but leave a faint trace as a sad reminder of past mistakes. They may be caused by strangers, friends, or even family members.

You may wonder how these scars can ever be removed. God heals all scars, and transforms a heart of stone into a heart of flesh (Eze. 11:19). At the Second Coming we will not only be given perfect new bodies, but the pain and sorrow of this life will be purged as well, for as our text for today assures us, “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

What lessons have you learned from the scars in your life that have made you a better person?

Taken from the book, *Fit For Ever*