I want to share a neat story with you about how God can and will comfort you, during this tragic time in your lives.

A couple of weeks ago, I was with a family at Fayette Piedmont Hospital. This family had just received some tragic news that they had found cancer in one of their loved ones.

That day several of us from this family and some friends from church, we all went down to get some lunch at the Chic-fil-A in the basement of Fayette Piedmont Hospital.

The young girl behind the counter that served us our food that day had written on the side of everyone’s styrofoam cup, Psalm 18:30. She had her Bible open to that passage of scripture there on the counter. She was surprised that I knew the words to that verse, “As for God, His way is perfect.”

I told her the story of how I fell in love with that verse when my wife and I went through a very troubled time a few years back. We were halfway through the pregnancy expecting our fourth son and we found out that he would be born with a cleft lip and palate like I his father had as well.

My wife and I cried for three days and I did not even feel like preaching that next Sunday and had a friend to fill in for me.

But by the next Sunday, when I stood to preach, the scripture reference I used for that day’s sermon was Psalm 18:30 – “As for God, His way is perfect.” Though we still hurt tremendously, God had given us His peace about it.

About a week and half later, which was last Friday night, we were with the Rothwell family in the family room of the emergency room at Fayette Piedmont Hospital. Hearts were heavy and still are as they had just found out that Tom had passed away at the age of 48.

And we were talking, and crying, and laughing, remembering funny stories about Tom. We even talked about how sometimes, we even feel angry at God when we have such things take place that we don’t understand, like losing Tom.

I looked over on a table and saw two Chic-fil-A cups sitting there that belonged to some of the family members. Written on those cups were the words, Isaiah 53:5. I wasn’t immediately aware of what that verse said, though I should have been.

But I sat there and shared with this family my story about Psalm 18:30 and the girl at Chic-fil-A the week before. A few minutes went by and young Ethan walked over to me and showed me on an Ipad, where he had look up the words to this verse.

Isaiah 53:5 – “But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him and by His wounds we are healed.”

I was able to share with the family, that this is what Jesus had done for Thomas Rothwell and for all of us. He took our sin upon Himself and He laid down His life upon the cross and saved us and gave to us eternal life in a perfect place called heaven.

What about you, today? What about the rest of us? Do you know this Jesus, that Tom is in Heaven with today?

I hope and pray that this helps us to maybe accept this tragedy maybe just a little more, although we still hurt and we still don’t understand why. God hurts with us and He cares for us. God wants to hold you through your pain. But Tom is not suffering anymore. He’s with His Jesus!

\* I’m not sure if the story above of writing Bible verses on Chic-fil-A cups is just this one girl at the hospital or if it is a nationwide practice, but it should become one if it’s not already! It may touch many lives.