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APRIL 2005

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Jesus Lives

Jesus lives, but Jesus died;
Love to death consign'd Him:
Death the mighty Love resign'd,
Could not hold or bind Him:
Therefore still He meets our needs;
Jesus lives, and Jesus leads.

Jesus lives, and every grace
Comes because He giveth;
Life and love in every place
Live, for Jesus liveth:
All our thoughts his love exceeds;
Jesus lives, and Jesus leads.

*Edwin Paxton Hood,
1820-85*

THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing. (Psalm 107:21-22)

The psalmist recalled the covenant the Lord made with their forefathers, and how the Heavenly Father heard the prayers of the children of Israel when they were in distress. He promised to them the land of Canaan, yet many times his children rebelled. They complained along the way, but God was merciful to them. He provided food and water, He protected them, and, as the psalmist wrote, *He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes. (Psalm 105:14)*

God helped them in every time of need. He forgave the repentant and destroyed the unrepentant. He remembered his promises and gave them the land He had promised. He said, *I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Joshua 1:5)* He drove out the enemy from before them, and continued to provide for them despite their groaning and complaining.

It seems as though the children of Israel seldom remembered to offer thanks to their Heavenly Father for his blessings. Occasionally they would set up an altar and offer sacrifice and thanksgiving unto Him. The psalmist encourages men to remember what the Heavenly Father has done, and to thank and praise Him for it.

Because of pride, it is not easy for man to offer thanks to God. Man would like to think that he has done this and that by the labors of his own hands, not remembering that it is God who has given us life, understanding, strength, wisdom, and health. It is He who provides for us daily. Without his blessings, we would have absolutely nothing.

Our journey here is no different from that of the children of Israel. We murmur against God, and we complain. But, dear children of God, let us remember how good the Heavenly Father has been to us even though we have been rebellious, and have murmured and complained.

God has promised that He will never leave us or forsake us. Do we not have much reason to take heed of the words of the Psalm, that we would *praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men?* Should we not offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing every day?

Let us think of the great salvation God has given in his Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and how He has made us heirs of this salvation by forgiving us our sins. Not only once, but how many times along the journey has He forgiven us our many failures, sins, and shortcomings? When we have been burdened and have felt no strength within ourselves, He has given us boldness to come to the altar of mercy and the throne of grace.

There we have heard the voice of Jesus through our brothers and sisters; we have felt the warmth of the blood of Jesus when those comforting words have been declared unto us, "Be of good cheer, your sins are all forgiven you in Jesus' name and atoning blood."

Does this not warm our hearts today, to know that God is still with us? We are on our way to that great, festive day when we will be joined to the Heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Then will begin the sound of eternal praise and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lamb.

Let us present the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing, knowing that soon our struggles will be over. We will lay down our crosses, and receive the crowns of life through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

*Pastor Roy Davidson
Old Town, Florida*

Almighty Maker, God!
How wondrous is thy name!
Thy glories, how diffused abroad
Through the creation's frame!

Let joy and worship spend
The remnant of my days,
And to my God, my soul, ascend
In sweet perfumes of praise.

Isaac Watts

A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? (Matthew 21:42)

The builders were the scribes and Pharisees, who held their people in fear. *For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. (Matthew 23:4)* When Jesus came and began to point out their hypocrisy and do many great works and wonders among them, they began to lose their hold on the people. Envy set in, and they schemed about how they could kill Jesus, and end the decaying of their own kingdom. They did not know that they would be (to their own destruction), doing the will of God in establishing the kingdom of God, that New Covenant.

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

**"I will put my laws into their mind,
and write them in their hearts."**

For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. (Hebrews 8:6-13)

No more would we be motivated by fear or pity, or even by the arm of flesh, but by the power of God, for the love of God would dwell within us.

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. (Luke 17:20-21) For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Romans 14:17)

The rejected stone, Jesus Christ, became the head of the corner, *which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (I Corinthians 2:8)*

Jesus Christ brought spiritual birth to the Church, ruling it with forgiveness, mercy, and grace, and delivering it with his own power and love. He became our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (Matthew 16:24-25)

This denying ourselves, taking up our crosses, and following Him by faith is said best by the Apostle Paul. He proclaimed, *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)* May Christ dwell in your hearts by faith always.

*Pastor Mark Aho
Ashburnham, Massachusetts*

Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation.

Isaiah 28:16

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in faith, and dear friends,

Do you know what the pearl of great price is? The Bible tells us that *the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. (Matthew 13:44-46)

Do you know what was purchased with the highest price that has ever been paid for anything at any time on this earth? It is your soul and mine. Our souls were bought with the blood of the only begotten Son of God, Jesus. *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (I Peter 1:18)*

Peter also wrote, *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9)*

**"If any man sin,
we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous."**

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (I John 2:1-2) So you see, dear friend, that Jesus has died for your sins. As Isaiah wrote, *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. his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5-6)*

The Gospel of Luke tells us, *Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.*

And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you,

that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. (Luke 15:1-10)

In the fifteenth chapter of Luke, in the parable of the prodigal son, when the son came to realization of his lost condition after wasting his substance with riotous living, he returned to the father's house. *But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. (Luke 15:20-24)

The heart of the father was full of love, compassion, and forgiveness for his sinful son. This shows how much the Heavenly Father loves our undying souls. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

There is a carol in which the shepherd boy asks the little lamb, "Do you hear what I hear?" So my question to you, dear friend, is the same one. Can you hear the angel say, *Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)* May God grant each of us ears to hear this message. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Bob Mattila
Brush Prairie, Washington*

FREE THROUGH CHRIST

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (Romans 8:1-14)

The Apostle Paul also recorded, as God inspired him, these words: What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:1-14)

As we observe, the writer of these verses states that it is possible for us to mind either the things of the spirit or the things of the flesh. What does this mean? If we have availed ourselves of the fountain of grace through the precious blood of our

Saviour, we have been freed from eternal death and separation from God. As this wonderful truth is revealed to us through God's Spirit, we will be changed on the inside, and become new creatures in Christ. We will no longer wish to follow the ways of our fallen nature, but rather endeavor to please and obey our loving Saviour.

This does not mean that life will be without a struggle or difficulty. But even as we walk in his way, He will be with us every step of the journey. Much of our battle begins in our minds, with the threefold struggle against our flesh, the Devil's devices, and the world system. It has been my experience that this warfare is ever present, and only intensifies with age. Recently, when I visited a friend in a nursing home, there was another person nearby who was almost totally incapacitated in her bed. This precious Christian called to me and asked if she could hear that most wonderful of messages, that her shortcomings could be washed away with the good news of the Gospel. As I drew near, she said she felt so poor as a Christian, for she was a great sinner. As we can see, even this one was not spared from battle.

Apostle Paul wrote, *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. (Romans 6:12)* Therefore, we should continually put these sins away so that they will not begin to control our lives.

The price paid for our redemption is matchless; namely, the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of our dear Jesus, God's precious Son. He paid mankind's sin debt in full once and for all on the cross of Calvary. O, that we would think of this daily, and ask Him to lead and guide us in these last days on earth. Let us not fall for those winds of doctrine that do not require fruits of faith, and which promote a life of ease and appeasement.

Just as common criminals of our day are arrested and brought to justice, when they are freed from jail, most do not ever want to be in that state again. In much the same way, we have had our death sentence commuted by Jesus Christ, and we desire that we would travel this journey as closely as possible to the way He has shown us.

O, Father, let us follow your leading and the voice of the Good Shepherd, and love one another as you have loved us.

To God be all honor, praise, and glory.

*Love and God's peace,
Allan Wirkkala, Sr.
Kelso, Washington*

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

The Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

John 8:31-32, 35-36

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Hello Children,

I do hope you are well and having a good day. I will share with you a story about a blind man. This is found in John 9.

Healing One Born Blind

It was the Sabbath day, and Jesus had been talking with the people. He saw a man who had been blind since he was born. Jesus' disciples saw him, too, and asked Jesus why the man was blind. Was it because he had sinned, or did his parents sin?

Jesus said, *Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (John 9:3-5)* Jesus was going to use this man's blindness to reveal his power, and help those who follow Him to have more faith.

Jesus then spat on the dirt and made clay, which he put on the man's eyes. He told the man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam (which means Sent). The man obeyed. He went to wash as Jesus told him to, and immediately he could see. He returned, seeing, and his neighbors, who knew him when he was blind, asked, *Is not this he that sat and begged? (Verse 8)*

Some said that it was he, and others said it just looked like him. The man told them, *I am he. (Verse 9)* The people were amazed that he could see, and wondered how that happened.

He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. (Verse 11) They asked where Jesus was, but the man did not know.

It seems that, when Jesus did good deeds on the Sabbath, the Pharisees were sure to hear about it. They did not believe it a good thing to heal on the

Sabbath. They certainly heard about this man's healing, and he was even brought before them. The Pharisees asked the man how he could see. He told them.

Some said that the healer could not be from God because he didn't keep the Sabbath. The Pharisees asked the former blind man what he thought of his healer. *He said, He is a prophet. (Verse 17)*

The Jews did not believe the healed man's story, and went to find the man's parent's to asked them how it all came about. I find that funny because after all, he was a grown man, and he should know what happened. *His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. (Verses 20-21)*

The Jews asked the man again how he was healed. He said, *One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.*

Then they asked, *What did he do to thee? how opened he thine eyes?*

He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? (Verses 25-27)

The Jews were angry at this reply, and told him that they follow Moses. Regarding this healer, they were not sure who he was or where he came from.

The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. (Verses 30-33) You can see that this man was sure that Jesus was of God.

The Jews were angry to hear this man speak of Jesus this way. They said unto him, *Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. (Verse 34)*

Jesus heard that the man was poorly treated by the Jews, and went and found him and asked, *Dost thou believe on the Son of God?*

He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

How very happy and amazed the man must have been to hear those words coming from the Lord himself! *And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. (Verses 36-38)*

And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. (Verse 39) He meant that those who do not believe (who do not see) might see (believe); and that those who do see (who follow their own laws or beliefs, thinking they are saved by that, and being so holy in themselves that they don't think they have sin) *might be made blind* (that they would see themselves as sinners, and nothing without Jesus.)

We are all sinners, and we need Jesus to save us. It is only through Him that we can have faith to believe that we are saved.

Our blind man was found by Jesus, and was saved. He would live for Him with new eyes and a new heart.

Praise Jesus for his greatness and his faithfulness to those who love Him.

Gwen Wilson

FALL SERVICES ANNOUNCED

The Fraser Valley Apostolic Lutheran Church invites you to the 2005 annual Fall Services being held Friday, August 19 through Sunday, August 21 in Mission, British Columbia (1/2 hour north of the Sumas, Washington border). Registration and accommodations will be sent to all Apostolic Lutheran Church congregations. You may look for information to be posted on the Federation Web Site at www.apostolic-lutheran.org

Janelle Hilman
Secretary

LOOKING UNTO JESUS

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

Sometime life seems to be overwhelming to us. We encounter various conflicts, health problems, temptations, and burdens of soul or conscience. We think, how will ever recover? And often we wonder, where is God in our time of need? When we face these situations, we are reminded and encouraged, by the Word of the Lord, to keep our focus on Jesus and that which He has promised and done for us. Especially at times like that, we need the encouragement to *run with patience the race that is set before us. (Hebrews 12:1)*

Knowing the reality that we are *compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1)*, and remembering the difficulties that those of old have also faced them (see Hebrew 11), we can be assured of the promise of Jesus, *for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)* We are not alone, though sometimes we may feel or think we are. Looking at the deliverance of those who have gone before is for our encouragement, even as we are instructed to run unburdened and untroubled of conscience, trusting in the promises of God.

The joy set before Jesus was his accomplishment of our redemption. For us, the joy of the prospect of future glory far outweighs any present suffering for the Gospel's sake. *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)* When our focus is not on us, but on Jesus, the one who stands in our stead, we are reminded:

He is the beginning and End, the Alpha and Omega, our all in all.

He is the one by whom faith is made perfect.

He endured the cross victoriously over death, hell, and the Devil for us.

He is now on the right hand of God in glory. He will bring the righteous there to be with Him.

The marvelous work of God's grace is that He assures us that our righteousness is not by what we do to merit it, but in what He has done for us. *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)*

Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (Hebrews 12:12-14) Jesus, our all in all!

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. (Revelation 21:3,6)

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. (Colossians 1:17-20)

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, . . . keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

*In his service,
Pastor Rodney Johnson
Laurium, Michigan*

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:30-33

YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD

Well may we be astonished at the terms in which the Apostle Paul spoke of the children of the New Covenant. Never were such things written of the Old Testament saints as are now written of the people under the Gospel dispensation.

What, then, said the Apostle? He maintained that those who are regenerated are the temple of God, and that the Holy Spirit, the renewer of the world, has his dwelling-place within them. On another occasion, he said, *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (I Corinthians 3:16)* These words show plainly that it is not merely the brethren taken collectively who are so, but that each member of the community is a temple.

The Holy Spirit builds; this is his occupation when we first learn to know Him, and certainly we often behold Him employed in it. He resembles the man in the well-known parable of our Lord. Like him, He lays the foundation of his house upon a rock.

There is a city existing upon earth which nowhere has its equal. It consists of holy sanctuaries and temples; it is invisible and yet close at hand. The world condemns it, although it is the most glorious thing in it. The wings of Eternal Love are spread over it, Heaven smiles on it benignantly; its walls and ramparts are of fire, and its foundations are firm as the eternal mountains. It is the city of the King of Kings, and it is the office of the Holy Spirit to raise and extend it.

He is a builder of temples; and, in this point of view, He stands in the same relation to Christ that Solomon did to David. The latter, by his victories and conquests, first rendered the building of the temple possible; he also provided the materials and sketched the plan that Solomon put into execution.

No one is by nature a temple; on the contrary, by nature we are the dwelling-places of an evil spirit who has his work in the hearts of the unregenerated, and who blinds them so that they believe a lie. It is now the employment of the Holy Spirit to remodel this living charnel house, and for this purpose He throws down and raises up, He destroys and creates anew. His instrument is the Holy Scriptures. He makes the Word penetrating and sharper than a two-edged sword, giving it power to make impression, and animating it with the breath of life.

If we look still more closely into our spiritual sanctuary and its various inscriptions, they are divine promises, selected from the Book of Life, each one more beautiful than another, all sealed and confirmed by the Holy Spirit and inscribed in the heart in letters of fire. Here one may read: *I have loved*

thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. (Jeremiah 31:3)

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. (Isaiah 54:10)

Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. (Isaiah 43:1-2)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28)

*F. W. Krummacher
"The Martyr Lamb"*

A Canticle of Praise

**The birds at morning sweetly sing,
And through the woods their carols ring;
With joy they hymn, in glad accord,
The love of their most gracious Lord.**

**Then rise, my soul! my tongue, awake!
Let heart and voice glad music make;
Thou too thy gratitude must bring
To Him who is thy manhood's King.**

**Lift high thy praises! thou shalt see
The very spheres unite with thee,
And angels join with men to raise
To God their canticles of praise.**

Frederick John Gillman

Daily Bread

A band of way-worn men are we,
Who find life's pathway rough to tread;
Together, Lord, we come to thee,
And in thy presence bow the head.

We bring our week of life to thee,
All soiled, and worn, and marred with sin,
Thine eyes of holy love can see
Each tempted life without, within.

We bring our bitterness of heart,
Our hate and want of charity;
We fain would choose the better part,
And learn to love, dear Lord, like thee.

We bring our care for daily bread,
The fear that turns the heart to stone;
We cry to thee; lift up our head,
And show us we are not alone.

We bring the faith that over all,
Though faint and feeble, flickers still;
Increase it, Lord, that at thy call
We may our daily task fulfil.

Lord, make us pure; enrich our life
With heavenly love forevermore;
Give us thy strength to face the strife,
And serve thee better than before.

Edwin Gilbert

My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:32-33, 35