



Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE
PROCLAMATION OF THE
WORD OF GOD

Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

APRIL 2010

OUR PRESENT HOPE

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Romans 5:1-5)

There are two difficulties we face when we are going through a time of economic trial as many people in our world are now. On the one hand, we can lose hope and become hopeless being driven to despair. Hopelessness is a bad state to find oneself in because it normally leads to depression and a fearful inertia where a person doesn't know how to act to relieve their situation so they become fearful to act at all. On the other hand, we can keep our hope intact but see it only as having future value so that we slog on moping through our earthly lives dejected but hopeful of other-worldly relief. Both of these conditions show that at times we have the wrong hope. Our hope is present here and now; it's Christ who is our hope. We have our glory not just in future deliverance from tribulation but in the midst of the tribulation itself. Christ is with us

always. That is His promise; but when we begin to focus on the difficulty instead of Christ we lose hope, for our situation seems hopeless. Yet we must understand that Christ is with us in the here and now and is showing the love of God toward us through the Holy Spirit even in the midst of trial.

Think of what it was like for the disciples when Jesus was crucified and they returned to the upper room without Him: they were full of despair. Certainly they were questioning what they were going to do with their lives; they were disappointed and filled with fear over what was going to become of them. Then Jesus appeared to them alive on Easter Sunday and cheered their hearts with His peace, gave them His Spirit and assured them of His abiding presence with them forever. This is how much God loved them; He gave His Son to shed His blood for their sins to secure their redemption, to give them hope. Now even in the darkest of days the love of God by the Holy Spirit sustained them so, come what may, they went on with joy in their hearts.

God doesn't love us any less and couldn't love us any greater. We have all the same benefits as the apostles; the love of God by the same Spirit is in our hearts and in the midst of difficulty we are to hold firm in that love, not focusing on the trial but on the Lord of the trial and its resolution. He is our Lord and He loves us to the end. May God spread abroad in our hearts the hope of Easter so that even in our time of trial His love would strengthen and encourage us to hold fast to Him, trusting in Him whose hope cannot disappoint. May the hope of the risen Christ be our hope and stay in our time of trial during this Easter season and forever.

*God's peace,
Pastor Jay Weidner
Painesdale, Michigan*

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.

Romans 6:8-10

NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE!

And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. (Luke 22:40-46)

Jesus had just celebrated the Passover with His disciples and He knew that the final "hour of crisis" had come. The greatest events in all of history were about to unfold: the death and resurrection of Jesus. This was part of God's eternal plan.

The multitude that had gathered around Jesus a few days earlier had cried, "Hosanna!" and had wanted to crown Him king. But in Gethsemane He was alone! He prayed, *Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

It was night when Jesus entered the Garden of Gethsemane. It was their usual place of prayer. All the disciples were with Him except Judas, who had given himself to the work of Satan to betray Jesus. Eight of them were at the gate, and Peter, James and John were further in the garden. These three saw His agony and heard His cry.

No human being can truly understand the mystery of Christ being both God and man and the two-fold suffering that Jesus endured. Jesus, the perfect sinless Son of God, was the only sacrifice that could satisfy God's righteousness and justice. Jesus Himself said, *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. (John 10:17-18)*

The sin of mankind was pressing down on Him. Satan and his angels were coming upon Him. He cried to the Father, "Remove this cup from Me!" But this cup was not removed. Jesus had to drink every drop. The anguish of His soul became more intense. It was so great that *...his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:44)*

Three times Jesus returned to the three disciples, but each time He found them sleeping. He suffered alone. He overcame this temptation by tearful prayers. *Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. (Hebrews 5:7-9)*

It is not wrong to express true feelings to God in prayer. Jesus did! He dreaded the coming trials, but He submitted to the will of the Father. Even in His severe trial, He was teaching His disciples about the importance of prayer. Jesus says, "Pray that ye enter not into temptation," as we pray in the Lord's Prayer. He told Peter, *What, could ye not watch with me one hour? (Matthew 26:40)*

He exhorted the disciples to pray that they enter not into temptation. The disciples were the ones who needed spiritual help. Jesus knew that they would be severely tempted during the coming events. He had already told Peter, *Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. (Luke 22:31-32)*

The disciples were asleep. How tragic that many of us as Christians sleep when we should be praying. We sleep in self-indulgence and selfishness, which is the root of all sin. May God help us when a time of sifting comes for us, for it will come. The tempter, Satan, knows our weaknesses. He knows us better than we know ourselves. Our life is a battlefield. There is a warfare as to who can reign in our lives. James writes, *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. (James 1:12)*

Jesus says, "Take up the cross and follow Me." (Mark 10:21) He calls us to die to ourselves and live for Him. In many parts of the world Christians today are persecuted and suffer. Are we willing to go where we might suffer for the name of Christ? It may not be long before we may have to suffer if we stand for the truth of God's Word. As people we want His blessings but not His cross. Many confess the name of Jesus, but only a few deny themselves and suffer with Him. We want the glory of the cross but not the agony. We are ready to join the chorus of hosannas, but perhaps we walk far from Him in the crowd and deny Him when put to a test. Peter said he was willing to go with Jesus to prison and to death, but we recall what happened. The disciples were sleeping when they should have been praying. Peter had to resort to a physical weapon when the trial came. He needed a better weapon than his sword, which he used to cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. Let us not neglect prayer and studying the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit.

The Father heard the prayer of His Son...

The Father heard the prayer of His Son and sent an angel from heaven to strengthen Him. Jesus went as a

lamb to slaughter and, by His blood, He paid the price for our sin and He opened the way for us to be set free through the forgiveness of our sin. *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John 8:36)*

Thanks be to God, Jesus was victorious over our enemies and defeated death by the power of His resurrection. Praise God He is interceding for us at the right hand of the Father, just as He prayed for Peter that his faith would not fail. When we stumble and fall, He hears our cries and opens His arms to us. He is victorious when we are defeated. He is strong when we are weak. He gives us power because He has conquered every foe. The serpent's head is bruised, his power is crushed. Jesus is alive! *Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:5-6)*

*Pastor Elmer Yliniemi
Wolf Lake, Minnesota*

GOD'S NAME

Getting the name of God right! God is and has always been Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Which name of God am I to use when I pray? His English name, His Hebrew name, His Aramaic name? Are you doing this?

God's names: there are 21; here are 11 listed:

Adonai: The Lord, My Great Lord

Elohim: The All-Powerful One Creator

El Roi: The God Who Sees Me

El Shaddai: The All-Sufficient One, The God Of The Mountains,
God Almighty

Immanuel: God With Us, "I AM"

Jehovah: "I AM," The One Who Is The Self-Existent One

Jehovah-Rapha: The Lord Who Heals

Jehovah-Rohl: The Lord My Shepherd

Jehovah-Tsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness

YHWH: "I AM," The One Who Is The Self-Existent One

God The Father: Supreme And Powerful Authority, Protector,
Immense, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent With
Infinite Power And Charity

Your name also describes who you are and what you have done—good, bad or otherwise.

What is it to get the name of God correct or right? God's name is all that He is, all that He has done, and all that He will do. Getting this correct is most important for everyone. To get the name of God correct is to believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ: Immanuel, God With Us.

Which name of Jesus am I to use when I pray? His English name, His Hebrew name, His Aramaic name?

Jesus' names: there are 50; here are 11 listed:

Yeshua: Jesus Son of God.

Almighty: Jesus is All-Powerful.

Messiah: Jesus is Messiah.

Redeemer: Jesus is our Redemption.

Resurrection and the Life: Jesus is our Life.

Savior: Jesus is our Savior.

Shepherd: Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Son of God: Jesus is the Son of God by nature.

The Way, The Truth & The Life: Jesus is our Path to God.

Bread of Life: Jesus is our Sustenance.

Bright Morning Star: Jesus lights our Way.

Jesus Himself taught us: *But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. (Matthew 23:8-10)*

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:8-12)

Jesus Himself taught us to pray: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name...

Jesus said, *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7:21-23)* Getting this right in your heart is not only having His name on your lips but believing in all that God has done for you in and through Jesus our Lord, the salvation provided by Him. Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees, *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. (Matthew 23:27)* Jesus also said, *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my*

name, he may give it you. (John 15:16) What name are you going to use? Getting this right first in your heart will ensure you then have the name of God correct even on your lips.

Remember all that God is in His Son Jesus, for God has fulfilled all things for us in His Son: salvation, redemption, and sanctification.

And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them. (Exodus 6:3)

We are to believe that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. Believe that *...if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (put to death) 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 8:13-14)* This we do daily by prayer to the triune God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Believe in the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name and shed blood. Believe and trust the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth; this we can say but believing this is very hard. Believe this is the work that God is working in us. Believe in the faith of the Son of God. Believe that the truth is Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior of the world. Believe Jesus is the light of the world. Believe Jesus came to shine the way for us and to open for us and all believers a way to God our Father. Believe that Jesus is coming again and then the judgment. Believe Jesus opens for each of us the gates of heaven and at the last day the Spirit will raise up you and all the dead and will give you and all believers in Christ Jesus everlasting life.

Please do believe that God by the power of the Holy Spirit has given you faith and placed you on the foundation of Christ Jesus as your rock and salvation and you have been given peace that passes all understanding. Please do not go and establish yourself on another understanding or go back to another foundation which can't save you.

Please turn yourself around and renounce the wrong that you have been entrapped in. Take that step of faith to God for He knows you are coming and He will come running to meet you with open arms. Continue to look to Jesus, for He alone can help you in time of need. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)* Jesus is the end of

the law of sin and death. He is for all mankind the law of liberty. *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2) But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (James 1:25)* You have gotten God's name right when you come to Him and believe all that God has done in and through His Son Jesus Christ, that God is working in you by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Your brother in Christ,
Mark Sunnarborg
Rhineland, Wisconsin*



The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.
The highest place that heaven affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heaven's eternal Light.

The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below,
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His name to know.
To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is given;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The mystery of His love.
The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly

Dear children far and near,



Hello! I hope you are all having a good day. I and my family are fine. This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. The birds are singing, and it is peaceful. I really enjoy the spring time of the year; it makes the heart glad. Where we live new life is happening in the plants and trees, and the first flowers are starting to show their cheerful heads. Today we will turn to the Easter story of when Jesus died for us. St. Mark, chapters 14-16.

NOT AN EARTHLY KING!

Passover was very near. This feast was celebrated every year by the Jews in remembrance of when God "passed over" the houses of the children of Israel, when he struck the Egyptians and saved the children of Israel (Exodus 12:27).

After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him (Jesus) by craft (by a well-planned trick), and put him to death. (Mark 14:1) These people had had enough of Jesus and, because they did not believe in Him, they did not see all the good that He did or the purpose of His ministry, and they did not like what He had to say. They thought that Jesus was just trying to be something great. Jesus was only doing what God the Father wanted Him to do, and that was to show the people how much God loved them.

Jesus was to eat His last Passover with His disciples. The day came and all things were made ready. *And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. (Mark 14:17-18)* The disciples were very worried and each wondered if it was him. Jesus said it would be the one who dips his bread in the dish with Him. Judas dipped his bread in the dish with Jesus. The betrayer was Judas.

After they had eaten and sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Here in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus went to be alone to pray unto God the Father for strength for this difficult time, as Jesus knew His time to die was very near. The great burden that Jesus carried was ALL the sins of every person in the world.

While they were there Judas came with soldiers to capture Jesus. Judas came into the garden and kissed Jesus. The kiss was the sign to the soldiers that this was the man they wanted.

Jesus was taken to the high priest. *And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. (Mark 14:55)* The high priest asked Jesus if he was the Christ, the Son of the Blessed. *And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. (Mark 14:62-64)* Some of them spit on Him, covered His face, and slapped Him with their hands. How cruel they were!

The next morning, a feast day, Jesus was brought before Pilate, the Roman governor. Jesus was questioned as to whether or not He was the King of the Jews, and He answered, "Thou sayest it." Pilate asked him again but Jesus remained silent. It was at this feast that Pilate was going to release a prisoner and he asked the people if they wanted Jesus or Barabbas the murderer to be released. They said they wanted Barabbas the murderer. Sad was their choice!

Jesus was then robed in purple, a crown of thorns was placed on His head, and He was to carry His own cross to Golgotha, the hill on which He would be crucified. A man named Simon was called on to help Him part of the way. Jesus was hung on the cross with two thieves, one on either side of Him. A sign was hung over His head which read: "The King of the Jews" (Mark 15:26).

Jesus died, but did He stay in the grave? No, He arose from the grave the third day, just as He said He would! This was Easter morning. We can be thankful that Jesus arose again. He wanted us to know that He is not an earthly king and we know He went up to heaven. He is waiting for us there and one day all those who believe in Him will have the privilege of sharing in heavenly life with God the Father and Jesus—FOREVER!

May God watch over all of you today and always. A blessed Easter to each of you.

*God's peace,
Gwen Wilson*

EASY STREETS AND LONG ROADS



The Bible rings with some serious stories of faith, and the men and women involved become examples to those of us who reach for faith. We admire with reverence the way that these men and women of old dealt with difficult odds and how God accomplished incredible things through them. But what would happen in our own lives if we were given the chance to fight the same fight? Would we rise to the challenge?

I'm afraid that in our day, we often live with a glaring contradiction. We want to know God. We want God to be real and we want life to have deep meaning. And yet we want all this without any serious cost or effort.

We tend to assume that life is best when the waters are still—that life is best during those times when everything "makes sense." "This is how it's supposed to be," we tell ourselves. But just as soon as we do, the water around us gets rough, our boats are rocked, and we are back in another struggle of one kind or another. What's going on in these times? Why doesn't God just allow us to stay comfortable and content? Are the bad times merely distortions of the way life should be? Should the road of faith be an easy one?

Consider some key figures in the Bible and what they went through: Abraham was asked to give up his own son, the prize of his life, and he was willing to do it. Moses could have stayed in Egypt and enjoyed the pleasures of royalty, but instead he led the people of Israel through years of struggle. Because of his faith, the prophet Daniel defied a king, risking death in a lion's den. The three young men were willing to go into the burning furnace because of their faith, whether God rescued them or not. Before he was king, David patiently endured the rage of Saul because he believed God. Esther courageously risked her life to go before the king and beg for his mercy with the strength of these marvelous words: "If I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16).

It was in the toughest acts of faith that these men and women came the closest to God and found life's deepest mean-

ing. It was not the provision of comfort or happiness that led them to a deeper knowledge of God—it was often the lack of it. Is it possible that a life where everything stays calm and unchallenged isn't what we really need? Does peace mean as much if we never experience calamity? Do our hearts ring with gratitude if we are never in want? Does happiness bring as bright a smile if we never taste sadness?

Let us not idealize an easy life, or we may find that life becomes hollow. The writer of Hebrews has a much better challenge: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1). The one we follow, the author and perfecter of our faith, lived a life of similar proportions, who for the joy set out before him endured the Cross, scorning its shame. He now sits at the right hand of the throne of God, beckoning us onward.

*Stuart McAllister
Submitted by Alvar Helmes
Battle Ground, Washington*

"Easy Streets and Long Roads," by Stuart McAllister, *A Slice of Infinity*, No. 2135, originally printed 10 February 2010 (www.rzim.org). Used by permission of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries.

PEACE BE WITH YOU!

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. (John 20:19-22)

On the evening of the day of resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and brought a very important, life-changing message to them. This message of peace was, and remains, a key aspect for us in His kingdom. True peace begins with the personal assurance of the forgiveness of sins. This results in motivating us to bring peace through Jesus Christ into the world. Not only did He provide the message to be

brought to the world, but also the power of the Holy Spirit by which this is able to be done!

As recorded in *John 14:27*, Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.* What a marvelous gift He has given to calm a troubled heart or conscience and troubled spirit in the soul of man. This glorious Gospel of our Lord provides to the soul what is impossible for the world to provide. Nothing that we seek, try to obtain, or work for will provide what the simple message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ performs in us; namely, PEACE and then fullness of JOY! Thus the kingdom message became, and continues to be, what Jesus said, "If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven."

If we rely on our works or good behavior, the question still remains whether we have either done enough, or been good enough, or not. This leaves us troubled and without peace and contentment. If we seek fulfillment in the things we seek to possess, they rust and tarnish, so we look to obtain more. The question then is: "When do we have enough?" Nothing in the world can fully satisfy the needs of the soul except the Word of God, the assurances of His love and grace that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may BELIEVE the Gospel and KNOW the peace that passes all of our ability to fully comprehend. This is the gift of our gracious God!

Jesus continually gives encouragement to us as He did to His disciples by the message of His presence, care and ability to keep us faithfully before the Father, even as it is written in *John 16:33*, *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

Therefore, we can trust in the Lord today, even as Isaiah did in his day as he wrote: *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength. (Isaiah 26:3-4)*

*Trusting in the Lord Jesus,
In His peace, by grace,
Pastor Rod Johnson
Laurium, Michigan*

HE CALLETH BY NAME

*...he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.
(John 10:3)*

The unit is not lost in the indiscriminate mass. The color of a personality is not merged in the monotonous grey of the multitude. The personalities are distinguished. *He calleth His own sheep by name.* He never mistakes one for another. We are not so much alike that we are treated as crowds. We are not repetitions of a type, uniform articles cast in a common and unvarying mold. We are individualities, every one original and unique, bearing individual characteristics and name. *He calleth His own sheep by name.* He never confounds Thomas and John, or Peter and Nathaniel, or Mary and Martha. Each name suggests its special problem and requires peculiar ministry. The ministries are varied and unequal, and in their inequality are to be found their grace and justice. In inequality is found the rarest equity. Equal bonds may mean unequal strain. Equal loads given to a dray-horse and a carriage-horse impose quite unequal burdens. One horse leaps to a sharp word, while another only responds to a heavy lash. You create the same pain by apparently unequal punishment. Therefore it is not similarity and equality of treatment that we require, but treatment guided by the discernment of the individual need. It is, therefore, a heartening evangel which comes to us from the Word of God, and which tells us that the Lord is acquainted with the individual need, and that from Him we receive the inequalities of mercy and grace.

He calleth his own sheep by name. But this was said of Him in the day of His gracious travail, when He walked the heavy road of pilgrimage and pain. This was spoken in the day of His humiliation, when He companied with men, when He visited their lowly dwellings, and moved amid their common haunts, and sympathetically knew the needs of the individual heart. Will it be true of Him when He rises again on the third day, clothed in resurrection glory? In His humiliation He knew the individual heart; will exaltation create dimness and alienation? The gospel of my text is found amid the homely and companionable conditions of chapter ten. But if we pass on through the

deepening twilight and the hastening night, on through the darkness of chapter nineteen, by the terror of Calvary and the blackness of the tomb, on to the strange dawning of the Easter light, which breaks in chapter twenty, shall we find Him changed? When the pilgrimage is trod, and death and the grave are left behind, when the humiliation is ended, and glory has begun, will He be the same companionable, discerning, sympathetic presence? Will He any longer know the individual life?

I turn to the wonderful record, with the music of my text ringing in my heart, *He calleth His own sheep by name*. Half-tremblingly I listen to His speech on the resurrection morn. Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping; Jesus saith unto her, "*Mary!*" It is the same Master. Here is Thomas, trembling with misgiving, half stunned by the grim and unforgettable realities he had seen on Calvary, his hope buried in a sealed tomb, and despairing of any sweet and winsome morrow. Jesus said unto him, "*Thomas, reach hither thy finger.*" It is the same gracious look. Here is another prominent figure of the resurrection days, Simon Peter, consumed by self-distrust, fearful of vows and confessions, wanting to proclaim his love, and yet afraid to look at the One he loved. Jesus saith unto him, "*Simon, lovest thou Me?*" It is the same unchanging, discerning sympathy. "*Mary!*" "*Thomas!*" "*Simon!*" It is the same Jesus, now clothed in the incorruptible, ministering to the individual life, applying His grace and comfort to the individual heart. "*Mary!*" He is consoling a mourner. "*Thomas!*" He is ministering to a doubter. "*Simon!*" He is healing and restoring a denier. "*Mary!*" The resurrection Lord is ministering to the pain of bereavement. "*Thomas!*" The resurrection Lord is ministering to the pain of misgiving. "*Simon!*" The resurrection Lord is ministering to the pain of treachery and denial. Is there not something beautiful and fruitfully helpful in a record which tells us that the wealth of the resurrection ministry was given to the individual heart? The glorified Lord made His way to the three dark lanes in human life—to bereavement, to misgiving, to self-contempt, and He sought to bring into each of the black ways the soft warm, cheery light of the Easter morn. "*Mary!*" "*Thomas!*" "*Simon!*" He called the troubled sheep by name and led them out.

John Henry Jowett

IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE

Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

We should never forget that Christ came to restore all that we lost in Adam. Christ came to set right all that was destroyed by Adam, by the fall of man. It was not only sin and condemnation that, through Adam, came to all men, but also death in all its senses, including the bodily death. Christ also came to restore this, so that through Him we get the whole being of man, the way he was before the fall into sin, comprised in a beautiful, healthy, and immortal body. By the grace of God you probably cheerfully believe what the apostle says in *Romans 5*, ... *As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin ... even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life ... for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification ... for as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.* But if we believe this magnificent Gospel, then we must also believe what the apostle says about the restoration of our bodies. *As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.* We must not pick the work of Christ to pieces. His restoration work was complete. He was to disarm all our enemies: sin, the devil, death, and condemnation. But at this time all is invisible and absurd to our reason, because the shape of all this evil is still with us.

When I become a child of God, I still cannot see that sin has been taken away, because I must still see and feel its life and power in my flesh, so that I may utterly despair, and realize that I am an abomination to God. This must be so till I have the divine conviction that is called faith deeply impressed upon my heart, that Christ has condemned the sin in my flesh, so that sin is no more able to condemn me before God. With this faith I can say in full truth, "In spite of all my sin there is no sin before God, who knows what the precious blood of Jesus is worth.

Before God I am quite free from sin and quite righteous and pure—only because of the atonement by the blood of Christ, only because I am in Christ." At the same time when I see and feel how the devil storms in me and in all men, then it seems absurd to me that he has been overcome by Christ. But as Christ has said it, I must believe it after all, and say, "All the devil's fury will not hurt me as long as I remain only in Christ. On the contrary, he will only be at my service by driving me to faith and prayer." In the same way, when death puts my body in the earth, so that it molds away and becomes dust, it seems equally absurd to me that, after all, this body will rise from the dead and live in eternity. But as Christ has said, *I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, (John 11:25)* then I must say gladly, "Christ will not become a liar as regards that Word!"

Oh, inconceivable wonder! Sin will not be counted as sin, the devil will not hurt me, and death will not hold me, because Christ is my complete Savior. Luther says: "Verily, if Christ has performed His task aright, to restore what was lost, and makes His apostles preach so, then His promise will not be anything uncertain." Therefore, let us, undismayed, dare to take Him at His Word, and depart this life relying on the promise that, even though we have been dead and putrefied for a long time, when the delightful trumpet begins to sound at last, and Christ says (as He said to Lazarus), "Peter, Paul, come out!" then in the twinkling of an eye, we shall shoot out of the earth like sparks, more beautiful than heaven, with a whole body and all the sections joined, no matter whether we have been burnt to ashes, or have been eaten away in water. Praise the great Lord who Himself will do it, and who Himself has said, *Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. (Isaiah 26:19)*

C.O. Rosenius

...the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 Corinthians 15:52-53



The Good Shepherd

I met the Good Shepherd, just now on the plain,
As homeward He carried His lost one again;
I marveled how gently His burden He bore;
And as He passed by me, I knelt to adore.

O Shepherd, Good Shepherd, Thy wounds they are deep;
The wolves have sore hurt Thee in saving Thy sheep.
Thy raiment all over with crimson is dyed;
And what is this wound they have made in Thy side?

O Shepherd, Good Shepherd, and is it for me
This grievous affliction has fallen on Thee?
Thy wounds make me love Thee, my heart shall be Thine;
With Thee I will journey, my Shepherd divine.

Edward Caswell, 1858

CHRISTIAN MONTHLY

Vol. LXVI—No. 4

Subscription Rate: 1 Year

US: \$12 Canada: \$18 (Payable with US money order only) Foreign: \$25
(Washington residents add 7.7% sales tax — \$.92 for 1 year)

Send articles for publication to:

Lois Matson, Editor
CHRISTIAN MONTHLY
PO Box 2996
Battle Ground, WA 98604 USA
Phone: (360) 904-6951
Fax: (360) 686-4131
E-mail: cm@apostoliclutheran.org

*Address subscriptions, payments,
and Book Concern orders to:*

Anders and Clara Sundqvist, Managers
THE BOOK CONCERN
PO Box 2126
Battle Ground, WA 98604-2126 USA
Phone/Fax: (360) 896-7344
E-mail: books@apostoliclutheran.org

APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

website: www.apostoliclutheran.org

Western Mission: western@apostoliclutheran.org
Eastern Mission: eastern@apostoliclutheran.org
Foreign Mission: foreign@apostoliclutheran.org

The Christian Monthly (ISSN 0009-5494) is published monthly for \$12 per year by the
Apostolic Lutheran Book Concern, 19113 NE 144th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606.
Periodical postage paid at Battle Ground, Washington.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above PO Box 2126 address.

Who hath divided a watercourse for the
overflowing of waters, or a way for the
lightning of thunder; To cause it to rain on the
earth, where no man is; on the wilderness,
wherein there is no man; To satisfy the desolate
and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the
tender herb to spring forth? Hath the rain a
father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?
Out of whose womb came the ice? and the
hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?

Job 38:25-29



SPRING

Pleasing spring again is here! Trees and fields in bloom appear;
Hark! the birds, with artless lays, Warble their Creator's praise!
Where, in winter, all was snow, Now the flow'rs in clusters grow;
And the corn, in green array, Promises a harvest-day.

What a change has taken place! Emblem of the spring of grace;
How the soul, in winter, mourns Till the LORD, the Sun, returns;
Till the Spirit's gentle rain, Bids the heart revive again;
Then the stone is turned to flesh, And each grace springs forth afresh.

LORD, afford a spring to me! Let me feel like what I see;
Ah! my winter has been long, Chilled my hopes and stopped my song!
Winter threatened to destroy Faith, and love, and every joy
If Thy life was in the root, Still I could not yield Thee fruit.

Speak, and by Thy gracious voice Make my drooping soul rejoice;
O beloved Savior, haste, Tell me all the storms are past:
On Thy garden deign to smile, Raise the plants, enrich the soil;
Soon Thy presence will restore Life, to what seemed dead before.

LORD, I long to be at home, Where these changes never come!
Where the saints no winter fear, Where tis spring throughout the year:
How unlike this state below! There the flow'rs unwith'ring blow,
There no chilling blasts annoy, All is love, and bloom, and joy.

John Newton