

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 2013

Destroy This Temple

Pastor Mark Aho
Ashburnham, Massachusetts

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

John 2:19-22

Surely we can agree with the writer of Hebrews that the first covenant was a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image. The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing. (Hebrews 9:8) And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45)

When God created Adam, He breathed the breath of life into him, and he became a living soul. And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7) When Jesus had fulfilled all things and risen from the dead, He also breathed on His disciples. 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 20:21-22)



The Reconstruction of Jerusalem and the Temple of Herod—James Tissot

But, going back to the beginning, you will see the tree of life was also in the garden. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden... and out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden... (Genesis 2:8-9) After the fall, the way to the tree of life (Jesus Christ) was guarded till all things were fulfilled. Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (Genesis 3:23-24)

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom...

Matthew 27:51

In the wilderness, the children of Israel were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, which depicts the Spirit of God. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night. (Exodus 13:21) God was continually with them, but not indwelling. The ten commandments were on tables of stone, but not in their hearts. (See Hebrews 10:12-20, Hebrews 9:1-8.) The Gospel of John clearly states that the indwelling spirit was not yet given. In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) (John 7:37-39)

The complete work of righteousness, sanctification, redemption and ascension needed to be complete before the Holy Ghost was to be given. Jesus said: Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I

continued page 2

from page 1:

go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you... Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (John 16:7, 13)

When Jesus was on the cross, the veil of the temple was rent and the way to the holy of holies was opened. Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom... (Matthew 27:50-51) Now the way to Jesus Christ, the Holiest of all and the Tree of Life, was open again, where also the mercy seat is.

The kingdom of God is the finished work of Christ indwelling the body of Christ, which is the Church. 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) Also Romans 14:17, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 4:11-13, Colossians 1:24. Surely the body of Christ is all who have been born of the Spirit, for they have entered into the kingdom of God. Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:5-6)

Concerning the thousand year reign: I believe the Scriptures use a thousand years as a perfect time not an exact time, as in this psalm: *For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.* (Psalm 50:10) We know there are a lot more than a thousand hills. It is the perfect time that Christ through His body (the Church) will be present here on earth. As our natural bodies have many cells which are born and die through our life time, so it is with the body of Christ. The apostles were endued with power from on high and have long been gone, but the body of Christ is still here. New members replace the old, till the perfect time here on earth is fulfilled.

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Revelation 20:5-6) Apostle Paul makes it clear that all who are born of Christ have part in the first resurrection (Romans 6:4-5).

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. (Revelation 12:9-11) This is when Jesus Christ raised up the new temple in three days. He reigns in the hearts of all believers, which is the body of Christ, the Church. He has reigned here from the day of Pentecost, no longer speaking to us by the prophets, but by His Son, the Church, the body of Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2). There are many who speak of a coming kingdom. For what purpose? The kingdom of God is here already! He already has accomplished all things and is the Head of all things. See Colossians 1:13-19, Ephesians 1:17-23. Yet we know He will come to take His bride, the Church, and for the final judgment day. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him. (Hebrews 2:3) I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (Revelation 22:16-17)

To Him be glory both now and forever. ~



Our Sinking Ship—Does Jesus Care?

Master, carest thou not that we perish? Mark 4:38

How soon they began to doubt Him! How soon they were ready to rebel, even though they called Him Master! That is the question we also ask, no doubt, in a spirit of complaint. "Does God care? If He does, why doesn't He rescue me? The waves are beating upon the ship of my life and it is full, and He knows I cannot take much more of this." There is no such thing as a

law of nature that operates on its own. Behind every law that operates is the power of God, and when we speak about the law of nature we are describing the way in which God works. God is permitting to continue to operate within the sphere of the human body the ordinary laws of destruction. He is behind every law that He ever made. That is why you will find that many a Christian who has gone through times of untold suffering and trouble has suddenly changed this question, "Master, carest Thou not that I perish?" and has been enabled to say, "This is the Lord's doing; let Him do that which is good in His sight." For he has come to see that God does not permit the overwhelming of the storm to touch one of His children except He has a purpose in it. *Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Alan Redpath

Stand Strong in Faith

Mark Sunnarborg
Rhineland, Wisconsin

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be multiplied unto you today and forever. Amen!

...Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Genesis 3:19

We are reminded of this at most funeral services. Remind us, Father, that this life is short, and may we consider the days of our lives.



Look into your own heart and life.

Is your walk pleasing in the sight of God? Is your walk by and in faith? These questions need to be considered, for you are not going to be on this earth forever. If you are reading this, you are reminded that everyone who is born of man has a heaven to gain and has a hell to shun.

When you are laid in the grave, where will you spend eternity? Are you on your way to a better land or is this world your home? If you have washed your robes white in the blood of the Lamb, you should be looking with great joy in your heart for the second coming of Jesus. God has provided a home in heaven for all who love His appearing and are not ashamed to be called His sons. Your walk and life can only be pleasing to God if you believe in the One whom He has sent—Jesus the Christ. Has God revealed His Son Jesus unto you and has He given you a measure of faith by which to live for today? God is the only One who can perform this in your life and in the life of all men. Jesus is the only One who can make your path straight and show you the Father.

If you were asked for your testimony, what would you say? Would you say, "I have been a believer all my life"? Or, "I have been a believer for x number of years"? Or is your testimony, "Today God has granted me faith and a believing heart"? It is important that you believe today and God has granted you faith by and in which to walk.

Childhood Christians do not have to go into the world and come back to be born of the Spirit and to have a testimony of what God in Christ Jesus has done for them. They have a living testimony of how faithful God has been to them, that God has kept them in living faith all their days and God has revealed that they are washed white in the blood of the Lamb.

You may say, "What are you asking?" I am asking: Do you believe and are you ready for the days to come? Are you walking in faith today? Yesterday's faith is not going to be enough; you need faith for today.

Do you trust in the promises of God or have you given up hope that Jesus will ever come again? *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. (Matthew 24:44)* Say not in thy heart, "My Lord delayeth His coming." (Matthew 24:48) *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (Jude 1:14-15)*

Stand strong upon the foundation on which Jesus has placed you, that you are able to see by faith the things that are for those who love the things of God. *Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (Matthew 25:13)* Are you ready? This question can be answered and you can know where you will spend eternity.

God's peace!

The Paradox

How strange is the course that a Christian must steer!
How perplex'd is the path he must tread.
The hope of his happiness rises from fear,
And his life he receives from the dead.

His fairest pretensions must wholly be waived
And his best resolutions be crossed;
Nor can he expect to be perfectly saved,
Till he finds himself utterly lost.

When all this is done and his heart is assured
Of the total remission of sins,
When his pardon is signed, and his peace is procured,
From that moment his conflict begins.

J. Hart
Hart's Hymns, No. 29



In the Beginning...

God created man in His own image and gave to man free will to believe in Him or to reject Him. God wants that no one would be lost. The

makeup of the flesh of man is totally sinful and man desires to please himself and do things his way and not God's way. Without the intervention of God, man is hopelessly lost and condemned—he can never please God or rid himself of the guilt of sin.

God sent prophets that man might see his hopeless condition and turn from his sinful ways, believe the promises of God and turn to Him. However, man still would not believe. Then—*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).*

Submitted by Alvar Helmes

Battle Ground, Washington

Excerpt from *Knowing About Jesus Christ* booklet,
distributed by the Foreign Mission

Jesus is Risen

Gwen Wilson
Ridgefield, Washington

Dear Children, far and near,

I would like to share with you the part of the story of Jesus that gives us so much hope, when He arose from the dead. You can find it in *St. Mark 16*.

When the Sabbath was past and the sun was just beginning to rise, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, joined themselves together to go to Jesus' tomb with sweet spices, that they might anoint Him. They were talking on the way, wondering who was going to move the heavy stone that was placed over the entrance to the tomb, but when they got there they found that the stone had already been taken away.

As they stepped into the tomb (sort of like a cave), they saw a young man clothed in white, sitting on the right side of the opening, and they were afraid. *And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. (Mark 16:6-8)*

Remember these women had just seen Jesus hanging on the cross and witnessed Him being taken to the tomb. They have been in much sorrow. Now their Jesus has risen from this grave and He's out walking along the road toward Galilee? "What can this all mean?" they wonder. They were afraid but, I'm sure, excited, too.

Jesus first showed Himself to Mary Magdalene. She ran to tell the disciples that Jesus had arisen and they did not believe her.



After this Jesus showed Himself to His disciples and told them He wanted them to preach the Gospel throughout the whole world and baptize people who believe on Him. He told them that all the things that they had seen Him do—such as healing people, casting out devils, laying hands on the sick—that they should do all these things when He is gone.

You may wonder where He was going. Well, He was going to back to God His Father in heaven. His work here on earth was finished. *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. (Mark 16:19)*

What did the disciples do? *They went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. (Mark 16:20)* The Lord was no longer with the disciples in the natural body, but His Holy Spirit was with them and living in their hearts.

What a wonderful thing the Lord did for us in giving up His life so we might have life everlasting in heaven one day. It is something that we believers have to look forward to, and heaven will be the most wonderful place to spend eternity. Jesus returned to God and went to get our home in heaven ready for us. That is such a beautiful thing to think on. Just like we would get our homes ready to have guests who would only be staying a little while, Jesus is preparing to have His children stay with Him forever.

We may be at times very comfortable with our life here and think despite the bad in the world that we have many things we enjoy. We should thank God for the things we enjoy. But when Jesus returns to take His children to heaven we will GET to live FOREVER. Those who don't love Jesus will not get to have the beautiful forever life that believers will enjoy. I pray you children will keep on believing in God and His Son who loves us so much.

God's peace.

These things I command you, that ye love one another. John 15:17

Why is the lesson of love so hard to learn? As I see it, the chief cause is that love is required the least from the one to whom it should most closely pertain, that is from him who demands it of others. Because we demand of others what we should first of all demand of ourselves, this makes the lesson so hard to learn. But if we would notice that I myself am the one who has the least love, and I should first begin to practice it myself, then perhaps others also would follow this good example. The difficult angle of this lesson is that we do not notice faults in ourselves, but more quickly notice them in others. We feel, I have learned my lesson fairly well, or even beyond reproach, but those others, they haven't even learned to spell it yet.



Matti Suo

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

1 John 4:20-21

Parents and Children

Pastor Ken Storm; Tapiola, Michigan

Submitted by Arne and Lorraine Nordahl; Vancouver, Washington

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Ephesians 6:1

The counsel of the Apostle Paul in this epistle is given to prompt children everywhere to carefully consider their station in life and how to conduct themselves toward their Christian parents. God's Word teaches children to *Honour thy father and thy mother... (Exodus 20:12)* No greater honor can children bestow on their parents than to be obedient to their wishes. In doing so, they demonstrate to all their love and respect and, most importantly, their reverence for God's Word.

First, let us be reminded that having believing parents is one of the greatest blessings any child can have. It is a wonderful gift of God. Too often this blessing is taken for granted and children fail to recognize this as God's love and favor toward them and forget to thank Him for mom and dad. Remember, dear children, mom and dad won't be with you forever. It is far better to show them love and respect, through obedience, to their joy while they are yet with you than to weep tears of regret for your disobedience at their graveside.

Sadly, there are many homes today where unbelieving parents, lacking godly wisdom, have no inclination to teach their children in the ways of the Lord, for they themselves are not readers, hearers or doers of God's Word. The Bible teaches, very clearly, how parents should

raise their children, and it also warns of the dire consequences for parents who fail to heed such instruction. The result of such neglect becomes evident as we see many children so often unruly and disobedient at home and disruptive in school. As they grow toward adulthood, they begin to challenge their parents' authority at home, the teachers' authority in school, and even the very laws of our society. From this behavior then spawns all manner of lovelessness and a general disregard for God and man.

Prayerfully considered and prayerfully carried out with the help of God, His instruction for parents is not difficult. What it does require is a sincere dedication on the part of the parents to earnestly begin teaching their children at an early age and patient continuance throughout their formative years. King Solomon, in the book of Proverbs said: *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)* Although sometimes a rebellious and disobedient child will disregard such instruction and choose to enter an ungodly lifestyle, those seeds planted in that youthful heart by a loving parent will never be forgotten.

Surely the prayer of every Christian parent is that such wayward children would remember those teachings of their loving parents and return to the sheepfold from which they have strayed. Even today there are many Christian parents with heavy hearts, whose pillows are nightly stained with tears, praying that our heavenly Father would give increase to the seed they have sown into the hearts of their precious children. Oh, that such prodigal sons and daughters would return home where God's grace and forgiveness abounds and where in the blood of Jesus all sins are proclaimed forgiven and where living faith can be rekindled. ~

Godly Wisdom

Pastor Joel Baker
Plymouth, Minnesota

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever... And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee... 1 Chron 28:9, 20

David had times of falling short in his life of commitment to God. He also had many blessings as the anointing Spirit of God rested on him, and his actions and desires lined up with those of God. As he passed on the throne to his son who would build the temple and rule over Israel, he had words of godly wisdom that each parent who loves the Lord would want to give to their own son or daughter:

- **Serve God with your whole heart—not just half-hearted or half-committed, without enthusiasm.**
- **Have a willing mind—not one clouded with rebellious intentions, a secularized vision of the world today, a mind seeking one's own interests first.**

Jesus demonstrated often that He knew men's thoughts and intentions before words were ever spoken, and that He searches all hearts. Let our thoughts, intentions and desires focus upon the Lord.

God is not elusive to those who earnestly seek after Him. Forsaking Him, continually turning your back on Him, rejecting Him, will at some point result in a final cutting off of all hope for those who have chosen to remain in their sins and apart from God. Remaining apart from Him doesn't have to happen because He wants you to find Him. The finding of God is allowed by Him out of His love for each one of us.

Seeking God with a whole heart and willing mind helps a person to be strong and courageous in all they do; God asks us to act with strength and courage, not sit back with strength and courage. If our hearts and minds are aligned with His, we will be acting with His strength and courage in all we do, knowing He is with us, in willing obedience to Him to help us refrain from being dismayed or fearful.

Trusting in the wonderful and loving God, now made even more personal in knowing His Son Jesus, through Whom all sins are forgiven for those trusting in Him as their Lord and Savior, is a good place to be and good advice for anyone. ~



Feed My Sheep

Phebe Johnson
Astoria, Oregon

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

John 21:15-17

The following verses from Mark chapter 1 clarify what the Gospel is and how it is needful for the saving and feeding of souls. The Gospel is clearly defined and we see that John the Baptist and Jesus preached the same Gospel:

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. (Mark 1:1-5)

Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. (Mark 1:14-15)

When Jesus left this earth He gave the commission to His disciples: *Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47)* Jerusalem is the church.

This commission, when it is preached, answers with our spirits and also becomes food for us believers. The hearing of the Gospel is becoming rare. Even in the natural sense, if we were to live in a time of famine, we would search for food and go where the food is. In the spiritual sense, when food is withheld from us, it creates "famine for the Word." The beautiful account of Joseph explains that during the famine Joseph's father, Jacob, heard there was corn in Egypt and instructed his sons: *...get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. (Genesis 42:2)*

One of my favorite songs "Feed My Sheep" by the late Pastor A. Mickelson has beautiful words regarding the feeding of the sheep. The sheep should be led where the feeding is best and to where the feeding is complete (verses 1-2). It's vital that sheep receive the best food, since sheep are known to be finicky or picky eaters—as are

the sheep of Christ's pasture. Sheep may even search through a whole bale of hay to find one blade of clover, whereas goats may eat almost anything. These are the words of Jesus in *John 10:2-5: ...he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.*

Hearing the complete Gospel is what satisfies our spiritual portion or appetite. Sheep sometimes stray and the Shepherd of the soul seeks for those sheep. Sometimes they will not return; but if they avail themselves of forgiveness their garments can be made white by the blood of the Lamb through this glorious Gospel preached to them.

As one elder pastor so often stated: "Because Christ has commanded me His commission to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins, I wish to preach it to you now." When we are thankful for what we have received and obey Christ's command to preach repentance and the remission of sins, the mysteries of the Scriptures are opened and the "feeding is complete," as so aptly stated in Pastor Mickelson's song. From my own experience and observation, I have found I am spiritually strengthened, revived and given food that often can't even be measured when pastors have a spirit of obedience and understand this instruction and preach it, and they may say with the prophet Isaiah: *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. (Isaiah 61:1-3).*

May the instructions of Christ to bind up the wounded and bring God's peace to those who are troubled and in need of reconciliation and consolation that their sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and blood yet clearly be opened and go forth—in keeping with Christ's teaching and example. For our sake, and for the sake of our children, may the Scriptures that support Jesus' instruction yet be expounded upon, preached and taught. It is woven throughout the Word: the royal priesthood, the prodigal son's conversion, Apostle Paul's conversion, the keys to the kingdom, Christ washing the disciples' feet and countless places that have been given for our need regarding how souls are converted and kept in faith. *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some*

having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck... (1 Timothy 1:19) We then will not err in withholding proper food for hungry souls, believers and unbelievers alike, and our children will partake in the same blessed heritage that we have so graciously been given. *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever...* (Deut 29:29)

In God's peace. ~



**All who really know the Master Know of pastures rich and sweet,
Fragrant meadows rich with clover Where the feeding is complete:
Know the nooks beside cool waters And where secret fountains leap,
Unto these the Master saith: "If thou love Me, feed My sheep."**

**Care thou for the weak and weary, Lead them where the feeding's best,
For they've browsed amongst the thistles And the thorns gave them no rest.
Seek the thirsty and refresh them In the pools so clear and deep,
For He saith to those who love Him: "Feed My weary, wayward sheep."**

Pastor A. Mickelson, 1923, #622 Hymns and Songs of Zion



Elijah the Tishbite

F. W. Krummacher

Submitted by Dave Impola; Everett, Washington

"Lord, it is enough!" Ah, this little prayer is known also among us! How many a workshop, how many a chamber and bed of sorrow do I know, from whence this aspiration is almost incessantly ascending to heaven, in the midst of many tears and pangs! Many of these supplicants are mistaken, just as Elijah was. It is not enough yet. Many a faithful laborer has yet to learn that his labor is by no means in vain in the Lord, although he thinks it is. Many a righteous one shall yet see the light arise here below, which, contrary to the express promises of God, he thinks is forever extinguished. Many a broken instrument will the Lord use again for His work, before He takes it away into the land of rest; and many a troubled sufferer, before he departs, shall again take his harp from the willows and sing thanksgivings to Him whose counsel is wonderful and His ways mysterious, but who doeth all things well. And then it will indeed be "enough." It is only enough when the Lord saith it. And if you have still to remain for years in the furnace of affliction, be assured that you will eventually acknowledge, with joyful acclamations in heaven, that then only was it enough, and not a moment earlier, when the Lord stripped you of the garments of your pilgrimage and took you unto Himself.

One word more. If at any time you feel disposed again to say, "It is enough," and that you can bear the burden of life no longer, do as Elijah did, flee into the silence of solitude and sit under—not the juniper tree—but under that tree whereon the incarnate Son of God was made a curse for you. Here your soul will assuredly find sweet refreshment, yes, from Christ's acceptable offering to God. He is a hiding-place from the storm, a covert from the tempest, a shadow from the heat, as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Whether it be true or not which is related of the juniper tree, that no serpent ventures near it, we can say this in a better sense of that "tree of life" under which we encourage you to take refuge. Here the viper of discontent will not fasten upon you, nor the "old serpent" inject the poison of murmuring against God into your soul. At the sight of the cross, you will no longer think of complaining of the greatness of your suffering, for here you behold sufferings, in comparison with which yours must be accounted light affliction, which is but for a moment: here the righteous One suffers for you—the just for the unjust. In the view of the cross, you will soon forget your distresses, for the love of God in Christ Jesus to you, a poor sinner, will absorb all your thoughts. ~

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Thou Shalt Not Kill – Exodus 20:13

Now, this is the sum of the law: You are to be kind, amiable and benignant in heart, word and deed; and even though they take your life, still you are to suffer all in love, and render thanks to your Lord. Behold, thus a great deal is included in the short sentence, "Thou shalt not kill." Christ lived up to this; do the same, and you are a good Christian. When nailed to the cross, His name, which was above every name, and His honor were profaned by the Jews, while they reviled Him by words of the following and similar import: "Well, what a nice God He has! If He be God's Son, let Him come down! Let His God come now, in whom He banked and boasted so much, and help Him!" (Matthew 27:43, Mark 15:32, Luke 23:35) Such words pierced His very heart, hurting Him more than all His other sufferings; still, He suffered all this with patience; He wept over His enemies, because they would have no part in the great benefit to be derived from His death; yea, He prayed for their sin. And in the face of this we are ready to snarl and growl over the least trifle, when asked to yield even a little to our neighbor.

Here you see how far we are still from Christ. It is indeed necessary to suffer with Christ, if we would enter with Him into glory. He has gone before, so we should follow, as St. Peter says, *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.* (1 Peter 2:21-23) Now see what kind of an example St. Peter places before us; truly we should emulate it, endeavoring to be and to act like Him. But this we cannot do by nature; it follows that we without exception are the devil's own, there being not a man on earth that is found not guilty. Hence the sentence holds good: You must be likewise skillful, namely, good at heart, or you belong to perdition.

What then must we do? You must do as follows: You must acknowledge that you are condemned by the Law, and the devil's own property and that you are unable to rescue yourself by any power of your own.

Therefore you must flee to God, pray Him to change you, or all is lost and ruined.

In view of this lay hold of His word and promise, that He will change you; this only will help you. Pray thus: "Oh my God, Thou hast placed Christ, Thine only beloved Son, before me as an example, so that I might lead a like life; but I am not able to do this. O my God, change me, grant me Thy grace!" God then comes and says, "Behold, since you know yourself and seek grace from Me, I will change you and do as you desire. And though you are not so perfect as Christ, as indeed you should be, I shall nevertheless have My Son's life and perfection cover your imperfections." So you see we must always have something to keep us in the right humility and fear.

This is true comfort that does not rest on our ability, but on the fact that we have a gracious God, who forgives our sins; on the fact that we believe in Christ and not in our own worthiness, He cleansing us from day to day; on the fact that whenever we fall short, we should always place our hope and trust in Christ. See, this is the main drift of our Gospel.

Martin Luther

The Sower

Luke 8:4-15

*Ye sons of earth, prepare the plough,
Break up the fallow ground;
The sower is gone forth to sow
And scatter blessings round.*

*The seed that finds a stony soil
Shoots forth a hasty blade;
But ill repays the sower's toil,
Soon wither'd, scorch'd, and dead.*

*The thorny ground is sure to balk
All hopes of harvest there;
We find a tall and sickly stalk,
But not the fruitful ear.*

*The beaten path and highway side
Receive the trust in vain;
The watchful birds the spoil divide
And pick up all the grain.*

*But where the Lord of grace and power
Has bless'd the happy field,
How plenteous is the golden store
The deep-wrought furrows yield!*

*Father of mercies, we have need
Of Thy preparing grace;
Let the same hand that gives the seed
Provide a fruitful place.*

William Cowper

