

# 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.

May 2013

## The Living Church

Pastor Ken Storm  
Tapiola, Michigan

**O**ur present-day society is focused on much learning and intellectual achievement. Education of itself is not evil, but man, in his pursuit of knowledge, seems so often to have lost sight of the most important thing in this life, namely, the intimate personal knowledge of Christ and the salvation He came to bring. This intimate knowledge of Christ differs greatly from the intellectual in that it is of the heart and not of the mind. The natural mind adheres to theory, reason and sight. The heart, on the other hand, clings by a childlike faith to those things which God's Word teaches. *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:10)*

The church that Christ came to establish here on earth is commonly thought of as a beautiful sanctuary build of wood and stone, but God's Word teaches us that His true living Church is a spiritual Church, a spiritual body of believers with Christ as our head. The Apostle Paul writes, *Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. (Ephesians 5:23)* All who believe as the Scripture teaches are members of Christ's spiritual body, the living Church. As the natural body cannot live without the head, neither can the Church remain alive without Christ as its head. So also, as the natural body cannot live without blood flowing freely throughout its members, so likewise the Church cannot live without the blood of Christ flowing throughout its members. Life, both natural and spiritual, is in the blood.

God's Word teaches that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. *The wages of sin is death... (Romans 6:23)* Therefore, condemnation would be our eternal judgment. But we also read in the second part of that same verse *...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus*

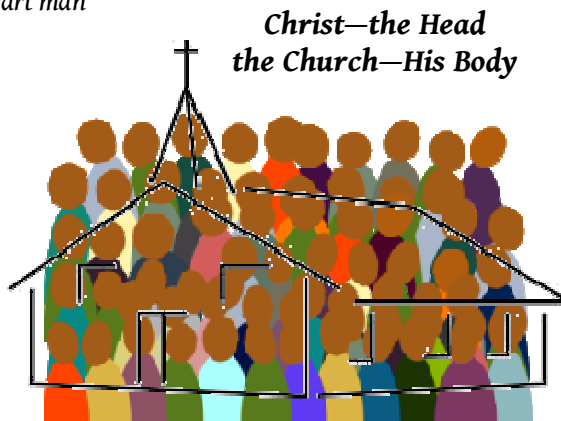
*Christ our Lord. "Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan! Oh, the grace that brought it down to man! Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!" (William R. Newell)*

Jesus said 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. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. (Luke 24:46-49)*

Only in the living Church does the atoning blood of Jesus bear audible witness of God's grace and forgiveness to the repentant sinner. Oh, that faithful servants would continue to preach the power of this Gospel, the Good News from heaven. We pray that many would desire to enter into the living Church, God's kingdom on earth, which is not an outward kingdom but a spiritual kingdom described in the Word this way: *The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Romans 14:17)*

Where God's righteousness dwells in the heart of man, there is peace; and where there is peace, there is joy.

**T**hanks be to God that He continues to preserve His living Church on earth. May it ever remain a beacon of hope and a bastion of truth in these perilous times. It will remain in spite of Satan's efforts to destroy it. May faithful men prayerfully raise their hands heavenward to the Mighty Deliverer, remembering always that He has intended His living Church to be a hospital for sinners, not a clubhouse for saints. It is here where the Good Samaritan, the Heavenly Physician, still ministers to man's deadly sin-wounds with the oil of the Holy Spirit and with the cleansing wine, His precious blood, through the preaching of His faithful servants. ~



# A Rushing Mighty Wind

Pastor Elmer Yliniemi  
Wolf Lake, Minnesota

He (the Spirit) shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (John 16:14)  
And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh... (Acts 2:17)

**P**entecost, meaning *fiftieth day*, was celebrated by the Jews as the Feast of Weeks, in which they commemorated the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. Many people from many nations had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. They were to witness the unveiling of the living Church of God, the birth of the New Testament Church.

On the day of Pentecost, a great change came to the Kingdom of God on earth. Jesus had already revealed the great power of God. He gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, caused the lame to walk, the lepers were cleansed, the dead were raised, and to the poor the Gospel was preached (Luke 7:22). He said, *Many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.* (Luke 10:24)

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Christ announced, "On this rock will I build my Church." He was not building it on Peter, but on his confession that Jesus was the Christ. To this Church He promised great authority by giving the *keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.* (Matthew 16:19)

Jesus didn't send His disciples out in their own power. He said, *Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.* (Luke 24:49) Though they had been with the most excellent teacher for three years, they needed heavenly power for the work that was before them.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were assembled in one accord when the Holy Spirit descended on them as a rushing mighty wind. *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* (Acts 2:4) On this day, Jesus, who had ascended to the Father ten days earlier, fulfilled His promise of sending a counselor to teach them (John 14:26). Like the creative breath of God in Genesis, the Spirit filled the disciples, showing them how the Old Testament was fulfilled through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Peter had recently denied the Lord for fear. Now, Peter was no longer afraid but had received power from on high to boldly preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins. That day 3000 souls were saved, and they went on to turn the world "upside down" through the power of the Holy Spirit. It was clearly God's plan from the beginning

that the Church, His called-out people or the Body, would be made known to the world by gathering together to fulfill His mission. *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* (Acts 1:8)

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the godhead, which proceeds from the Father and the Son. The work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Christ. In a practical sense, the Holy Spirit is the living Lord Jesus within us as a Spirit. *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.* (John 17:23) As God is in Christ, Christ is in the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *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. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.* (John 16:13-14) Jesus glorifies the Father, and the Holy Spirit glorifies the Son. The office of the Holy Spirit



is **not** to speak of Himself. The Spirit shows us the truth found in God through Jesus Christ. The power of the Holy Spirit is where Jesus is lifted up. The first work of the Spirit is to awaken us to our sin and bring us to repentance. Then He reveals to us the

greatness of the living Lord Jesus, who has completed our redemption and reconciled the sins of the whole world with His blood. Our Pentecost begins when we are able to believe our sins forgiven in the name and blood of Jesus. Where the preaching of the blood is heard, there the power of the Holy Spirit is moving. The blood of Jesus is, from the fall of man to the end of the Revelation, a red cord that goes through the Bible. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit brings us into a union with God. Then the Spirit comes to live in us, to enlighten, sanctify and preserve us unto everlasting life. *For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost...* (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

The Church is an assembly of those on earth in whom God dwells through the Holy Spirit. God instituted His Church on earth to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins to penitent sinners. The Church will continue here until the end of time and He will come again, just as He ascended, and receive us unto Himself.

**T**he disciples could never recall the day of Pentecost without thinking about what they were before and what they were after the day had passed! The same is true for every one born of the Spirit. Has this miracle happened to you?

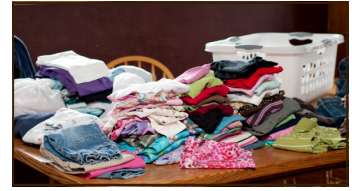
May we pray as Luther, "May God, our Father, through Christ Jesus, send the Holy Spirit into our hearts, there to begin and to complete the work of salvation!"

Amen.



# Clothes

Ted Matson  
Yacolt, Washington



Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**S**t. Peter says in his first letter, chapter 5, to be clothed with humility for God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. In light of this passage of God's Word let's talk about clothes: We all know about clothes and what type of clothing we like best. Now here's a question for you: What were the first clothes made of?

Genesis 3 says that after Adam and Eve disobeyed God they were ashamed and sewed clothes of fig leaves. Our first parents' attempt to cover their bodies was rejected by God, but after He warned them of the terrible things they would suffer because of sin, He gave the promise of the Savior and made them coats of skins to cover their shame. From this let's look at two things:

- Clothes are a constant reminder of sin.
- Clothes picture our perfect righteousness in Christ.

1. *Clothes are a constant reminder of sin.* Before Adam and Eve sinned there were no clothes. Whenever we dress, it reminds us of how our first parents sinned and had to be covered. Before sin there was perfect weather; in the Garden of Eden there was no need for clothes to protect from the biting frost or the scorching sun. There were no thorns and thistles poking and scratching, no poisonous plants or angry bees stinging, no venomous snakes or ferocious animals to be afraid of, no thirsty insects sucking blood from our tender bodies. Nor was it necessary to carefully hide our private parts from the lustful eyes of fellow sinners. Since the fall, clothing is a continual reminder of sin.

2. *Clothes picture our perfect righteousness in Christ.* Animals had to die for God to get skins to cover Adam and Eve. So God gave His Son to the bitter death of the cross to cover our sin. Baptism pictures putting Christ Himself on as a covering for our sins as we read in *Galatians 3:27*: *For as*

*many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.* Throughout our whole life it pictures the putting off of the "old man" or old life of sin and the putting on the "new man" or Christ as we read in *Ephesians 4:22-24*: *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Here are some verses of a song from Isaac Watt's *Divine Songs in Easy Language for the Use of Children*. It was first published in 1715 and was once used by the majority children in England and America.

## **Against Pride in Clothing**

**Why should our garments made to hide  
Our parents' shame, provoke our pride?  
The art of dress did ne'er begin,  
Till Eve, our mother, learned to sin.**

**When first she put the covering on,  
Her robe of innocence was gone;  
And yet her children vainly boast  
In the sad marks of glory lost.**

**How proud we are, how fond to show  
Our clothes, and call them rich and new;  
When the poor sheep and silkworm wore  
That very clothing long before!**

**The tulip and the butterfly  
Appear in gayer coats than I;  
Let me be dress'd fine as I will,  
Flies, worms and flowers exceed me still.**

**Then will I set my heart to find  
Inward adorning of the mind:  
Knowledge and virtue, truth and grace,  
These are the robes of richest dress.**

**No more shall worms with me compare,  
This is the raiment angels wear;  
The Son of God, when here below,  
Put on this bless'd apparel too.**

**It never fades, it ne'er grows old,  
Nor fears the rain, nor moth, nor mould;  
It takes no spot, but still refines;  
The more 'tis worn, the more it shines.**

**In this on earth would I appear.  
Then go to heaven and wear it there;  
God will approve it in His sight,  
'Tis His own work and His delight.**

**S**o when you dress remember the clothes with which we cover our bodies are a reminder of sin. The best outfit you can ever have is that white robe purchased by the blood of Jesus. May God help us all "be clothed with humility for God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble." ~

## **Happy Mothers' Day**

Pastor Jay Weidner  
Laurium, Michigan

The Scripture often addresses God as Father. This is the normal expression used in the Bible to refer to God when speaking of Him in relation to His people or, as He refers to them, His children. Less frequently, but still significantly, God also refers to His actions by using the example of a mother.

**As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.**

**Isaiah 66:13**

**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!**

**Matthew 23:37**

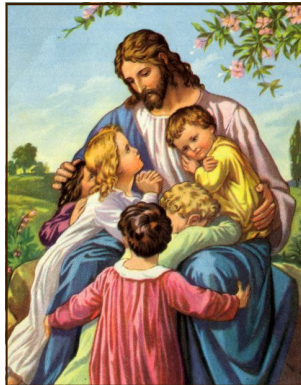
God, our loving Creator, recognizes the qualities that He bestowed upon mothers and uses them to illustrate His own actions. We are incredibly blessed by God's kindness so often shown us in our mothers. May God bless all our mothers on their special day this month.

# Jesus Loves You

Gwen Wilson  
Ridgefield, Washington

## A Poem About JESUS:

CONCEIVED by the Holy Ghost.  
BORN of the Virgin Mary.  
A CHILD just like all men.  
LEARNED to eat, smile, sit, crawl,  
clap, walk, talk, laugh, sing, read,  
work.  
TOOK part in Jewish celebration  
of Passover at age 12.  
TAUGHT elders, and listened to  
them, at age 12.  
WAS OBEDIENT to His parents.  
BEGAN His ministry at age 30.  
BAPTIZED by John.  
TEMPTED of the devil, and overthrew Him.  
CALLED twelve men (the disciples) to help Him.  
HEALED many afflicted with disease and devils.  
WAS FOLLOWED by multitudes of people.  
GAVE the Beatitudes that we can read today in His Word.  
SAID we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world.  
INSTRUCTED us to not sin.  
TAUGHT that we should not shout or pray aloud on the  
street corners, but rather go in secret to God, and He will  
reward us openly.  
TAUGHT us to love our enemy and to do good to those who  
hate us.  
TAUGHT His disciples to pray, giving them the Lord's  
Prayer, a perfect prayer.  
SAID judge not, that you may not be judged.  
SAID if your son asks for bread, would you give him a  
stone? If he asks for a fish, would you give a scorpion? No,  
we would not do that, and all the more our Father in  
heaven is ready to give us good gifts.



HEALED lepers, calmed the stormy sea, gave a crazy man  
with many devils a sound mind.  
HEALED the woman whose blood issue could not be healed  
by doctors. She went away whole.  
RAISED Jairus' 12 year old daughter from death, and told  
those near to give her food.  
GAVE His disciples power to cast out devils and heal all  
manner of sickness as they went to spread the Gospel.  
SAID those who believe in Him will be hated of all men,  
and all who endure in the faith to the end will be saved.  
SAID come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.  
FED thousands with little, by prayer and the giving of  
thanks to God.  
CRIED over Jerusalem as so many didn't believe in Him.  
TOLD His disciples that He was going to die.  
ATE His last meal, the Passover, with His disciples the  
night He was betrayed.  
PRAYED in the garden of Gethsemane and sweated as it  
were great drops of blood.  
WAS BOUND, laughed at, scorned, beaten, spit upon,  
slapped, falsely accused,  
and then hung on a cross to die for all mankind, because  
he LOVED.  
AROSE from the grave, victorious over death, and was  
received up to glory and sits on the right hand of God.  
WILL RETURN to receive His beloved up to Himself, and we  
will live FOREVER.\*

\*REMEMBER that our life will be FOREVER in heaven and  
Jesus will fill heaven with His light. There will be NO  
darkness. I pray that you children will draw nearer to  
Jesus every day and learn more about Him and always  
follow Him — as HE LOVES YOU!

*God's peace.*



**There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.**

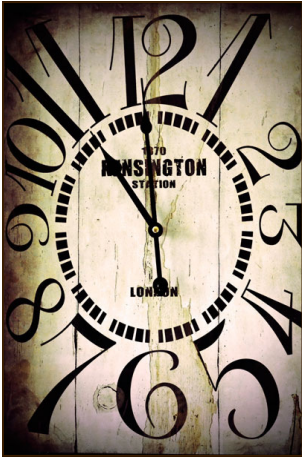
**John 1:6-8**

**The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

**John 1:29**

The Bible record is very plain when it assures us that John the Baptist was a man sent from God. Our generation would probably decide that such a man ought to be downright proud of the fact that God had sent him. We would urge him to write a book. Seminary leaders would line up to schedule him as guest lecturer. Actually, John the Baptist would never have fit into the contemporary religious scene in our day — never! He did not keep his suit pressed. He was not careful about choosing words that would not offend. He did not quote beautiful passages from the poets. The doctors of psychiatry would have quick advice for him: "John, you really need to get adjusted to the times and to society!" "Adjust" — that is a modern word I have come to hate. It was never an expression used to speak about human beings until we forgot that man has a soul. John needed no adjustment. He gladly stepped down, so that all eyes could turn to Jesus, the Lamb of God!

*A.W. Tozer*



# Remember

the late Martha Kulla

Submitted by Rachel Kulla; Yacolt, Washington

"The journey is filled with many dangers and it is a sleepy time when we need many reminders to keep us awake so the enemy cannot harm us or turn us from the narrow way which alone leads to Heaven. We have God's Holy Word, and we must deem it holy in our hearts and gladly hear and learn it, for it is the sword of the Spirit of God with which we can defend ourselves against all the bad and evil things that the world offers us.

"We found a very precious hymn in an old hymnal in the Finnish language which in a very inspired way even called upon the twelve hours of the day to remind us of God's Word and of our heavenly calling. God helped us to compose a little poem with the thoughts contained in that hymn. We are sharing it here with you dear children of God as we pray for the Heavenly Father's blessing upon you all..."

**R**emember, when the clock strikes one,  
There is no other God but One;  
Alone before His Judgment Seat,  
One day the one True God you'll meet.

And when the clock is striking two  
Remember Jesus' natures two:  
As Son of God and Son of Man  
He died to fill salvation's plan.

O when the clock strikes three, recall  
The triune God who saves us all;  
The Father, Son, and Spirit free  
Are three in one, yet one in three.

At stroke of four we think upon  
Saints Matthew, Mark and Luke and John,  
The gospels four which truly tell  
The life and works of Jesus well.

The strokes of five recount and tell  
The wounds in Jesus' body well,  
In hands, in feet, in pierced side,  
As on the cross He bled and died.

The strokes of six to us have said  
That in six days the world was made;  
Six days we also work and play,  
Then rest and worship Sabbath day.

The seven solemn strokes we hear  
Like seven petitions in "Lord's Prayer,"  
As Jesus taught us how to pray  
And ask our needs of God each day.

At stroke of eight think of the flood,  
Of eight souls saved in the ark by God;  
Of how Baby Jesus when eight days old  
First shed for us of His innocent blood.

O bow your head as the clock strikes nine,  
That hour of ancient Jewish time;  
"Twas the ninth hour," the Scripture said,  
When Jesus died and bowed His head.

The clock strikes ten and we recount  
The Ten Commandments of Sinai's Mount  
Which give us knowledge of all our sin  
So we'll flee to Christ and Heaven win.

Eleven strokes: the day's far spent;  
One hour to labor, believe, repent.  
An equal penny the Goodman will pay  
To first and last at the close of day.

The strokes of twelve count Jacob's sons,  
And Jesus' disciples, those chosen ones.  
Twelve can be midnight or twelve can be noon,  
Be ready! For Jesus is coming soon.

Carl and Martha Kulla and family

Excerpt from December 1979 CM Children's Page



**C**reation was not so vast a work as redemption; for it is written of man and of all things that were made, *Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.* (Psalm 148:5) But to redeem that creation which sprang into being at His word, how much He spake, what wonders He wrought, what hardships He endured, what shames He suffered! Therefore what reward shall I give unto the Lord for all the benefits which He hath done unto me? In the first creation He gave me myself; but in His new creation He gave me Himself, and by that gift restored to me the self that I had lost. Created first and then restored, I owe Him myself

twice over in return for myself. But what have I to offer Him for the gift of Himself? Could I multiply myself a thousand-fold and then give Him all, what would that be in comparison with God?

Bernard of Clairvaux

**What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?  
I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.  
Psalm 116:12-13**





# The Acceptable Churches

Beth Staudinger  
Leslieville, Alberta

**I**n reading the Revelation of St. John the Divine in Scripture, it is interesting to note, in the letters to the seven churches, the two churches which God finds acceptable. As we find throughout the teachings of Scripture, what God thinks and what man thinks seem to be so contrary one to the other. The ways that man might go and the teachings he may embrace are not always acceptable to God, as we see in five of the churches. *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (Isaiah 55:8)* Perhaps there are some things we can learn of the blessed state of the two acceptable churches:

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and *tribulation*, and *poverty*, (but thou art rich)... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. (Revelation 2:8-11)

To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a *little strength*, and hast *kept my word*, and hast *not denied my name*... Because thou hast *kept the word of my patience*, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. (Revelation 3:7-8, 10)

We find this poverty or little strength spoken of in the Beatitudes: *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3)* Also, *Isaiah 66:2: ...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. See also Isaiah 61:1-3.*

In the message to the church of Laodicea, which was one of the churches in error, John writes: *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. (Revelation 3:17)* It would appear that the Laodicean church was rich in their own good works and a sense of being self-satisfied and not in need of Christ's righteousness to cover their sins.

In the Gospel of Matthew we find the miracles which Christ performed being told to John the Baptist in prison: *The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. (Matthew 11:5)*

It is a blessed thing when the Spirit of God can work in our hearts and reveal the poorness that is there, revealing the true condition of the human heart and how we fail in many things that God would want us to do and be, though

we would want it to be otherwise. When we are burdened with our weaknesses and sins we can find Christ within our brother or sister in faith, and as a member of the Royal Priesthood he/she can assure us of Christ's forgiveness in His name and cleansing blood. We are then strengthened to go forward. *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith... (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

We can find comfort in what Apostle Paul laments: *For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. (Romans 7:15-25)*

It is because of this knowledge of the weakness of our flesh and depravity of our nature that our only hope is to look to Christ. When we have received by faith the comfort of the Gospel, the forgiveness of our sins, proclaimed in the name and precious blood of Christ, how we can rejoice in Him as our Savior! **He** is our Goodness, our Righteousness, our Perfection and all that we are not! **He** intercedes in our behalf before the Father in heaven. *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. (Romans 8:33-34)*



**He is our Goodness, our Righteousness, our Perfection and all that we are not!**  
**He intercedes in our behalf before the Father in heaven.**

**T**here remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath **ceased from his own works**, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. (Hebrews 4:9-11) In Christ we have our heart's rest and our peace, when He has forgiven us our sins and we rest in His righteousness. Our hearts are filled with joy and thankfulness for all that our Savior has done for us. This knowledge we then want to share with others. May God give us hearts of love to the saving of the lost. ~

# My Boast

Rhoda L. Olin; July 13, 1989

Submitted by Jim Olin; Wickenburg, Arizona

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. (Psalm 34:2)

In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah. (Psalm 44:8)

Dear Lord, I do not want to boast of my strength or lament too much of my weakness, but to boast of Thy strength in my weakness. I do not want to boast of my goodness or my lack of doing good, but of Your goodness and Your ability to work only Thy good within me.

Dear Lord, I do not want to boast of my love for others, or the lack of love or ability to show it, but to boast of Thy love and complete omnipotence to work within this statue of marble, only by Thy power. I do not want to boast of my wish to speak and do all in truth and honesty, but to boast of Thy will and power to instill it and to unleash this tongue of clay to speak it, this body of iniquity to live it.

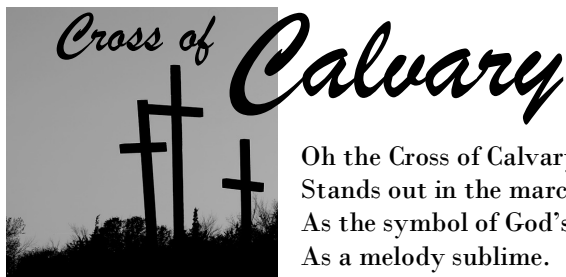
Dear Lord, I do not want to boast of my strength and capability to forgive my fellowman, or to cry too much over my inability to forgive him, but to boast of Your love and power within this earthen vessel, to give love where there is none and forgiveness that I cannot feel and know.

Dear Lord, I cannot boast of my love for Thee, but of Thy love for me. I cannot boast of my will to follow and live for Thee, but of Thy will and power to lead and live in me. I cannot boast of having Your Spirit within me, to guide me to all truth, but of Your forgiveness, love, mercy and great graciousness, to give Your Spirit to guide me.

For dear Lord, by Thy love and grace and mercy, I have learned one thing, that the more I learn of Thee, the less I know of anything, and as I grow in Thy grace and the knowledge of truth, the greater this sinner becomes.

And the devil and my own prideful flesh told me this is a good piece of knowledge. So always I am undone and prostrate before Thee. For even in good, I do evil.

*Dear Father. glorify Thyself! ~*



Oh the Cross of Calvary  
Stands out in the march of time,  
As the symbol of God's love,  
As a melody sublime.

Tho' the tempests toss and foam  
And the foe has fierce assailed,  
Still the Cross of Calvary  
In its power ne'er has failed.

Nations come and nations go  
Kingdoms rise and kingdoms wane,  
But to a fallen race  
The Message still remains.

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Galatians 6:14-16

the late John E. Anderson  
Submitted by Alvar Helmes; Battle Ground, Washington

That God in His great love  
Placed there upon His Son,  
All the sorrows of the earth  
From the time that life began.

That all the world might look  
And see upon that tree,  
The One Who took their place  
On the Cross of Calvary.

*Chorus:* Oh this Cross of Calvary  
'Twill be ever loved by me,  
For the message still remains  
That God's love is e'er the same.

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## The Young Christian

*Margaret Mariuro; March 1949 CM*

*Submitted by Richard Rhoades; Goldendale, Washington*

I cannot give it up! the little world I know,  
The innocent delights of youth, the things I cherish so.  
'Tis true, I love my Lord and want to do His will;  
But oh, I may enjoy the world, and be a Christian still.

I love the hour of prayer; I love the hymns of praise.  
I love the blessed Word that tells of God's redeeming grace.  
But I am human still and while I dwell on earth,  
God surely will not grudge the hours I spend in harmless mirth.

These things belong to youth, and are its natural right,  
My dress, my pastimes and my friends, the merry and the bright.  
My Father's heart is kind; He will not count it ill  
That my small corner of the world should please and hold me still.

And yet—"Outside the camp"—'twas there my Savior died;  
It was the world that cast Him forth and saw Him crucified.  
Can I take part with those who nailed Him to the tree?  
And where His name is never praised, is there the place for me?

Nay, world! I turn away, though thou seemest fair and good;  
That friendly outstretched hand of thine is stained with Jesus' blood.  
If in thy least device, I stood to take a part  
All unaware thine influence steals God's presence from my heart.

I miss my Savior's smile whenever I walk thy ways.  
Thy laughter drowns the Spirit's voice and chokes the spring of praise.  
If e'er I turn aside to join thee for an hour  
The face of Christ grows blurred and dim and prayer has lost its power.

Farewell, henceforth my place is with the Lamb who died.  
My Sovereign, while I have Thy love, what can I want beside?  
Thyself, dear Lord, are now my free and loving choice,  
"In whom, though now, I see Thee not, believing, I rejoice!"

Shame on me, that I thought another joy than this;  
Or dreamt a heart at rest with Thee could crave for worldly bliss.  
These vain and worthless things, I put them all aside;  
His goodness fills my longing soul and I am satisfied.

Lord Jesus! Let me dwell "Outside the camp, with Thee."  
Since Thou art there, then there alone is peace and home for me.  
Thy dear reproach to bear, I'll count my highest gain;  
Till Thou return, my banished King, to take Thy power and reign.

## Righteousness by Faith

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith  
Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled  
again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say  
unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall  
profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man  
that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the  
whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you,  
whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are  
fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait  
for the hope of righteousness by faith.*

*Galatians 5:1-5*

The expression "righteousness by faith" indicates the personal character of salvation; it is not the tale of works that we do, but we ourselves who are accepted of God. Who can bear to think of his own actions as they are seen by the eye of the Almighty? Looking at their defective performance, or analyzing them into the secondary motives out of which they have sprung, do we seem to have any ground on which we can stand; is there anything which satisfies ourselves? Yet, knowing that our own works cannot abide the judgment of God, we know also that His love is not proportioned to them. He is a Person who deals with us as persons over whom He has an absolute right, who have nevertheless an endless value to Him. When He might exact all, He forgives all; "the kingdom of heaven" is like not only to a Master taking account with his servants, but to a Father going out to meet his returning son. The symbol and mean of this personal relation of man to God is faith; and the righteousness which consists not in what we do, but in what we are, is the righteousness of faith.

*Benjamin Jowett*

Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

**Hebrews 13:12-15**