

R. P. Haakonson

# Altar Steps

*A devotional for the family*



REV. R. P. HAAKONSON AND FAMILY

"The history of the Church confirms and illustrates the teachings of the Bible, that yielding little by little leads to yielding more and more, until all is in danger; and the tempter is never satisfied until all is lost. – Matthias Loy,  
*[The Story of My Life](#)*

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# ALTAR STEPS

*by*  
**Rev. R. P. Haakonson**



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# Foreword

The author of "Altar Steps" is greatly interested in providing a devotional which will fill the need for homes where there are children. It satisfies a long felt need in that it is simple in style, easy to understand, interesting and spiritual. It is not intended to be a deep devotional, but rather of help to the average family. The illustrations are simple and direct, tending to arouse the child's interest and to deepen his spiritual life.

Many excellent devotionals have been placed on the market. "Altar Steps" will be a welcome addition to those that are devoted to the enrichment of the spiritual life of the entire family.

We are greatly indebted to all who have helped to prepare the manuscript for publication and especially to Mrs. Goldie Buikema. We trust that rich blessings will come to all who have had a part in making "Altar Steps" available. We trust God for fruit in the lives of readers and pray God's richest blessings upon the homes where the members of the family meet daily in communion with God. Our hope is that all homes shall have this blessed practice of meeting together around the Word at least once a day.

—*The Editors.*



REV. R. P. HAAKONSON AND FAMILY

*This book is dedicated to our children, Elsie, Paul, Lois,  
Marlys and Judy Ann.*

# January 1

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

We all like to have many things. Some children receive many toys, yet they are not satisfied. Some people cannot attend church services because they have so many things to do. So they disobey the law of God and soon are unhappy.

Once there were two shoemakers who had been friends for many years. One of them had many children. He was a Christian man who lived a godly life, attending his church regularly with his whole family, and was very happy. The other man had no children, was not a Christian, lived ungodly, attended no church, and soon felt very unhappy.

One day he asked his friend, "How do you do it." His Christian friend begged him to go along to church for three Sundays. After the third Sunday the unhappy man asked, "But, how do you get this happiness?"

The Christian man then said, "The secret is this—I know the road to the house of God. 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.' I know of no better place than the church where you can get riches for both body and soul. Only God can make us happy."

Dear Lord Jesus, again we seek Thee. Help us not to run away from Thee. Let nothing, dear Lord, come between us—not even big things. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

O seek the Lord today!  
Today He hath salvation.  
Approach Him while He may  
Still hear thy supplication.

Repent and seek His grace,  
His call to Thee doth sound;  
O turn to Him thy face  
While yet He may be found.

## January 2

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee." Isa. 41:10.

The life we live in this world is often dangerous. One day we may be full of joy; the next day we are heavy of heart. Maybe the danger is not so great at times. Nevertheless, we are so soon afraid. Like an animal that is afraid to take a step across a little stream, we, too, often tremble and hesitate before we dare to go ahead.

The wife of a captain had to reach shore one evening. She was stationed on a ship out in the harbor, and it was very dark and stormy. One of the men offered to assist her to get ashore by saying, "Fear not, take my hand, and do not look to either side. Look only on the spot lit by the lantern. Put your feet on that spot."

The next day this man asked the captain's wife if she would like to see the road that she had walked. She said that she would. Then she saw that they had walked ashore the night before on a narrow plank.

Tenderly my God says to me: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee."

Thankfully, dear Lord, we gladly let Thee lead us across. Oh, be Thou our Guide forever, Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

He leadeth me! O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

## January 3

"Son, go work today in my vineyard." Matt. 21:28

If we love the Lord Jesus, He will find something for us to do in the world. We should be glad to do what we can for Christ.

I am going to tell you what a little farmer did for Jesus one day. He drove a rickety Overland car. They had special services in church, and the farmer was always found near the speaker in case he could help in some way.

One day the farmer wanted a man who worked in a hotel to go to services and give his testimony. But the man said he could not get away unless somebody took his place. A waiter in the hotel worked for that man. The farmer then drove eight miles to his farm, killed a fat turkey, and brought it to the hotel. He gave the turkey to the waiter for working in the other man's place that evening.

The same night when the man from the hotel gave his testimony, there were four others who gave their hearts to Jesus because of what he said. Do you think that little farmer was happy? Can you see his face beam with a broad smile when he saw those four coming to Jesus that evening? Do you think he felt he had done too much for Jesus? You see, he had driven sixteen miles and given away a big turkey.

Oh, Lord Jesus, please show us if there is something we can do for Thee today. Let us point someone to Thee Lord, "Thou art the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." We pray in Thy blessed name. Amen.

I ought to do something for Jesus,  
I ought to do something today;  
The harvest is great, and the lab'ers are few,—  
Lord, let me do something, I pray.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## January 4

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price." Isa. 55:1.

The Lord Jesus does not charge anyone of us for what He gives us. He gives His gifts away without price, and yet so many people do not seem to accept what He wants to give.

A mother and her son travelled on a ship across the ocean and brought along hardtack, crackers, cheese, and anchovies which they ate at every meal. The journey was long and the same food became tiresome. One day they saw the cook prepare a kettle of steamed rice and another kettle of steamed prunes. They thought how good it would be to have at least one good meal on this trip. So, the mother went over to the cook and asked, "How much would two portions of food cost?"

"How much?" the cook answered, "why, it will cost you nothing. Don't you know you paid for all the food when you paid for the tickets?"

Just think, they had been living on hardtack and crackers for many days, and not eating all the other good food for which they had already paid.

"Come," says Jesus, "come to the waters, buy wine without money and without price."

Dear Jesus, forgive us for being so slow to accept Thy loving kindness toward us. Oh, may we thank Thee for all the good Thou givest us. We thank Thee for paying for our sins with Thine own blood. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

## January 5

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want!" Ps. 23:1.

Can the Lord Jesus, who is so great, be our Shepherd, too? Will He guard and watch over us as we wander through this world? Yes, He says He will, and then it must be true. "Like sheep we go astray," says one of the prophets. All of us do, and we most certainly need a Shepherd.

A little boy had a pet lamb which had fallen down into a dangerous place on a high mountain. The boy reached over the edge and grabbed the wool of the lamb. The lamb became frightened and jumped, taking the boy with him. They both rolled over but, when they struck the bottom, the boy was underneath the lamb. The boy was killed, but the lamb was saved.

Likewise Jesus took the punishment we should have. He died for us. He was innocent but took our sins as His own. So, now, we can go free. "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

How wonderful Thou art, Lord Jesus, as our Shepherd. How kind it was of Thee to take our sins and let us go free! We want to thank Thee for loving us so much. Make us very grateful to Thee and make us obedient. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord is my Shepherd, no want shall I know;  
I feed in green pastures, safefolded I rest;  
He leadeth my soul where the still waters flow,  
Restores me when wand'ring, redeems when oppressed;  
Restores me when wand'ring, redeems when oppressed.

## January 6

"It is I, be not afraid." Matt. 14:27.

It is easy for us to become scared, is it not? Sometimes we are scared without any reason. For instance, after mother has tucked us in bed, she turns out the light, and closes the door. Then it is dark, and some of us don't like the dark. But, why be scared? Jesus said: "It is I, be not afraid." You never need be afraid when Jesus is near.

As a little boy I became frightened one evening when I ran an errand for my father. A neighbor, who was full of fun and pranks, knew I was coming around a curb in the road. He put on a stocking-cap and carried in his hand a cane with a handle. As I rounded the corner, he turned his cane and put the handle of it on my leg and pulled me down. What do you think I did? I ran home as fast as my legs could carry me. All my fear left me when I came home to father and mother.

Even now there are people who frighten me. But, when I think of Jesus and how He does protect me, then my fear goes. Jesus told me one day: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we thank Thee, dearest Jesus, because we can feel safe. When we are scared, let us feel that Thou art near until all the fear is gone. In Jesus' name. Amen.

It may be in the valley, where countless dangers hide;  
It may be in the sunshine that I, in peace, abide;  
But this one thing I know—if it be dark or fair,  
If Jesus is with me, I'll go anywhere!

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.



## January 7

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart." Prov. 3:5.

We like to have something we can depend on, especially when danger is near. I used to climb a steep mountain, hanging onto a rope which was thrown down the mountainside. If the rope had broken, I would have tumbled down and possibly been killed. The Lord is stronger than the strongest rope. Let us trust in Him!

A young man in an airplane lost control of his plane and began to fall towards the earth. He had been taught in his Sunday school always to trust in Jesus and specially whenever in danger. Now he was in real danger. Death was only a few seconds away. What would help him in these terrible moments before he struck the ground. He decided to trust in Jesus. Jesus had said, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."

We believe that this young man is now home in glory because he decided to live for Jesus and trust in Him. Jesus never said that we would not be killed or hurt. Even if we are in an accident, we can trust and depend on Him. He said that even if we die, we shall live. If we belong to Jesus, He will take us home to heaven. Only He knows if we shall die today.

We thank Thee, Jesus, for letting us trust Thee like that. Thou art near to us in danger, and we cannot be hurt without Thy will. We place our little hands in Thine and trust in Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at His word;  
Just to rest upon His promise  
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord.

## January 8

"But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Mark 11:26.

It is hard to forgive those who are always mean and unkind, is it not? But, when Jesus looked at those mean people who nailed Him to the cross, He prayed: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

When some people hurled stones at Stephen, he prayed, just before he died: "Do not hold these people responsible for this!"

A father was staying in the home of his married son. The father loved to read the Bible aloud to the rest of the family. But the son did not want to listen and forbade his father to have devotion with the others. Oh, how the father prayed to God to help him! Then one day the son could not stand it any longer. He came to his father and said: "Please forgive me for what I have done. You were right and I have been wrong. Come and read the Bible to us and pray for us!"

When this father came to the church service, he arose and asked if they would let him sing a song. Someone asked him afterwards why he wanted to sing in church that day. He said: "I am so happy because my son has asked my forgiveness."

Dear Lord, teach us to forgive one another like Thou didst forgive those who were mean and unkind. Then forgive us for all the wrongs we do to Thee and other people. It makes us happy to be forgiven and to forgive. We thank Thee for Thy forgiveness in Jesus' name. Amen.

If I have wounded any soul today,  
If I have caused one foot to go astray  
If I have walked in my own wilful way  
Dear Lord, forgive!

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## January 9

"I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Ps. 84:10.

We like to do things our own way because we are stubborn, selfish and sinful. See how easily you choose the wrong thing sometimes! A child may sometime wish he could run and play instead of being in Sunday school an hour. But, that is not the way it works when you learn to know how blessed and good it is to be a child of God.

A Christian man from Scotland went to work for a rich farmer, but he stayed there only a very few days. A friend of his asked him: "Have you left your job again?"

"Yes."

"But why? Was it too hard?"

"Oh, no, the work was not too hard."

"Didn't you get enough pay then?"

"Oh, yes, the pay was good enough."

"But then, why did you leave?"

This was his reason. He said: "There was no roof on that house!"

What did he mean? He meant that in that house there was no family devotion and no godliness, and he could not endure it.

Maybe there is nothing great in your home, but your family loves Jesus. How thankful you should be for a dear home where Jesus is the honored guest. Then you can say: "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

Dear Lord Jesus, make us very, very thankful for our home, our church, and the little things in life which are so great. May Jesus be with us always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I love Thy kingdom, Lord, The house of Thine abode,  
The Church our blest Redeemer saved with His own precious blood.

## January 10

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Josh. 24:15.

Much is said in the Bible about choosing. Lot chose the best pasture when his uncle Abraham told him to choose first. The rich, young ruler chose to go away from Jesus when he was given the privilege to follow Him. Others choose to be children of God first and foremost.

A church was celebrating the seventieth anniversary. In the audience that day sat two men who both came from Christian homes. One of the men said: "Look at the world after seventy years. What good has the church done for it?" This man's sons ran to all the dances in the community and lived evil lives.

In the same audience sat another man. It was in his Gospel-tent we worshipped that day because the church was too small to hold the people. One of his sons was attending the Seminary to become a minister of the Gospel. His son led the whole congregation in prayer that afternoon. What a blessing it was to hear that young boy pray to God! And how terrible it was for the ungodly father who sat there with his children living in sin! Let us choose today whom we will serve, and let us be sure it is the Lord whom we choose.

Dear Lord, help us daily as we choose. We want to follow Thee and serve Thee as long as we live. And should we ever go astray, come and bring us back to Jesus. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

O happy day that fixed my choice  
On Thee, my Savior and my God!  
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,  
And tell its raptures all abroad.

# January 11

"And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four." Mark 2:3.

One of the best signs of being a Christian is that you like to be where other Christians are, and where Jesus is, too. In the above verse from the Bible you notice that four men carried a sick man to Jesus. You may not always be successful when you try to bring someone to Jesus, but you can be sure it is worth trying.

I am told of a near-sighted man, a lovable old Christian, who mistook a wooden Indian for a real man. As he walked up to him, he invited the Indian to come to church. Some boys saw him do this and they made fun of this man for it. The man meant well.

The four men, too, had a hard time to get this sick man to Jesus. The people were in the way. The sick man had to be taken on the roof of the house, and the roof had to be broken through. Then the bed was lowered to the feet of Jesus. Jesus was happy that they had brought the man to Him. Soon the man walked out of the house well and strong. No one needed to help him then. He even carried his own bed home again.

Lord Jesus, help us to be interested in others and do what we can to bring them to Thee. We realize all are lost until they come to Thee. Make us winners of souls. May we love and pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart  
And love that soul through me.  
And may I humbly do my part  
To win that soul for Thee.

Verse by permission, David H. Johnson.

# January 12

"Sir, we would see Jesus." John 12:21.

Have you seen Jesus as your Savior? Look at Calvary and see how He suffered and died for you. Let us not forget the price He paid on the Cross. He wants each one of us to receive Him as his personal Saviour. We should love Him and tell others about salvation.

A young boy had been in the hospital for some time because he could not walk. A kind doctor had made him well, so the boy could go home, able to walk again. When he came home, his parents asked him about the hospital and how he liked it.

"Oh," he said, "the hospital was all right, but you ought to see the doctor who made me walk!"

"Were the nurses nice to you?"

"Yes, the nurses were swell, but you ought to see the doctor!" And so he kept on and on—the doctor who made him walk was the man to be praised.

My friend, do you understand what Jesus did for you? He came all the way from heaven to save you from your sins, and maybe you have not thanked Him for it. May you think as much of Jesus as this boy did of his doctor and say of Jesus: "You ought to see my Saviour!"

"There is life in a look at the crucified One!"

Dear Jesus, let us see Thee more and more clearly until we understand better how wonderful Thou art. Take our hearts, and let us be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. In Thy name. Amen.

We would see Jesus; for the shadows lengthen  
Across the little landscape of our life;  
We would see Jesus, our weak faith to strengthen,  
For the last weariness, the final strife.

## January 13

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away!" II Tim. 3:5.

Some things look genuine enough, but prove to be mere fakes. This is true also of some religions. Religion should be more than a mere form. If you have the true religion, you have Christianity. That means you have Jesus in your heart. If you possess Jesus as your Saviour, then your religion is powerful. All other religions are powerless. Worshipping them is like carrying around a dead weight—it has no life and, therefore, cannot move.

An early frost in Florida had caused the oranges to freeze. Nevertheless, they reached their full size and color. They were gathered, shipped and sold. But, woe to the people who bought those oranges. They looked fine but they were a disappointment. So, many people who do not have Jesus in their religion, have no form of godliness. They lack the power of Jesus. From such turn away! Jesus must be the center of our Christianity. A religion in which Jesus is left out, has no value.

Dear Lord Jesus, keep us away from any form which does not have Thee in it, or any religion which has not the power of God in it. Thou art the way, the Truth, and the life. We worship Thee, we praise Thee, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, and Life from heaven,  
This blest assurance Thou to us hast given;  
O wilt Thou teach us, Lord, to win Thy pleasure  
In fullest measure?

## January 14

"Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy."

Matt. 5:7.

God was merciful when He sent Jesus to this world to die for our sins and to bring us to God. Since God has been so merciful to us, should we not, also, be merciful to others? Well, you say, "How can we be merciful?"

Let me tell you how a big-hearted Christian shoemaker did it. He knew that there were two little girls living nearby who were very poor. They were sisters. One of them was a cripple who could not walk. When the shoemaker's birthday came, he did not give a big party for all his good friends who could bring him many nice gifts. Instead, he went over to the home of these poor girls and asked their parents to let them come over to his house and celebrate the day with him. After they had spent the day at his house, he carried the crippled girl back to her home. Why do you think he did it? I think it was because he knew how merciful God had been to him and, so, the shoemaker was merciful to the poor. Are you merciful and kind to other people?

Dear Jesus, we thank Thee for all Thy mercies. Let us be kind to others because Thou has been merciful to us. Our sins are many and, yet, there is mercy for us at the Throne of God. Bless us again, Lord Jesus, with the forgiveness of sin. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O God of mercy, God of might,  
In love and pity infinite,  
Teach us, as ever in Thy sight,  
To live our life to Thee!



## January 15

"I have set the Lord always before me." Ps. 16:8.

It must have been a wise man who said this. For, by setting the Lord before us always, we will not do anything which will lead us astray and cause us trouble. Some people remember the Lord only after trouble has come. Some, after the trouble is gone, have nothing to do with the Lord.

An older pastor told me of a man who thought he had broken his back. He called for his pastor because he was afraid to die and he was not prepared to meet his God. The pastor visited him the first day and the second. On the third day, when the pastor came, he was surprised to hear the sick man say, "You need not come here any more and talk to me. The doctor says my back is not broken—I will not die. You may go."

You see, this man did not have the Lord before him. How wonderful it is to meet people who have the Lord! As I entered the hospital in Chicago one day, a patient greeted me with these words, "Thank God, I have known the Lord for fifty years. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

It would be well for all of us to read the twenty-third Psalm.

Oh, Lord Jesus, Thou wilt stand before us now and always. We are so glad that Thou art always with us. Thou art faithful and true. How we praise Thee for the blessing of being in Thy presence. Hear us when we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, we come before Thee now,  
At Thy feet we humbly bow;  
O do not our suit disdain,  
Shall we seek Thee, Lord, in vain?

## January 16

"If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him." Rev. 3:20.

Jesus does not force Himself to be our Saviour, but He offers us His salvation if we will come and take it. As Jesus says: "Behold I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." But maybe we do not want to hear Jesus and open our hearts to Him?

A pastor came to visit an old couple who said they wanted to be Christians, but they could not make themselves believe. The pastor tried to explain to them how simple it was, but they still could not see how they could believe. Suddenly the pastor's eyes fell on a pitcher of water on the table with two flies swimming in the water. The flies were helpless. Though they worked hard to get out of the water, it was to no avail. They would soon drown. Then the pastor called the old people over to the table, and they all looked at the flies. The pastor said, "Do you think they can get out by themselves?"

"No," the old couple agreed, "we do not think they will."

Then the pastor put his hand underneath the flies and lifted them out of the water. After awhile the flies were again buzzing around the room.

"Likewise," said the pastor, "when you realize that you are helpless, let Jesus deliver you from your sin. Then you will be saved. That is hearing His voice and opening the door for Him."

Dear Lord, we want to hear Thee again today. We, also, open our hearts to Thee. Come into our hearts. Amen.

Into my heart, into my heart,  
Come into my heart Lord Jesus.  
Come in today, come in to stay.  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus!

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## January 17

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."  
1 John 4:11.

When we discover how much God loves us, we feel constrained to love other people so that they, too, might be saved. Paul says in II Corinthians 5:14 that the love of Christ constraineth us. It drives us ahead.

When a doctor and his wife in Korea realized that they had to build a mission station, the wife wrote her father in Canada, who was a devoted Christian contractor, to come to Korea and construct their building. This her father consented to do. He worked six days a week. On Sunday he said, "Give me a boy who can speak English. Then gather up some tracts, and we will spread the Good News."

One Sunday afternoon the old contractor fainted. The daughter said, "You must not overwork like this any more, father. You are not strong enough to work so hard."

Then the father answered, "Daughter, I would not do this for anybody else, but Jesus."

Yes, the love of Christ constraineth us. If God so loved us, we ought to love one another. A Scotch woman said of her pastor, "He preached as if he would be willing to die to have us converted."

Dear Lord Jesus, again we thank Thee for loving us all unto death. How couldst Thou love us so much? Let us understand better how much Thou lovest us so that we may love the people of the world, too, until many turn to Thee for salvation. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

My Jesus, I love Thee I know Thou art mine.  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.  
My gracious Redeemer My Savior art Thou.  
If ever I loved Thee My Jesus 'tis now.

## January 18

"Lord, save us: we perish!" Matt. 8:25

You remember the story of the disciples of Jesus out on the sea in a little ship. A terrible storm came while Jesus slept in the boat, and the disciples were frightened.

A young girl wished to swim across a lake, but she wanted someone to swim with her. She had not told her parents because she was afraid they would not let her go. One day, when her brother came down to the lake, she begged him to swim across the lake with her. He promised her that he would. On second thought he asked, "Are you sure that you can swim that far?"

"Of course, I can," she answered.

So they began to swim together. At first she was very happy and talkative, but after a while she worked harder and did not talk so much. Soon they were in the middle of the lake. It was too late to swim back to shore.

Suddenly the girl cried, "Brother, save me!"

The brother told her to place her arms around his neck and to hold on tight. They both reached shore safely.

Likewise Jesus will save you and me. Do not try to swim alone. We cannot save ourselves. Let us trust in Jesus and we will never sink.

Lord Jesus, now we put our trust in Thee as our Saviour. There is nothing in us that has the power to save us. Thou, Lord Jesus, must take us to shore. We are in the storms of life. The billows are high. Lord, save us, or we perish! We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, be with us when we sail  
Upon the lonely deep,  
Our Guard when on the silent deck  
The midnight watch we keep.

We need not fear, though all around  
'Mid rising winds we hear  
The multitudes of waters surge  
For Thou, O God, art near.

## January 19

"And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." Matt. 5:40.

If someone took a coat from one of us, would it be necessary for that person to give him anything more? Ordinarily we would not think so. Yet, Jesus says differently. He says, if someone does us wrong, we should show that we are Christians by being kind to him.

That makes me think of a Russian farmer from whom thieves had taken away nearly every sack of grain he had. He was a poor man, but he loved Jesus as his Saviour. Though he was poor, he was nevertheless rich. As the thieves loaded up the sacks of grain, they overlooked one sack and drove off without it.

The farmer noticed the sack. He grabbed it in his arms and hurried after the thieves. They were surprised when the farmer said to them, "Fellows who have to steal must be hard up." He seized the opportunity to tell them of Jesus, and his testimony made a deep impression on them. I am sure that the thieves could see the beauty of Jesus in that man. Maybe they envied him and would like to have been like him. Let us see if we can act as he did.

Lord Jesus, let us give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name. Let us bring an offering and come before Him. Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily our lives would show  
Weakness made strong,  
Toilsome and gloomy ways  
Brightened with song;  
Some deeds of kindness done,  
Some souls by patience won,  
Dear Lord, to Thee,  
Dear Lord, to Thee.

## January 20

"Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee."  
Luke 12:20.

We do not like to be called "Fools." However, the Lord does not refrain from doing so when we despise and neglect His salvation. You remember the story of that rich man who thought only about gathering grain and riches for this life, and then suddenly had to die and leave all he had gathered. That was foolish, you say, but are you sure that you are much wiser? Do you accept Jesus today and thank Him for saving you?

A man asked his minister to help him pick out a lot in the cemetery for his grave. After the man had found the lot he wanted, the minister asked him, "Well, now, you have chosen a resting-place for your body. Have you found a resting-place for your soul?"

The man answered soberly, "No, but you are the first person who ever asked me that question."

The unconverted man began to seek the Lord. Death is like an unwelcome policeman. It says, "Come right now, we must go!" It will not wait until we have gathered our crops, nor will it wait until we turn to God. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

Oh, let us not be fools, dear Lord, and neglect our salvation. Among all these things here below, let us hear Thy welcome voice calling us to seek Thee. Lord, receive us in Jesus' name. Amen.

I hear Thy welcome voice  
That calls me, Lord, to Thee  
For cleansing in Thy precious blood  
That flowed on Calvary.

# January 21

"Woe unto the world because of offences!" Matt. 18:7.

A tramp came to a meeting one time and gave the following testimony: "My Sunday school teacher used to take seven of us boys to her home on Saturday afternoons and teach us to play cards. We ceased going to the house of the teacher and to her church and began to play cards and smoke in other places. I want to tell you what became of those boys. Two of them have been hanged; two others are in a state prison for life; another one would be there, too, if the police knew where he was. If they knew that I was here, I should be behind bars in no time. All I have to say is, I do wish my Sunday school teacher had never taught us boys to play cards."

He had no sooner finished than a woman, dressed in black, staggered forward and fell at his feet, saying, "My God, my God, I am that Sunday school teacher!"

Think of it, how terrible it is to lead others astray rather than to lead them to Jesus. God forbid that it should be you!

Dear Lord, let us learn to walk carefully and prayerfully so that we do not lead anyone astray. Help us to be good witnesses and to lead others to Jesus. In Jesus' name.

Earthly pleasures vainly call me, I would be like Jesus  
Nothing worldly shall enthrall me, I would be like Jesus.  
That in heaven He may meet me, I would be like Jesus;  
That His words 'Well done' may greet me, I would be like Jesus.

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## January 22

"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:4.

It is great to belong to God and to be humble.

A teacher asked her pupils one day this question, "What do you think is the greatest of all?" It was quiet in the classroom for a long time. Then a little boy put up his hand. His name was Arne. "Now," said the teacher, "can you tell me what is the greatest of all?"

"My mother says that the greatest of all is to belong to Jesus while you are young," answered Arne.

The teacher looked very sober. Arne's simple faith and humble answer had made a deep impression, and she said later that his answer was the beginning of her new life in God.

One day Arne's sister came alone to school. The teacher asked, "Isn't Arne coming today?"

"No," said his sister, "my mother says that Jesus has taken Arne home."

That evening the teacher knelt by her bed and asked God to make her a Christian. Arne had led his teacher to Christ and, now, he had a star in his crown.

Lord Jesus, make us humble servants of Thine. Help us to see that it is well to serve Jesus each day of our lives. This is great in Thy sight. We want to be Thine forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I am thinking today of that beautiful land  
I shall reach when the sun goeth down;  
When through wonderful grace by my Savior I stand,  
Will there be any stars in my crown?



## January 23

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Ps. 103:12.

Sin is anything contrary to the will of God. Our hearts are full of sin and they need to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. We are apt to go against God's will—that is sin. God invites sinners to come to Him and to confess their sins. Then He removes and blots out their transgressions for His name's sake. This He does "as far as the east is from the west." That is very, very far, and God will remember them no more.

A school teacher in London kept record of all the mischief his boys in the class did. One day, after a good heart-to-heart talk with his boys, the teacher went out into the schoolyard and built a bonfire. Then he took his record-book and threw it into the flames, while the boys stood around and rejoiced because their records were burnt up forever. The boys loved their teacher more after this.

God is like that teacher. He does not want any sin to come between Himself and us. Let us confess our sins to Him, and He will wash them away.

Lord, let us be Thine forever, and may we never try to hide from Thee. Help us to confess our sins. Then let us rejoice more and more in the forgiveness of sin. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Let me be Thine forever, my gracious God and Lord,  
May I forsake Thee never, nor wander from Thy Word:  
Preserve me from the mazes of error and distrust,  
And I shall sing Thy praises forever with the just.

## January 24

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts." Jer. 15:16.

Jeremiah, the prophet, had found the Word of God and he ate the Word. That is, he took the Word to himself and made it his Word. And, he was made glad! All Christians can agree with him on that. The Word of God will make them strong and glad.

A story is told of a man and a horse. The man's name was Ole, and the horse was called "Blakken." The horse was pulling a big load for Ole one day. They came to a hill, and the horse stopped. Then said Ole to the horse, "Do you think that you can make it?"

The horse looked at Ole as if it would say, "That all depends on you, Ole."

Then Ole took a pail of oats and gave it to the horse. While the horse ate the oats, it rested. They made the hill all right.

Thus we can meet all hills in our lives if we will take time to eat the Word of God and rest in His promises. We will then grow strong and happy.

Dear Lord Jesus, may we not despise Thy Word, but may we store it up in our hearts so that we shall not sin against Thee. We want to meditate on Thy Word day and night, for we are called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,  
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee Lord;  
My spirit pants for Thee, O loving Word!

## January 25

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"  
Heb. 2:3.

God's salvation is great. Just ask those who have received it, and they will tell you how great it is. How sad it is to find that many will not accept salvation even though it is so great. That is terrible!

A foreigner came to work one morning in Seattle, Washington. He noticed at the breakfast table that another man folded his hands and prayed before he ate. The foreigner sneered at him. These men began to talk to each other. Both had left Norway to escape God. But God had caught up with one of the men, and he was saved. This Christian asked the other man if he would read a tract.

The next day the Christian asked him, "Have you read the tract?"

"Yes, I have."

"What are you going to do about the message?"

The unsaved man answered, "You can be a Christian if you want to be, but I will not."

"Then," said the Christian, "you shall know in eternity that you had a chance in America to meet God."

Only an hour later a message came for this Christian to rush to the hospital. He did and came in time to see that unsaved man take his last breath.

God, we cannot escape Thee! And we do not want to escape Thee. We thank Thee for calling us unto salvation. Thy salvation is very great. We pray for Thy salvation in Jesus' name. Amen.

O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously hast wrought,  
Thyself the revelation of love beyond our thought;  
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, to Thee O Christ, we sing  
We praise Thee, and confess Thee, our gracious Lord and king.

## January 26

"Ask, and it shall be given you." Matt. 7:7.

One of our magazines brings us a thrilling story of Lt. Miller who was wounded when the ship "Strong" went down on July 4, 1943. "Landing on an island," Miller says, "I lay down there to die . . . So I held a little conversation with the Lord, lying there on the edge of the jungle that evening. I told Him that if He would give me a little water, I would get up and do something about this situation. Then I went asleep. About 9 P. M. it started to rain. The water just poured down."

Oh, yes, God can answer prayers even now if we dare to pray.

Lt. Miller used a palm leaf to catch water. He was refreshed, and after many days he was rescued. Would he have been rescued if he had not known how to pray? "Ask," says Jesus, "and it shall be given you: seek and ye shall find: knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth!"

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us how to pray. So often we do not dare to ask great things of Thee because of our little faith. Like Lt. Miller may we ask even when things look hopeless. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you:  
Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.  
God will take care of you, thro' ev'ry day, o'er all the way:  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

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# January 27

"Ask and it shall be given you." Matt. 7:7.

There are many people who do not believe that God will give them what they ask for, just by asking Him for it. So they do not ask Him for anything. But God answers all prayers in His way. They may not always be answered as we expect them to be, but we can trust God to always do what is best for us.

As one of our airplanes began to fall into the sea, the youngest man on board, named "Johnny," said to the rest of the men, "Do you mind if I pray?"

One of the officers scoffed at Johnny, but Johnny did not mind. He prayed to God.

These men landed on the ocean in some rubber rafts and spent many terrible days on the ocean, helplessly drifting without water and food. One day they decided to pray for food. Soon a seagull sat down on the head of one of the men. Another day they prayed for water, and the rain came like a miracle and satisfied their thirst.

When these men finally were rescued, the leading officer said to Johnny, "Thank God for your New Testament, son." The New Testament had taught him to pray. The officer who at first had scoffed at Johnny's praying became a Christian.

Oh, God, teach us to pray. Teach us to come and talk with Thee like a child talks to his mother. Thank you for hearing us always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses:  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear;  
The Son of God discloses.  
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## January 28

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

We should give God the first place in our hearts. A boy at school placed on his desk this motto: "God first, others second, myself last."

That is a good motto for all of us to follow. Some children may lie to escape being punished for doing something they were not permitted to do. This is not placing God first.

A young boy left his home one day with forty dollars in his pocket. He had promised his mother before he left that he would fear God above all things and never tell a lie. Robbers came and asked him if he had anything on him that they could use. At first he thought he had better not tell them about the forty dollars. Then he remembered what his mother had told him, and what he had promised her. So, he answered, "I have forty dollars in my pocket."

At first the robbers laughed. But they searched the boy and found the money. Then a robber said, "What made you tell us you had that money in your pocket?"

The boy answered, "Because of God and my mother."

This made such an impression on the chief-robber that he decided to bring the boy back to safety and to let him keep his money. This chief became an honest man.

Dear Lord, help us to have God first in everything we do or say, no matter what it may cost us. Let us not put other things first, Lord, but God first. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord of spirits, I surrender  
For Thy use Thy gifts to me:  
O but show Thy mercy tender  
When my song no more shall be.

## January 29

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8.

"All of you who know your lessons perfectly tomorrow may go on a picnic," said a teacher to her class one day.

Tomorrow came, and all but one pupil had perfect lessons. Hans was the only one who did not know his lessons. Hans was loved by all the pupils in his class, so they felt sorry for him. During recess they agreed to ask their teacher if Hans could come along to the picnic. They came filing into the classroom.

"What do you want?" asked the teacher.

"We were wondering if Hans could go along to the picnic tomorrow?" one of them said politely.

"Well, you know what I said."

"Yes, we do, but we would like to have Hans go along if possible."

"All right," said the teacher, "Hans has not deserved it. But, since you have all requested it, he shall be permitted to go along to the picnic."

We have not deserved to go to heaven, either, but Jesus has paid the price for us. By grace are we saved.

Thank Thee, Lord Jesus, for being so kind that Thou wouldst save us, undeserved as we are. What a wonderful gift is salvation! We thank Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

Wonderful grace of Jesus,  
Greater than all my sin;  
How shall my tongue describe it?  
Where shall my tongue begin?  
Taking away my burden,  
Setting my spirit free;  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me!

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## January 30

"Lo, I am with you alway." Matt. 28:20.

These are the last words of Jesus in Matthews' Gospel. I certainly like these words because I want Jesus to be with me always. I can depend on Jesus. If He said He would be with me always, He will.

There was a Christian doctor in China whose name was Dr. Lo. He felt very lonesome and blue one day. He decided to sit down and read the Bible and pray. Suddenly his eyes grew big, and a happy smile crept over his face. His eyes fell on these words in Matthew: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Then he said, "I didn't know that my name was in the Bible before to-day."

Is your name in the Bible, too? It is, if you are included in "Lo, I am with you alway."

Lord Jesus, it is such a wonderful comfort to know that Thou art with us always. We place our hands in Thine. Thank Thee that we are mentioned in the Bible. Be near us always in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thro' days of toil when heart doth fail,  
God will take care of you;  
When dangers fierce your path assail,  
God will take care of you.

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# January 31

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands."

Ps. 100:1.

It is not only those who have a good voice for singing who can make a joyful noise unto the Lord. They can, but others can, too.

A little girl, by the name of Marlys, came home and said, "I wish I could sing like Flora. She sang in school today."

"But listen," said her father, "you may not have such a good voice as Flora, but there is so much in your voice that I love. The first thing I hear when I come home in the evening is your happy laughter, and it sounds like beautiful music to me. Yesterday I heard somebody say, 'Don't cry, sonny boy, I'll help you!' I have heard that same voice say to mother, 'It is too bad you have such a headache, I'll wash the supper dishes for you tonight.' No one can tell me that my little daughter does not have a beautiful voice. I know better than that. She has a beautiful voice, and it is all the music I want from her."

We can all make a joyful noise unto the Lord, can we not?

Dear Lord, tune our hearts so that we may make a joyful noise unto our God from morning till night. Let the joy of the Lord be our strength. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ye lands, to the Lord make a jubilant noise; Glory be to God!  
O serve Him with joy, in His presence rejoice;  
Sing praise unto God out of Zion.

# February 1

"Today if ye will hear his voice." Heb. 3:7.

So many of us plan to do our task some other time. Then we either forget it or wait still longer. God always says, "Today," to us. That means "now."

Some years ago a large ship called "Central America" ran ashore in a dangerous place. The crew called for help, and another ship came to their rescue. Night was coming, and the captain signalled from the rescue-ship: "You had better send your passengers to us now."

But the captain on the wreck signalled back: "Stand by until tomorrow."

The return signal came: "We will try to stand by, but you had better send your passengers to our ship now."

The captain of the doomed ship refused to do so. In about half an hour after that, his ship rolled over and sank. Almost all the people on board were lost.

Today God calls us. Let us hear His voice. Help us, also, to do what must be done today, for tomorrow may be too late. We thank Thee for Thy voice in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I hear Thy welcome voice, that calls me; Lord, to Thee  
For cleansing in Thy precious blood,  
That flowed on Calvary.  
I am coming, Lord, coming now to Thee!  
Wash me, cleanse me in the blood  
That flowed on Calvary!

## February 2

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."  
Mark 11:22.

Have faith in God! You may ask, "Will it make any difference to me if I have faith in God?" Yes, to be sure, it makes all the difference in the world.

When an old doctor was called one night to come and see a man who had a heart attack and was afraid to die, the sick man said, "You are a member of the church. I have no religious belief. Tell me, what is there beyond?"

The doctor answered, "I don't know, but may I ask you to look here." He opened the door and there was his dog. "This is my dog," he said, "he has followed me through the storm and has been lying outside the door. He knows that I am in this room. He trusts me because I am his master whom he loves and who has cared for him. 'I am not afraid,' my dog would say, 'because I know that my master, who loves me, is in the place to which I am going—that is enough for me.' So, dear friend, have faith in God. You need not be afraid."

Dear Lord, increase our faith so that we can walk through the world without fear. When in trouble may we remember God, Our Father, and Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior Divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine.

## February 3

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2:10.

There are many who would rather die than disobey God. They want to do His will. This is the way it should be.

I am told of an officer in Hawaii who came regularly to church services with his wife and little boy. He was known to be a fine Christian officer for whom all had respect.

One morning his wife and little boy came alone to church. He had gone on a dangerous flight in the air. Soon the people in America were thrilled to hear a report of a Christian officer who had sunk the first of the enemy's battleships with a bomb. His airplane was not able to stay in the air, so this young officer made all the other men who had gone with him hop out by parachute—they landed safely. He alone stayed by the plane and died in the crash. His name was Collin B. Kelley. In order to save the other men, he gave up his life.

So did Jesus. He, too, gave His life that we might be saved. He was faithful unto death. Christ is life, and we who live and die as His children shall receive a crown of life.

Dear Master, make us faithful servants even if it should cost our lives. May we obtain the crown of life when we are taken from this life into Thy Glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;  
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

## February 4

"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.

Let us look at that little word "so." It has only two letters, but it shows us how God loved us first. If only people could understand how much God loves them!

A pastor was speaking on this text one Sunday morning and made mention of that little word "so." In the audience was a girl who had decided to take her own life that day. She had made up her mind to go to church that morning for the last time. When she heard how much God loved us, she could not sit still any longer. She arose and cried aloud, "Not for me! Not for me!"

She meant that she was such a great sinner, Jesus could not save her. She was without hope. But that day she learned that Jesus, also, died for her. She did not take her life because she believed that the blood of Jesus had cleansed her from all sin. Oh, how she thanked God! Do you thank Jesus for loving you so much?

Dear Lord Jesus, how we thank Thee for loving us so much that Thou gavest Thy life to save us. We thank Thee, Lord, for everlasting life through Jesus. Amen.

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me,  
No tho't can reach, no tongue declare;  
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,  
And reign without ■ rival there:  
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I am,  
Be Thou alone my constant flame.

## February 5

"Seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Heb. 7:25.

It is well to keep in mind that Jesus is living in heaven and is interested in all that we do here below. At the same time He lives in the hearts of all His believers. Do not forget that He makes intercession for you.

A blind father had a son who was a good baseball player. The father was a Christian. One day he became sick and died. The boy was scheduled to play in a game soon after the funeral. That day he played as never before, and people marvelled at him. Then someone asked him how he could play so well when he had just had such a great sorrow. He answered, "You see, this is the first time my father could see me play ball with his restored eyesight."

The boy believed that his father was in heaven with Jesus and was watching him here below. We can be sure that Jesus is watching us. He is ever living to pray for us. As He sees our needs, He prays that we may receive His blessing.

Again we thank Thee, Lord Jesus, for Thy blessing to us, and for Thy interest at all times. Thou art living and real and able to do more than what we ask. We thank Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

With numberless blessings each moment He crowns,  
And filled with His fullness divine,  
I sing in my rapture, oh glory to God  
For such a Redeemer as mine!  
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock  
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;  
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,  
And covers me there with His hand,  
And covers me there with His hand.

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## February 6

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19

Paul writes here that God will give us all that we need. Do you think we can depend on that?

The story is told of a Quaker minister in a small town who did not have any salary, but just got along on what people gave him. His daughter needed shoes for school, and so they went to the store to buy her a pair. Looking up into his face, she asked, "But have we money to buy them today?"

He pulled out the empty lining of his pocket and said, "God always has sufficient for all thy needs, daughter."

But can father buy shoes without any money in his pocket, wondered the little girl.

A block from the store a member of their congregation met them, talked a while; then he shook hands with the minister. The child heard her father give thanks to God as they proceeded on their way. Then he opened his hand and showed her the folded money which the man had slipped into his hand when he said goodbye.

"You see, child, God always finds a way if we have faith in Him," the father said. The little girl never forgot that incident.

God has riches in Glory and He will supply all our needs. Let us thank Him and pray.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that Thou always cares for our needs. Remove our sins from us, Lord, and help us to trust Thee as our Father in Jesus' name. Amen.

My Father is rich in houses and lands,  
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!  
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,  
His coffers are full,—He has riches untold.  
I'm the child of a king, the child of a king!  
With Jesus, my Savior, I'm the child of a king.

## February 7

"Ye are our epistles written in our hearts, known and read of all men." II Cor. 3:2.

As a great preacher closed a sermon one evening, a wealthy lady came forward and asked permission to give a testimony. She said, "I want you all to know why I came forward tonight. It was not because of any words spoken by the preacher. I stand here because of the influence of a little woman who sits before me. Her fingers are rough with toil; the hard work of many years has stooped her low; she is just a poor, obscure washerwoman who has served in my home for many years. Yet, when my little girl was taken away, it was this woman who caused me to look beyond the grave and shed my first tear of hope. The sweet magnetism of her life has led me to Christ."

At the request of the minister the little washerwoman was led forward, her eyes streaming with glad tears.

The minister said, "Let me introduce you to the real preacher of the evening."

The great audience arose in silent respect. Can other people tell that you love Jesus when they see you and when they hear you talk?

Dear Lord Jesus, let us so live and talk that all can see that we have been with Jesus and love to have others know Him. We thank Thee for this privilege of serving Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How sweet and heavenly is the sight,  
When those that fear the Lord,  
In mutual love and peace unite,  
And thus fulfill His Word.  
When each can feel his brother's sigh,  
And with him bear a part;  
When sorrow flows from eye to eye,  
And joy from heart to heart.



## February 8

"And he brought him to Jesus." John 1:42.

Andrew led the way for Peter to come to Jesus. How wonderful when a man leads his own brother to Jesus! We, too, can lead others to Jesus.

When a spiritual awakening came to a certain place in Norway, many young people gave their hearts to the Lord. Three sisters noticed that many of their friends became converted and they, too, became concerned for their salvation. They decided, then, to go to their father, who was a business man, and tell him. When they came into his office, he said, "Now, what can I do for you?"

"We have noticed that many of our friends have become Christians," they answered. "We, too, would like to become believers in Jesus."

The father looked at them for a moment, and then he said, "I have nothing against your becoming Christians; it is no doubt the way to go."

The sisters looked at their father in surprise. "But, dad, can't you lead the way for us?" they asked.

He looked sad and could not answer. He became very uneasy and went home. The voice of his children rang in his ears: "But, dad, can't you lead the way for us?"

Dear Lord, as Andrew led the way for Peter to come to Thee, so make us willing disciples and use us to bring others to God. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

O Master, let me walk with Thee  
In lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear  
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move  
By some clear winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
And guide them in the homeward way.

## February 9

"And they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13.

It was Peter and John who had been with Jesus, and people could see that just by looking at them. If you stay with Jesus a great deal, you begin to be like Him and to resemble Him. It is as a son who wants to look like his father, or a girl who likes to look like her mother, for a Christian to want to be like Jesus.

A rich and very beautiful lady who was a living Christian, was asked to tell what kind of cosmetics she used to keep her beauty. She gave this advice, "For my lips I use truth, for my hands I use kind deeds, for my figure I use obedience to God's will, for my heart I use love and faith."

This you cannot buy at a beauty shop or a drug store, but you can obtain all this by kneeling at the Cross of Calvary. The more we live with Jesus in prayer and follow His word in obedience, the more shall we be like Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, how we thank Thee for granting us the blessing of being with Thee. More and more, O Lord, may we be like Thee in word and deed. We pray Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

All the way from earth to glory, I would be like Jesus;  
Telling o'er and o'er the story, I would be like Jesus.  
Be like Jesus, this my song, in the home and in the throng;  
Be like Jesus, all day long. I would be like Jesus.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## February 10

"And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

A witness is one who is able to tell what he has seen and heard. We can be witnesses for Jesus about the things He has said and done. Here is the way a father witnessed:

The youngest boy of a doctor seemed very much interested in his Sunday school. One day the teacher asked him, "Dick, whom will you want to meet when you get to heaven?"

"I am not going there," Dick answered.

"Not going there?" asked the teacher.

"No," he said. "Mother and sister are, but I am going with daddy."

In the afternoon the teacher went and told the doctor what his boy had said. Then she asked, "Now, doctor, where are you going?"

The doctor thought a while, and then became very sober as he said, "I am going with my boy's mother and sister."

If someone should ask you where you are going, would you be able to say that you are on the way to heaven? That would be to witness of heaven. May God give you grace in your heart to do just that.

Dear Lord Jesus, may we, too, join the army of witnesses who march under Thy banner, lifting it high for Thy glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Onward, then ye people, join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song;  
Glory, laud, and honor, unto Christ the King:  
This thro' countless ages men and angels sing.  
Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

## February 11

"But first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." II Cor. 8:5.

If you wanted to give Jesus something, but did not want to give Him yourself, do you think He would be glad to receive your gift? No, "the gift without the giver is bare." So then we must be sure to give ourselves to the Lord, first, before we offer Him our other gifts.

An old Indian had come to know Christ as his Saviour and he was, of course, very happy and grateful to God. He had a nice pair of shoes which he wanted to give to the Lord, but the missionary would not take them. Then the Indian took the best he had, namely a good rifle, and put it into the hand of the missionary. The missionary gave it back to him and said, "No, Indian, that is not what Jesus would want."

"Well, then, me give Jesus poor Indian, too."

That is just it: we must give Jesus ourselves first; then the other gifts. There are too many who try to give other gifts first, but will not let Him have themselves—that is, their own hearts and wills.

Dear Lord, we present ourselves to Thee as sinful as we be. We thank Thee for the invitation to come and believe the Gospel. May all that we have be given over to Thee, blessed Jesus. We ask it in Thy name. Amen.

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bidst me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## February 12

"And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be the servant of all." Mark 10:44.

Jesus said that people who are great are those who serve other people most. We think that great people are those who have many servants to wait on them.

There is a story about our great Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States back in 1863. There was a big reception at the White House one day, and many great people flocked around the President. Just inside the door stood an old farmer with his wife. Lincoln, who was a tall man, happened to see the couple at the door. Quickly he excused himself to a lord who had been talking to him, saying, "Excuse me, my lord, I see an old friend of mine."

President Lincoln made his way to the old couple and grasping the hands of both of them he said warmly, "My, I'm so glad to see you. I haven't seen you since I split the rails in Sangamon County back in 1847. How are you, anyway?"

When Lincoln left them, the old man turned to his wife and said with trembling lips, "Mother, he is just the same old Abe."

Here was a man who was the servant of all.

Dear Lord Jesus, let us, too, be humble and kind like Abraham Lincoln. Even if we climb to high places and others honor us, let us be the servants of all for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Go, labor on! Spend and be spent!  
Thy joy to do the Father's will;  
It is the way the Master went;  
Should not the servant tread it still?

## February 13

"What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?"  
Matt. 27:22.

That is a big question and one many people do not like to answer, but it must be answered one way or another.

There is a story of a young boy by the name of Peter who had run away with a girl. One day they came face to face with a large statue of Jesus, made of wood. Thousands of people used to kneel and pray at the foot of the statue. But, when Peter saw it, he became furious. He jerked his revolver from his belt and shot Jesus in one side. Peter reminds us of the soldier who pierced Jesus in the side when He hung on the Cross.

When we stand face to face with Jesus, we either kneel down and worship Him, or else we feel like acting as Peter did. We must ask ourselves this question: what shall we then do with Jesus? I think we should worship Him, don't you?

Dear Lord Jesus, we want to worship Thee, to praise Thee, and to love Thee forever and ever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus, I'll give Thee my heart today.  
Jesus I'll follow Thee all the way,  
Gladly obeying Thee! will you say:  
This will I do with Jesus!  
What will you do with Jesus?  
Neutral you cannot be,  
Some day your heart will be asking,  
What will He do with me?

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## February 14

"What shall I do then with Jesus which is called the Christ?"  
Matt. 27:22.

Pilate did not know what he should do with Jesus the day that Jesus stood before him. He should have crowned Him King, then, in his heart, but he did not. Poor Pilate, what a terrible mistake he made! There are others, beside Pilate, who will not accept Jesus. I hope you are not one of these.

There is a story of a mother who, with her son, was on a ship bound for California, where she was to join her husband. The ship was on fire, and all the people were rushed into life boats. When the last boat pulled away from the ship, someone noticed that the mother was standing on the deck. She was still holding her son in her arms. They had been overlooked in the rush. The boat was too full, now, to take them on board. What should be done?

Finally it was decided to take one of them into the boat—both could not be taken. So the mother kissed her son goodbye and said to him as she let him down into the boat, "Tell your father that I died for you."

This is the greeting that God has handed down to us: Jesus has died for us. We want Him as our Saviour, don't we?

Dear Lord Jesus, be our Saviour now and always. We will not turn Thee away because we need Thee as our Deliverer from sin. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall  
Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all;  
Hearken! what meaneth the sudden call!  
What will you do with Jesus?  
What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be;  
Some day your heart will be asking,  
What will He do with me?

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## February 15

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9.

It is a privilege to confess Jesus to the world. Jesus gave to each of us a mouth so that we could confess Him. We have no excuse not to confess Jesus if we are able to speak. A man, who was a confessing Christian, went up to visit a lumber camp. He had to be among rough lumberjacks. A friend asked him after his return, "Well, how did you get along with the lumberjacks?"

"Just fine," he answered, "they didn't find out that I was a Christian."

How much better a little girl testified of her Saviour on the train one day as she happened to talk to an old man. She said, "I's got a grandpa and he's a good man and loves Jesus. Do you love Jesus?"

The old man said later, "No one ever took that much interest in me before to ask the simple question that the child put to me, and I am now in my eighty-third year."

Dear Lord, may we never be ashamed of Thee at any time. May we confess with our mouths the Lord Jesus and what He has done for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I will tell the wondrous story,  
How my lost estate to save,  
In His boundless love and mercy,  
He the ransom freely gave.  
Sing, oh! sing of my Redeemer,  
With His blood He purchased me  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
Paid the debt, and made me free.



## February 16

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36.

Since so many people struggle hard to get as much as possible in this world, Jesus asked that question. Think of it, we are apt to risk our souls in trying to acquire worldly goods. How much better to keep our souls in the hand of God even if we do not acquire so much.

This reminds me of a grocery man who was dying. He called in his partner and said that the doctor had told him he would have to die. Then the dying man said, "I never had time to make friends, but we made money, didn't we, Harry? I never had time to join the church, but we made money, didn't we, Harry? Now I must leave all my money—I have gained much wealth, but I have lost my soul. Harry, please carve these words on my tombstone as a warning to others:

"Born, May 15, 1857, a man with a soul; died—a whole-sale grocer!" "

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to take warning from others who have thus failed in life. Let nothing separate us, Lord, for there is nothing greater and richer in life than to serve Thee. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The service of Jesus true pleasure affords,  
In Him there is joy without an alloy;  
'Tis heaven to trust Him and rest on his words;  
It pays to serve Jesus each day.  
It pays to serve Jesus, it pays ev'ry day,  
It pays ev'ry step of the way;  
Tho' the pathway to glory may sometimes be drear,  
You'll be happy each step of the way.

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## February 17

"He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

Which do you like best, darkness or light? Of course, you prefer light. When you choose Jesus as your Guide through life, He will surround you with light. "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved."

There is a dangerous mountain in Switzerland which no one should climb without a guide. One day a stranger insisted that he would risk climbing it alone. He started out early in the morning. People watched all day for his return, but he did not come. A searching-party was formed and they reached the place where every tourist who climbs that mountain writes his name. They found the name of that stranger there, too. He had added to his name, "Without a guide."

Where could he be? In this party was an old guide. "Come on," he said, "I'll show you where he is."

Looking over the edge of the mountain, they saw the body of the stranger. He had taken a chance to climb without a guide and his death was the result.

Dear Lord Jesus, let us follow Thee very closely in our journey through this world of sin and darkness. Without Thee the way is too dark. Let Thy light guide us, dear Lord, all the way. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O take my hand, dear Father, and lead Thou me,  
Till at my journey's end I dwell with Thee.  
Alone I dare not journey one single day,  
So do Thou guide my footsteps on life's rough way.

## February 18

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1.

The heart begins to beat fast when we are in trouble, does it not? Jesus tried to calm His disciples often when they revealed fear. They should have known Jesus well enough to have trusted Him, but they took a long time to learn the lesson of trust.

A boy and his mother had gone down to the beach to swim one day. The mother, who was watching her son, noticed that her boy was swimming beyond the safety zone. Suddenly he called for help. The mother became frantic and begged the life-guard to save her boy. The life-guard took his time about it. The boy sank once, then he came up, and sank again. When he came up the third time, the life-guard was right there and saved him. The life-guard explained later that he did not dare to try to do so before for fear that the boy would hold him down. Then both would have drowned. The drowning boy had to become helpless before he could be saved.

What a picture of us who struggle so much at times before we let Jesus save us. He is a present help in trouble.

Dear Jesus, increase our faith. When trouble comes, may we come to Thee and find Thee ready to help us. We thank Thee, Lord, for being so near to each one of us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;  
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel;  
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;  
Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.

## February 19

"And he saith unto them, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Matt. 4:19.

Jesus likens the winning of souls for Him to fishing. Truly, if we shall become fishers of men, we will have to follow Jesus or else we will not have any success.

Once some boys were out fishing for trout. They walked back and forth along the stream. Now and then they would throw their lines into the water. It was a very good trout stream, but the boys did not catch any fish. So they decided to go home because they thought the stream was all fished out. Then they met an old man whose basket was full of fish.

"How could you catch so many fish when we didn't get any?" they asked in surprise.

"I have been watching you," the old man answered. "You have your hooks in the air most of the time. The fish are not in the air but in the water. Keep your hooks wet."

Don't you think we make the same mistake as these boys when we try to win souls for Jesus? We just beat the air with idle words. Let us put our hooks into the water where the fish are. Let us come closer to the hearts of men and help win them for Jesus.

Dear Lord, teach us this wonderful lesson today: how to win souls for Thee as the fisherman who catches fish. Let us come very near to Thee, Lord Jesus, so we can learn of Thee how to win souls. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## February 20

"Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee." Matt. 19:27.

In order to be a Christian and follow Jesus, we cannot let anything, whatever it may be, hinder us from doing His work. Jesus said that even our dear ones must be set aside if it is necessary. But how hard it is for many to be willing to give up their loved ones or whatever they may treasure! Yet, it must be done or they lose the joy of serving the Lord whole-heartedly.

That reminds me of a mother who thought it would be an honor to have her little son shake hands with her minister. The boy stretched out his left hand, but the minister wanted to shake his right hand.

"I can't," said the boy.

"Why not?" asked the minister.

"Because I have marbles in it."

That boy could not forsake his marbles so that he could shake hands with the minister. Many people have trouble like that. They just play with marbles while they could do a great service in the kingdom of God. Are you like that?

Dear Lord, if we have not forsaken all by this time, may we do so now. We want to be followers of Jesus. Let nothing hinder us, dear Lord, for Thou shalt be our Master and King. In Thy name we pray. Amen.

I gave my life for thee,  
My precious blood I shed,  
That Thou might'st ransomed be,  
And quickened from the dead;  
I gave, I gave my life for thee,  
What hast thou given for me?

## February 21

"I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Ps. 84:10.

Are you glad when Sunday comes and you can go to church? Well, some people do not like the church, you know. In fact, many do not like God, either, so they neglect both the church and God. The result is, their souls are lost and their lives are spent in vain.

A pastor once visited a man who had not been to church for a long time. A fire was burning in the fireplace of this man's house when the pastor arrived. Without saying anything to the man about why he had not been in church lately, the pastor picked up the tongs and lifted the burning wood from the fire.

When the fire was out, the man remarked, "You needn't say a word, pastor, I'll be in church next Sunday."

If you stay away from the Christian people and from the Word of God, you will die. To be together with God's people, helps us to walk with God. It keeps the flame burning within us—the flame of love to God and man.

Lord Jesus, look into our hearts and see if we love to go to Thy house and worship Thee. May we be true servants of God in Thy Church on earth. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Built on the Rock the Church doth stand  
Even when steeples are falling;  
Crumbled have spires in every land,  
Bells still are chiming and calling;  
Calling the young and old to rest,  
But above all the soul distrest,  
Longing for rest everlasting.

## February 22

"For I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."  
Gal. 6:17.

Among the many refugees who came into one of the relief-camps was a young girl. Her body seemed full of pain, but she made no word of complaint. A new friend, who took notice of her, said, "Have you been hurt?"

"No," she answered, "but I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

Then she related how she had been tortured because she confessed that she was a believer in Christ. Some Mohammedans had come to her every day with the question, "What will it be today, Mohammed or Christ?" Every time she answered, "Christ," they burnt a mark on her body with a hot iron. She was taken to the hospital and given good care. She is now known as the brave Armenian Cross-bearer.

Sometimes people are mean to us because we are Christians. Even so, should we not be true to Jesus? He bore the cross all the way and suffered to save us.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us now to be faithful cross-bearers and not to be ashamed of Jesus and His love. Let us be happy, Lord, to tell all people that we are not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

"Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
And all the world go free?—  
No, there's a cross for every one,  
And there's a cross for me."

## February 23

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."  
Ex. 20:7.

A young man was speaking to a group of people and mocked God in a terrible way. He said he did not believe that there was a God and a life after death. When he was through speaking, the audience clapped.

Then another man arose and said, "Yesterday, as I was walking down by the river, I heard a man in a boat cry for help. I saw him wring his hands and kneel in prayer and I heard him pray, 'Oh, Lord, save my soul! If you will save me from this terrible death in the river, I will never again take your name in vain.' I then hopped into the water and by the help of God I rescued this young man from drowning. He is the same young man who has stood before you and cursed the name of the Lord. What do you think of such a man?"

How do you suppose that young man felt? What did the people think? It seems easy for us to take God's name in vain when we are in no danger. But how terrible it would be to meet death that way.

Dear God, we praise Thee for the blessed name of Jesus by which we learn to know Him as our Savior and King. Let none of us ever bring shame to His name. We worship Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

You cannot hide from God.  
Though mountains cover you,  
His eye our secret thoughts beholds,  
His mercies all our lives enfold,  
He knows our purposes untold,  
You cannot Hide from God.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.



## February 24

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."  
Matt. 6:13.

It is not the temptation which is sin, but the yielding to it. Jesus, too, was tempted, but He did not yield to sin. He has promised us that if we come to Him and ask Him to help us when tempted, He will deliver us from sin.

A certain man needed a boy to drive his horses. Three young boys applied for the job. "How near do you dare to drive to the edge of the road?" the man asked the first boy.

"Oh, about six inches," the boy answered.

"How about you?" he asked the second one.

"So near that the wheel is even with the edge of the road," the second boy quickly answered.

"And you?" the man asked the third boy, "how near to the edge of the road do you dare to drive?"

"The truth is that I prefer to keep away from the edge as far as possible," the third boy answered quietly.

"You are the boy I want to hire," said the man, "because you look at danger just the way I do."

Let us keep as far as possible away from all danger and temptation.

Dear Lord Jesus, Thou knowest how often we are tempted to sin, but please deliver us from all sin and evil. We are glad that Thou hast in all things been tempted as we are, yet thou art without sin. We thank Thee for understanding us in Jesus' name. Amen.

Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin;  
Each vic'try will help you some other to win;  
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue;  
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.

## February 25

"In my Father's house are many mansions." John 14:30.

What joy to know that there are many rooms in heaven! And there is a room for each one of us that know Christ as Saviour. We will be filled with joy with our mansion, for Jesus Himself has prepared it for us.

There was a five-year-old boy who became concerned about these mansions. "How can there be room for so many people in heaven?" he wondered. One day he asked his mother about it. His little sister who heard him ask the question said, "Mother, didn't Jesus say that there were many mansions in heaven?"

Just why her little boy asked such a question the mother did not know, but she never forgot the incident, for it was not long after this that her little son went home to his mansion in heaven.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for preparing a mansion for us in glory. Make us worthy of Thy love and be with us as we walk with Thee until we reach our home in glory. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

My Father's own Son, the Saviour of men,  
Once wandered o'er earth as the poorest of them;  
But now He is reigning forever on high,  
And will give me a home in heaven by and by.

## February 26

"It is finished." John 19:30.

During the late depression a working man became ill. He had not been able to make much money, therefore he ran into debt at the grocer. While he was ill the doctor came to see him several times. He was a good physician and had been able to restore him to health and strength. That he was not able to pay his debts made the working man greatly grieved.

One day he sat down and figured how much he would need to pay the doctor and the grocer, and how long it would take him to earn the money. While he sat there a friend stepped in to see him.

"I just came from the doctor's office," said the friend, as he handed him a slip of paper.

The working man was so discouraged that he put the paper aside without looking at it. He had nothing to pay it with. After his friend had gone, he took the paper out and looked at it. Yes, the bill was correct. But, what was this. Underneath the bill was written "Paid." But he had not paid the doctor a cent! Oh, yes, now he understood; his friend had paid the bill for him. The working man wept for joy.

Jesus once said: "It is finished." He has paid for our sin by dying on the Cross. Won't you accept His payment for your bill of sin?

Dear Lord Jesus, receive our thanks for paying for all our sins. We want to look at the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin has left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

## February 27

"Be not wise in your own conceit." Rom. 12:16.

People often make fools of themselves when they do things that they think are wise, but in reality are foolish. Those who are so unwise that they practice these foolish things are to be pitied.

When William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, spoke at a meeting in London, in 1880, he told of a lady who had conducted some meetings in a large town. One evening a rough looking man, who wanted to make fun of her, spoke to her. He said, "What does an ignorant girl like you know about religion? I know more than you do, I can say the Lord's Prayer in Latin."

The young lady hesitated a moment, and then answered in her customary sweet and loving way, "Oh, but I can say more than that, I can say the Lord has saved my soul in English."

You see, we may be able to say the Lord's Prayer in Latin without believing that Jesus is our Saviour. Let us be careful not to be wise in our own conceit, but let us be humble and meek and learn of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we will be able to say as the girl did, "The Lord has saved my soul."

Lord Jesus, our Lord and Master, listen to our prayer today. Take all pride from us, and make us humble and thankful in Thy sight. In Jesus' name. Amen.

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this, Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end  
O make me Thine forever; and should I fainting be,  
Lord let me never, never outlive my love for Thee.

## February 28

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40.

There is a story told about a Russian farmer and his old gray coat. One stormy, cold night while he was on his way home, he passed a soldier who was standing guard by the walls of Moscow. The farmer was wearing a heavy gray coat, but he noticed that the soldier had none. He went over to the soldier and immediately offered him his coat, but the soldier refused the offer. The farmer then took off his coat and flung it over the shoulders of the guard.

Even though it had rained, then sleeted, and then snowed, so that there was danger in being without his coat, the farmer felt that he could do this as he thought he would soon be able to reach his home which was not far away. But it was hard going against the wind, and the snow blinded him; he was much longer reaching home than what he thought would be. He became chilled, and took sick with a fever.

For days he lay unconscious, and all hope for his life was given up. The day that he died he became conscious and spoke to his wife. "Do you know whom I have seen? I have seen Jesus. And wonderful to tell, He wore my old gray coat."

The farmer had done a kindness to one of the least and thus had done it unto the Lord.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the privilege of being thy child, help us to do deeds of kindness and thus show to others our love for Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Help somebody today,  
Somebody along life's way,  
Let sorrow be ended, the friendless befriended,  
Oh, help somebody today.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## February 29

"Wash me and I shall be whither than snow." Ps. 51:7

We do not like to be told that we are dirty. But the Bible says we are all unclean and need to be washed.

Sometimes boys and girls are told to wash but they do not do a very good job of it. They leave dirt spots all over their faces and hands. They must go and wash again, for who wants to look at dirty children, and what mother would let her child eat his supper with dirty hands? Just so, God must make us clean. He washes us in the blood of Jesus.

A father in Chicago promised to take his son to Lincoln Park if the boy would put on clean clothes and wash himself. The boy's mother attended to that.

While he was waiting for his father to come, the boy went out in the yard to play. The boy became dirty again. When daddy came, his little son ran to him, all set to go. But daddy said, "You cannot go that way, as dirty as you are."

"Mother washed and put clean clothes on me," replied the boy.

The father picked him up and carried him into the house. He told the boy to look in the mirror and see how dirty he was.

Dear Lord, we are so unclean and full of sin. We need Thee now to wash us entirely clean. Make us white as snow. Amen.

Lord Jesus I long to be perfectly whole,  
I want Thee forever to live in my soul.  
Break down every idol, cast out every foe,  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

# March 1

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."  
Isa. 1:18.

One day Queen Victoria of England visited a paper factory. The man who took her through the factory did not know she was the Queen. He conducted her past a place where there was a stack of red rags. She asked in surprise, "But how can these red rags ever be made white?"

The guide answered, "By a certain process we take the color out of the rags. Then we make them into paper."

After the Queen left, someone told the guide that it was the Queen of England who had visited the factory. A couple of days later the Queen found on her table some beautiful sheets of snow-white paper with her name printed on each sheet. On one sheet she read, "May it please the Queen to receive a sample of the paper which is made from those unclean, red rags which she saw the other day in the factory."

Jesus can take an unclean sinner and make him clean by His blood. Thus cleansed in Jesus' blood, sinners shall enter the kingdom of glory in heaven.

Lord Jesus, we praise Thee for Thy blood which can make us white as snow. Help us to come to the fountain and be made clean in Thy sight. In Jesus' name. Amen.

There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains.

## March 2

"And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine." Luke 15:31

Few of us realize how rich we are when we belong to God. Many of us live like tramps when we are rich as children of the King.

One day a tramp got off at the Pennsylvania Station in a large city. For a whole year, he begged on the streets for a living. One day he touched a man on the shoulder, and said, "Mister, please give me a dime." The other man turned around and when the tramp saw his face he recognize his own father.

"Father," he cried, "don't you know me?" The father threw his arms around his son and said,

"I have found you, at last; I have found you, at last. Son, all that I have is yours. For eighteen years I have been looking for you."

The tramp had begged for ten cents from the father who was waiting to give him all that he possessed. Are you like the son? Are you out begging for crumbs when the Father is waiting to give you the whole loaf? And are you wasting your life in sin when the Father is waiting to save you through our Lord Jesus Christ?

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the riches we have in Thee, and most of all we thank Thee for Salvation full and free. In Jesus' name. Amen.

My Father is rich in houses and lands,  
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!  
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,  
His coffers are full—He has riches untold.  
I'm the child of a King, the child of a King  
With Jesus, my Saviour, I'm the child of a King.



## March 3

"Woe unto the world because of offences!" Matt. 18:7

It is well for Christians to remember that there are others who are watching what we do and say. We are either setting good examples or bad ones. When we lead others to Christ we set good examples. But Jesus says, "Woe unto the world because of offences!" Woe to the person who causes another person to fall!

A long time ago a grandfather lived with his son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. They did not like to have him live with them, and made him eat by himself, and out of a wooden bowl. The rest of the family ate from nice dishes at the table. "Grandfather was old and shaky, he might spill on the tablecloth, and he might break a dish," the children and grandchildren would say.

One day the little grandson was busy carving a piece of wood. His father watched him for a while and then asked him what it was that he was making.

"This," said the little boy, holding up his work, "is the wooden dish I am making for you, Daddy, to eat out of when you get old like grandpa."

The little boy thought he should treat his parents in just the same manner as he saw them treating his grandfather. He didn't know that he was to treat his elders with respect and consideration.

Dear Lord Jesus, let us not set examples that might lead others into sin. Guide and direct us in doing that which will be well-pleasing unto Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O that the Lord would guide my ways,  
To keep His statutes still!  
O that my God would grant me grace,  
To know and do His will!

## March 4

"Buy the truth, and sell it not." Prov. 23:23.

Some people are never satisfied with purchases they have made, but want to sell them again, and thus try to make some money. These people too often make poor bargains. When we get a good thing we should be content to keep it.

A teacher asked his pupils in school if they could remember anyone in the Bible who had made a poor bargain. One of the children mentioned Esau. He said that Esau had made a poor bargain when he sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Esau sold his birthright because he was hungry, but he could never get it back again.

Then there was Judas! He sold his Lord for thirty pieces of silver.

"How can I get more money," Judas wondered. One day someone said that he could have thirty pieces of silver if he would do a favor.

"Help us to get Jesus in trouble, and we will give you all this money," this person said to Judas. "Look at the money, Judas, is it not a lot of money. Put it in your pocket, Judas, it is all yours."

Judas took the money, he sold his Lord for thirty pieces of silver! But it gave him no happiness. He came back, and tried to give the money back, but they would not take it, and he went out and took his own life.

"Buy the truth, and sell it not!"

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the Truth, for Thou art Truth. Help us always to seek Thy truth in all things. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O Lord, this feast receiving,  
Thy word of truth believing,  
We Thee unseen adore:  
Grant, when our race is ended,  
That we, to heav'n ascended,  
May see Thy glory ever more.

## March 5

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." Rom. 1:16.

How can we be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, when we understand His love for us? We may be ashamed of ourselves, our friends, or the world, at times, but not ashamed of Christ and His Gospel.

Before a young man went away to school, his mother talked with him about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"I love the Lord, and am never ashamed of His Gospel," she told her son, and I do not want you to be ashamed of the Gospel, either."

But he got interested in the things of the world, and had formed some worldly companionships. One Sunday morning he went with some of the students of his school to the woods for a wild party. As they were walking along he heard the church bells ring. Hearing the bells made the boy sober-minded, and he asked the boys to excuse him from the party. The boys insisted on knowing why he did not want to go with them. When he told the boys that he wanted to leave and go to church they ridiculed him.

"If you want to know why I want to go to church, I will tell you," he said in answer to their ridiculing. "I have a crippled mother at home. Every Sunday morning between the hours of eleven and twelve, my mother is praying for me."

When he had finished talking to the boys, tears came to their eyes, and they said they, too, would go to church.

What a blessing it is to have a mother that is not ashamed of the Gospel!

Dear Lord, help each one of us never to be ashamed of Thee, no matter where we are, or who we are with. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## March 6

"Let him know that he which convereth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." James 5:20.

It is a big job to help someone else come to God, but it is the job of the Christian, and a job which must be done at any cost. If no one had helped us to come to Jesus, where would we have been? Let us pray for more and more soul-winners. Many are perishing without Christ.

It sometimes happens that a man falls overboard from a ship into the ocean. When that occurs, all others on board go about doing what they can to rescue the man in the sea. They try to do it as quickly as possible.

One day a man fell overboard from a ship. The captain became more excited than any of the rest. He cried out his orders, "Save that man at any cost, because he is my brother!"

That is just the point. Are not all people our brothers? Let us pray to God that we may understand how terrible it is when one of them is lost in the sea of sin. May he turn to Jesus and be saved!

Oh, Lord Jesus, let us not be so careless when so many do not know Thee as their Saviour. Help us to win some soul for Thee and thereby hide a multitude of sins. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Throw out the life-line across the dark wave,  
There is a brother whom some one should save;  
Somebody's brother! Oh, thou then, will dare  
To throw out the life-line, his peril to share  
Throw out the life-line, throw out the life-line!  
Someone is drifting away; Throw out the life-line!  
Throw out the life-line! Someone is sinking today!

## March 7

"And I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:28.

Jesus gives us eternal life as a free gift. If we believe in Jesus, we have eternal life. Then no one can take us out of God's hand. We are often tempted to lose our Christian faith. It is possible for us to turn away from God and thereby lose salvation.

In a farm home in Russia were three little children lying on the floor. A nurse who hated God bent over them to punish them. "Look at them," she said, "they are so full of religion that we keep them from the others."

Just then one of the three dying children said, "Have you come to take me now, Jesus? Please, take us soon. Thou hast taken Willie and Peter already, and they are now with Thee. I do so want to be with Thee. Oh, now, I'm feeling so good. I see such light and, oh, I'm so warm!"

People may hurt us, yes, even kill us because we believe in Jesus. But, then, our souls will go home to glory. If we believe, there is no one who can take us out of the Father's hand.

We thank Thee, Lord Jesus, for salvation. Thou canst keep us safe in Thy hand. How blessed it is to know that we can have eternal life. We thank Thee for this gift in Jesus' name. Amen.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
Safe on His gentle breast,  
There by His love o'ershaded,  
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hark! 'tis the voice of angels,  
Borne in a song to me,  
Over the fields of glory,  
Over the jasper sea.

## March 8

"Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Mark 8:37.

Since the soul is worth so much, there is nothing in the whole world that can be given equal to the soul. The most important thing in life is that our souls be saved. Even parents let their children ruin their souls in sinful pleasures because they themselves are blind to spiritual values.

A father and a mother noticed that their girl was concerned about giving her soul to the Lord. But, instead of helping her come to Jesus, they gave her parties, jewels, and nice clothes so that she might forget her religious thoughts. Some time later the girl became seriously ill. On the last day of her life she asked her mother if she could see the dress her parents had given her that first time she was sent to a gay party. Her mother wanted to please her and brought her the dress. When the girl saw it, she burst into tears.

"Mother," she said, "that dress was bought at a big price."

"What do you mean?" her mother asked.

The girl answered, "Mother, that dress is the price of my soul!"

The girl meant that because she had started to run to worldly amusements, she had not found Jesus as her Saviour. Now she was about to die without Him.

Dear Lord, make us shun all that will lead us away from Thee. Let us hide near Thee until we reach Thy home. Bless our souls when we are tempted to sin and hear our prayers in Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus, Lover of my soul,

Let me to Thy bosom fly,

While the nearer waters roll,

While the tempest still is high!

Hide me, O my Savior, hide,

Till the storm of life is past;

Safe into the haven guide,

O receive my soul at last.

## March 9

"Receiving the end of your faith." 1 Pet. 1:9.

"What is the purpose of life?" you ask. If we live for this life only, it is nothing.

A child was once playing near his mother; he looked up at her and said, "Is playing the purpose and end of life, Mother?"

"No, my son," the mother answered, "soon you will be going to church."

After he had gone to school and church for some years, and was soon to graduate from school, he again asked his mother the question, "Is all this the purpose and end of life, Mother?"

"No, Son, you will go on and become famous," the mother answered.

He went on and became wealthy, but now he was dying. His mother sat by her dying son, weeping. He was weary and restless. For the last time he asked his mother the question, "Is this the purpose and end of life?"

Then, for the first time the mother realized that her son was seeking for something that would satisfy. She told him, then, about Jesus and the resurrection. He looked with regret at his mother and exclaimed, "Mother, you always told me how to live. Why didn't you tell me how to die?"

But if we have the Lord as our Saviour we will not only know how to live, but we will also know how to die.

Dear Lord, teach us all so to love that we will always be ready to die. Helps us not to live for this life, but to live for eternity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

## March 10

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea."

Matt. 18:6.

It is dangerous to set a bad example. Especially is this true of parents who set a bad example before their children, because children usually follow the example of their parents. Many a child will arise in the judgment day, and will point at his parents who neglected to bring him to Jesus.

A boy was brought into criminal court. As a small boy he had started out by stealing small articles, but as time went on he went from bad to worse. He was now in court because he was accused of committing a bad crime. He saw his mother in the crowded court room.

When he saw his mother he pointed his finger at her and cried, "Mother, this is your fault. The first time you sent me to steal potatoes you laughed and said it was well done."

If it was bad for that mother to set a bad example for her son, when he knew nothing about Jesus, how much worse is it for one to set a bad example for a child who loves Jesus!

Parents should teach their little ones early about Jesus and His love, and set the example of prayer in the home and of going to church.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be true Christians, and not stumbling blocks to the little children, nor to those who are weak in the faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O happy home, where Thou art loved the dearest,  
Thou loving Friend and Saviour of our race,  
And where among the guests there never cometh  
One who can hold such high and honored place!



## March 11

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face."  
1 Cor. 13:12.

How beautiful are the things of this life! But how much more beautiful will be the things of heaven!

A Scotch girl who had been taken ill while in America begged to be taken back to her native land before she died. She longed to see her homeland once more. On the homeward journey, she kept repeating, "O, for a glimpse o' the hills o' Scotland!"

One evening at sunset when the west was aglow with the glory of the setting sun, a friend carried her up on deck. He said, "Is it not beautiful?"

She closed her eyes for a moment. Suddenly she opened her eyes, and with a look of unspeakable joy on her face, she said,

"I see it noo, I see it noo, and aye, they're bonny. I never kenned before that it was the hills o' Scotland where the prophets saw the horsemen and the chariots, but I see them noo, and we're a'most there."

The Scottish girl had caught a glimpse of heaven, and it was much more glorious than the sunset of this earth. How blessed to die while a halo of glory surrounds life's setting sun!

Dear Lord, may our eyes be open to Thy glory. May we all behold the face of our Saviour who bids us welcome home. We thank Thee for showing us the way to glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When my life's work is ended, and I cross the swelling tide,  
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see,  
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,  
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## March 12

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matt. 6:20

Heaven may seem far away, and because of this there are many who think it has nothing to do with our life on earth. But the way we live on earth is the way we are laying up treasures in heaven. Too many people are busy laying up treasures for this life, and are forgetting about eternity.

There was a coachman whose name was John. He was a happy Christian, always doing kind deeds for others, and praising God for the opportunities to help someone in need. The woman for whom he worked told him that she was tired of hearing him continually praising God.

One night she dreamed she was in heaven, and an angel showed her the various mansions there. When she came to a beautiful mansion she was amazed to hear the angel say,

"This mansion belongs to John, your coachman."

The woman could hardly believe her ears. She thought, "If this beautiful mansion is my coachman's, what a palace I will have." But when the angel brought her to a small hut and told her that was her home in heaven, she was not only amazed, but chagrined. When she asked the angel why she had such a small home, the angel replied,

"We can only build on the material that is sent to us."

From that time on she no more remonstrated with John for praising His Lord, but she began to praise her Lord, and to do deeds of kindness, too. She thanked her Lord for giving her the dream that showed her her own shortcomings.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to lay up treasures in heaven. It matters not if we do not have many on earth. Keep our souls in Thy care until we inherit the crown of life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## March 13

"Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength." Ps. 8:2.

Many children have led their parents to the Lord. The Lord is very real to the children and they are not ashamed of Him as some of the older people are.

In one home a little boy was the one who was a Christian. He had learned to love Jesus in Sunday school. He had chattered freely about Him in the home. His parents did not seem to mind that he talked about Jesus, and they let him pray, too, but they were not interested for themselves.

The little boy became sick and had to be taken to the hospital. Before he went to the hospital he told his parents that he didn't think he would come back home. He said that Jesus wanted to take him home to heaven.

The little boy did die and was brought home for burial. The parents looked at each other, as they stood at the casket of their little son. They remembered his talk about Jesus, and his praying to Him. The mother said, "Don't you think it is time for us to accept our boy's Jesus, and we begin to pray to his God?"

Both the father and the mother knelt in prayer and accepted Jesus as their Saviour. "And a little child shall lead them."

Dear Lord, be a real Saviour in our hearts. Make our lives a witness of Thy salvation so that many will be brought to Christ. Hear us in Jesus' name. Amen.

There are crowns for little children  
Above the bright blue sky,  
And all who look to Jesus,  
Shall wear them by and by.

## March 14

"For as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15:58.

Labor done in the name of the Lord is never done in vain.

Many years ago a Sunday school teacher had a boy in his class who did not seem to want to study. The boy became reckless and wayward.

Years later this boy came to an eastern city. As he walked the streets he found himself in a cemetery. He wandered around the cemetery reading the names on the tombstones, and on one of the tombstones he saw a name that brought back many memories. It was the name of his old Sunday school teacher.

Lessons that the teacher had tried to impress upon him came back. His heart was stirred; he went to the grave, knelt down and yielded his life to the Lord.

This man then studied for the ministry, and became the pastor of a prominent church in Virginia. His teacher had probably gone to his grave thinking that all his labor with this reckless boy had been in vain.

We shall reap if we faint not. Even a glass of cold water given in Jesus' name shall not be forgotten.

Dear Lord, we praise Thee for Thy Word, and the courage and strength we receive through it. We thank Thee that even the smallest service we render in Thy name is not in vain. In Jesus' name. Amen.

There's surely somewhere a lowly place  
In earth's harvest fields so wide,  
Where I may labor thro' life's short day  
For Jesus the Crucified;  
So trusting my all to Thy tender care,  
And knowing Thou lovest me,  
I'll do Thy will with a heart sincere,  
I'll be what you want me to be.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## March 15

"And makest men as fishes of the sea, as the creeping things,  
that have no ruler over them." Hab. 1:14.

Men as fishes of the sea! Yes, men are like fish, they must be caught. As fishes are caught in a net, so must men be caught by the Gospel. The best time to catch men is when they are young. Win them for Christ, and His church while they are small, with a whole life to live for Him.

Once upon a time there was a fish which had been caught by a man, and the story goes that he cried out to the man, "Let me go, I am too small to be of much worth! Wait until I am larger."

"No," said the man, as he put the fish in his basket. "If I waited until you were larger, you wouldn't bite the hook."

That is true. The older one becomes, the more difficult it is to reach them with the Gospel. Today Jesus throws out His Gospel-net. Let Him catch you. Let Him catch you while you are young. You will be glad to give Him a whole life of service instead of just a few years when you are old.

Dear Lord Jesus, Master of earth and sea, use us to send out Thy Gospel-net, and may many be caught by Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave,  
"Send the light! Send the light!"  
There are souls to rescue, there are souls to save.  
Send the light! Send the light!  
Send the light! The blessed Gospel light;  
Let it shine from shore to shore!

## March 16

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isa. 6:8.

"Preach the Gospel to all nations," the Lord has said. But who will go? After Isaiah had seen the Lord, he was ready to be sent. How many of our young people are willing to go today? How many of all the Christians are willing to be used today? Few people are willing to serve in other lands, some are willing to serve at home, but others are not willing to do anything.

A boy once saw a house with golden windows over on the other side of the river. He looked at it often and wished that he could get across the river so that he could visit the beautiful place. One day the opportunity came. As he crossed the river he hurried up to the house and knocked on the door. When a woman came to the door, he asked, "Is this the house with the golden windows?"

"No," answered the woman, "it is not. The house with the golden windows is on the other side of the river." She pointed to the opposite side of the shore, and sure enough, on his own home shore there were the golden windows.

That is like a good many people. They are willing to go away to serve the Lord, but they will not serve Him at home. The foreign fields look more alluring to some people, but until they are willing to speak to their own neighbors they cannot be sent to the foreign field.

Dear Lord, make us willing to go to the place where Thou wouldst have us to go. Give us a willing spirit to say, "Here am I; send me." In Jesus' name. Amen.

## March 17

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23.

"That is what you get for being naughty," children often say one to another, when they sin.

Unconfessed sins cling to us, and our sin will find us out. Sin brings with it punishment and death. How are we to get rid of this sin?

A man once walked barefooted in a river. In that river there were many bloodsucking worms called leeches. When the man came ashore, he noticed that his feet were covered with leeches. He tried and tried to knock them off, but no matter how hard he tried they would not come off. A friend was passing by and saw the man's predicament. He told the man that he knew how to remove the leeches. He took the man home and prepared a hot bath for him. When the man washed in the hot water the leeches fell off.

We cannot knock our sins off, either, but God has provided a way to get rid of our sins. He has given us His Son, who died for us, and in His blood we have our sins washed away. That is how we get rid of our sins.

If you will receive Jesus, you will receive eternal life. Do you want the wages of sin, which is death, or the gift of God, which is eternal life?

Dear Lord, help us to choose the gift of God which is eternal life. Then give us a love for others who do not know Thee, and use us to point them the Way to be rid of their sins. In Jesus' name. Amen.

My God, accept my heart this day,  
And make it always Thine,  
That I from Thee no more may stray,  
No more from Thee decline.

## March 18

"Call ye upon him while he is near." Isa. 55:6.

If you were in trouble and needed help you would not go to some other town for help, but you would go to the one nearest to you. If you wanted to be saved you should not wait, but you should call up Jesus now, while it is yet time.

In 1912, a great ship, called the Titanic, struck an iceberg out in the Ocean. Before the ship was struck the people were playing jazz music; they were dancing, playing cards, and drinking. They thought they were having a good time and that they had everything that was worthwhile in life.

But when the ship started to sink, they realized that they were facing eternity. The jazz playing stopped, and the orchestra started playing "Nearer My God to Thee." Many would have been glad to be sure of eternity, but it was too late. The ship sank, and most of the people with it.

How many think only of worldly amusements when all is going well! Only when trouble comes, and they think that death is near, do they remember their Creator. The Lord will be near you if you want Him to be.

No matter where we are, whether it is out at sea, on a high building, on a busy street, or in our home, we can call upon the Lord and He will hear us, for He is always near to them that call upon Him.

Dear Lord, we thank Thee for being near to us. Bless us, refresh us, and keep us ever near Thy side. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nearer, my God to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee:  
E'en though it be a cross  
That raiseth me;

Still all my song shall be,  
Nearer my God to Thee,  
Nearer, my God to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee.



## March 19

"Enter ye in at the strait gate." Matt. 7:13.

A gate always leads in to somewhere; sometimes into a room, or into a garden, or into a forest. The strait gate is no exception, for this gate leads to heaven and the Lord Jesus Christ. But few there are who find this gate.

A mother and her small child were traveling on a train, which sped over a lonely prairie, one cold and stormy night. The mother was nervous and frequently asked the conductor if they would soon arrive at her destination. At last the conductor told her that the next stop would be her station. As she made ready to get off the conductor became busy and paid no attention to her.

The snow was falling thick and fast; it was becoming increasingly difficult for the train to get through the drifts, and at last it became stalled. The mother, thinking it was her station, picked up her baby in her arms and got off. She walked away from the train, and after a few minutes the train got started on its way, again. The conductor did not notice that she was gone until the train had been on its way for sometime. The mother and her child were left out on the prairie in a blinding blizzard. She could not find her way.

This mother and her child had gone through a door into danger, just as those without Christ go into eternal punishment and death.

But there is no need for anyone to go into a Christless eternity, for God is holding the gate open for us if we will but enter in at the strait gate.

Dear Lord Jesus, lead us in at the strait gate. Keep us from going astray. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## March 20

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord."

Prov. 19:17.

To many it is thought that the little things we do unto the Lord are of little or no value. Oh, to do something truly great unto the Lord! But, we little realize that the little things are precious in the Lord's sight as well as the big and the great things. Unto the Lord, is what counts.

Moved by the love of Christ, a Christian man went every evening to a miserable shed. Here the down-and-outers would find shelter from the wind, the cold, the snow or the rain. Each night the man would take one of these men home, keep him over night, and the next morning give him a breakfast. A friend of this kind man tried to show him what a hopeless task he had undertaken, for in such a large city there were many homeless and miserable men.

"What you are doing is like a drop in the bucket," the friend said.

"Yes, I agree with you," replied the Christian meekly. "What little I do is like a drop in the bucket, but I want to take care of my drop."

How right he was! When all the little drops, or the little deeds of kindnesses are brought together they will not be a drop in the bucket, but will be a fountain of water springing up into life for those who are in need.

Dear Lord Jesus, make us faithful in the little things Thou hast set before us to do, even though it may seem to be but a drop in the bucket. Thou who enables us to do all things, to Thee be the honor and the glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Look all around you, find someone in need,

Help somebody today!

Tho' it be little—a neighborly deed—

Help somebody today!

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## March 21

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Prov. 20:1.

Many people think it is smart to drink. Many young people think that it is grown-up to drink. They also think that if they drink they can have a better time, more fun, than without it. But they are all deceived in that thought.

At a great Army and Navy football game there sat a group of older army officers. One of the officers had a bottle of whiskey and some tiny cups from which he drank. Before he started to drink he looked like a fine gentleman, worthy of respect. By the time the game was over he had become very drunk; he had lost control of himself, both in speech and conduct, and he looked more like an idiot than a gentleman. He could no longer command the respect of others.

If ever anyone should offer you a taste of strong drink, say, "No." This will give you an opportunity to give a testimony for Jesus. Tell all who are so foolish as to drink any liquor that "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

Dear Lord, keep us strong so that we are able to turn away from temptations. Have mercy on all those who fall into the habit of drinking. Use us to help them to overcome this temptation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Years I spent in vanity and pride  
Caring not my Lord was crucified,  
Knowing not it was for me He died on Calvary,  
Mercy there was great, and grace was free;  
Pardon there was multiplied to me;  
There my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.

^Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## March 22

"They told you there should be mockers in the last time."

Jude 18.

Many people today are mocking holy things! And how many people will have to suffer for this mocking! "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap."

In a town in Minnesota there were three young men who, one evening, went into a restaurant where liquor was sold. When the waitress came to their table for their order, one of the boys said, "Let's eat, drink and be merry—tomorrow we might be dead."

After eating and drinking for sometime the boys left the restaurant to proceed on their night of merriment. They got into their car and drove away at a very fast rate of speed. They were drunk, and could not control the car. The driver drove off the highway and into the ditch. All three of the boys were killed. All three went into eternity to meet their God in a drunken state. They had mocked God. They thought they could do as they pleased and they would not have to suffer.

A mother who had lost her son through strong drink begged her pastor to preach a sermon warning all people not to touch strong drink. For even if a person mocks God while he is drunk, he is not excused.

The ungodly mock at God because they do not know Him. But those who do know Him do not want to sin and mock. They want to do His will and show others the way to Jesus.

Dear Lord, help us to be clean in word and deed lest we, too, become mockers. May we never forget that whatsoever we sow that we shall also reap, both good and bad. We thank Thee for Thy help in Jesus' name. Amen.

## March 23

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom. 1:16.

That means—Christ first! Only those who love Jesus will have the courage to put Him first in all things. How can we be ashamed of Jesus who came to bring us salvation?

John McLean, of Ohio, was a great lawyer in the United States Supreme Court. He had not cared about Jesus in his early life, but one day he heard a message about Christ's death for sinners. He heard, and accepted the Lord. He was born again.

With the love of God in his heart, he rushed home and said,

"I have just found Jesus who died on the Cross for me. Let us go to the drawing room and pray together."

In the drawing room sat a number of lawyers waiting to talk with him. As soon as he entered the room, he said,

"I have given myself to Jesus and, now, I want to invite Him into my house. You may do as you please, stay or go, but I want Christ in this home and, now, I want to make that known to Him." And, then, he knelt in prayer.

Are you ashamed of Jesus? Are you ashamed to make Him known to your friends? Are you ashamed to pray in the presence of others? If we are not ashamed of Him, He will not be ashamed of us.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to know Thee so well, and to love Thee so much that we will never be ashamed of Thee and Thy salvation. We thank Thee for giving us the Gospel of power. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

## March 24

"Be ye also patient." James 5:8.

Most of us lack patience. We are told that Jesus was as patient as a lamb on the way to slaughter.

Once a pastor, who was in a hurry to go some place, found a button missing from his shirt. He lost patience, and let his wife understand that he did not like it.

That day he visited Old John who was bent and broken in health from rheumatism. He found John happy and satisfied with his lot in life. Then, he went to see Mr. Hall who was sick with tuberculosis. Mr. Hall was waiting for Jesus to come and take him home to heaven, and he, too, was contented to be in the state that Jesus said was good for him. Next, he visited Mother Smith who, while fixing her little room, sang as a bird from the good old hymns that she loved. Even though she had so little she nevertheless was happy. And last, he called on Mrs. Brun who had recently lost her only daughter. The pastor found her praising God even in her sadness.

When the pastor returned home he said to his wife, "It is marvelous how much the grace of God can accomplish in a person."

"Yes, God's grace is wonderful," his wife replied, "but there is one thing the grace of God does not seem to be able to do."

"What do you mean?" asked the pastor.

"It does not seem to be able to control my husband's temper when a button falls from his shirt."

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to overcome our tempers, and give us more patience. We confess this sin to Thee for Thou only art able to help us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## March 25

"I am not mad, most noble Festus." Acts 26:25.

There are some things that a Christian does that may look foolish to those who do not want Christ as their Saviour. But heaven often rejoices when the Christian shows the right kind of madness. Was Jesus mad when he came out of the ivory palaces into this world of woe? Was the first martyr for Christ mad when he accepted death rather than to deny his Lord?

There is a place called "Taiwan" where the people are head-hunters. That is, they believe in killing human beings and cutting off their heads. At one time a Chinese gentleman, by the name of Gaw Hong, became the well-known judge among these people. There was a great feast, and the people believed that God demanded that they should bring Him human heads.

Gaw Hong said, "Take one head this time, but only one. Take it when and where I shall tell you. Take the first man who comes down that road, over there, at sunset tonight."

When the time came, they took the man's head, put it in a sack, and rushed to their chief with it. When they opened the sack to present it to their chief, they saw it was the head of the chief himself. Was he mad?

No, by giving his life Gaw Hong cured his people of the evil practice of killing men and taking off their heads. Gaw Hong died to save his people from an evil practice, but our Lord died for a nobler purpose; He died to save sinners from everlasting death, and to give them eternal life.

Dear Lord, how we thank Thee for coming into this world of woe, and giving Thy life for our salvation. May we gladly accept Thee, and follow Thee even when the world thinks we are mad. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## March 26

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you." John 14:27.

Jesus said a great deal about peace, when He was on earth. He tells us about it in His Word, the Bible. He wants us to have peace, and not to be afraid. We can only have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ; He is the one who gives us peace. When we have His peace we are not afraid in war, or in the dark, and no matter where we are, or where we go. In Christ we have peace in life, and peace in death.

In 1583, there was a company of three ships going back to Great Britain from New Foundland. These ships were under the command of the great navigator, Sir Gilbert. He insisted on going on the smallest of the ships, named, the Squirrel. A great storm arose, which threatened the lives of all the people of all three ships. The Squirrel was in the most danger, but when Sir Gilbert saw his comrades in the same danger that he was, he waved to them, and cried out cheerfully,

"We are as near to heaven by sea as we are by land." These were his last words, but he had peace in his heart.

Jesus is willing to give us His wonderful peace. But worldly people do not know anything about this peace. They think they have peace, but it is a false peace. But Jesus gives us a real peace, that nothing can take away.

Dear Jesus, we thank Thee for the peace of God which passeth all understanding. We thank Thee for giving us the peace of God which is so different from the peace that the world offers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.



## March 27

"Only be thou strong and very courageous." Josh. 1:7.

We can be strong. We can be courageous. God commands us so to be, and He gives the power to be what He commands. Life is much like an ocean; sometimes calm, and at other times stormy. If we are weak in the time of storm, we are liable to go down.

A ship was on the ocean in the midst of a bad storm. The furniture was strapped to the floor, and even the pilot was strapped to his post of duty. It seemed that the ship could not come through such a bad storm.

The passengers were very much frightened. One of the passengers decided to find out if there was any hope for them to survive. He crawled up onto the deck on his hands and knees, up the stairway that led to the pilot's house. He crawled until he saw the pilot who smiled at him in a kind manner. The passenger crawled down again. He went to the other passengers and said, "All is well. I have seen the pilot, and he smiled at me."

Jesus is our Pilot. One look at Him will drive away our fears. He will cheer us when the storms of this life are heavy. He is the Master of every storm. Only through Him can we be strong and courageous.

Dear Lord Jesus, be Thou our present Help in trouble. We bless Thee for taking away our fear and making us strong. Be Thou near us at all times. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus, Saviour, pilot me,  
Over life's tempestuous sea.  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal.  
Chart and compass came from Thee;  
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

## March 28

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6.

Life is a precious gift. We hold onto life as long as possible. But only the Christian has the real life, for the Christian alone has Jesus. Jesus is the life. Wicked people have often tried to take Jesus from the Christians. But the Christians would rather suffer than give up their life in Jesus.

Some early Christians would not give up their belief in Jesus, and were banished to the mines in Numidia in Africa. They were forced to row their own boats to their doom. When they arrived in Africa, they were put in chains. Then they were whipped and left in the hot sun. But they would not deny their Lord. After that they were driven to the mines where they were to work. Here a hot iron was put on their foreheads to mark them. Even if they would try to run away, they would be found out, because they had this mark. Their chains were made short so that their backs would be bent over. They were each given a lamp and a pick, and sent into the mines from which they never returned. They worked there until they died.

On the walls of the mines they carved a word which shone in the dark. This word was "Vita," which means "Life." Through God they had life, and though man tried to take away their life in Christ they could not. They lost their earthly lives, but they would always live in Jesus and with Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for life. May we never lose this life, Lord, by neglect and sin. Be near us and live in us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life from heaven,  
This blest assurance Thou to us hast given;  
O wilt Thou teach us, Lord, to win Thy pleasure  
In fullest measure!

## March 29

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." Luke 12:20.

This man said to his own soul, "I will say to my soul, Soul thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." Then God came and said, "Thou fool!"

A boy and his grandfather were talking together one day. The grandfather asked the boy what he was going to be. The boy said, "I can go to high school."

"And then?" asked his grandfather.

"Oh, after four years I can get a job."

"And then?"

"I'll enjoy a happy old age."

"And then?"

"Then I shall die."

"And then?"

Now the boy turned pale as he said, "I forgot that part."

No, we must not forget that we will one day have to die. This, of all things, we must remember. We have souls which must be saved. If we lose our souls, we are fools.

Dear Lord, make us wise unto salvation so that we may keep our souls in Thy wonderful care at all times. Then call us home to Thee when it is Thy will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Take, my soul, thy full salvation,  
Rise o'er sin, and fear, and care;  
Joy to find in every station  
Something still to do or bear.  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,  
What a Father's smile is thine,  
What a Saviour died to win thee;  
Child of heaven, shouldst thou repine?

## March 30

"My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise." Ps. 57:7.

Here is a man who has set his heart on a certain thing. He knows what he wants and goes after it. Such people will succeed in life. He seems to be a happy man, too, for he sings and praises God.

Mr. Gutson Borglum once took a block of marble and carved from it a wonderful head of Abraham Lincoln. This head was made for the Capitol of Washington. Borglum knew what Abraham Lincoln looked like and he set out to make his likeness.

One day a Negro woman saw Lincoln's head in the marble and ran to Borglum's secretary and asked, "Am dat Abe Linkum?"

"Yes, it is," answered Borglum's secretary.

"Well, how in the world did Massa Borglum know dat Abe Linkum was in dat block of stone?"

The secret was that Borglum's heart was fixed on a certain purpose. It was to make Lincoln's likeness from stone.

May our hearts, too, be fixed on Thee. More and more we see Thy beauty and holiness. More and more draw us to Thyself, so our hearts become fixed on Thee, O God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

More about Jesus would I know  
More of His grace to others show;  
More of His saving fullness see,  
More of His love who died for me.

More, more about Jesus,  
More, more about Jesus;  
More of His saving fullness see,  
More of His love who died for me.

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## March 31

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36.

To know the real value of things is not always easy. To own the world may look like a real value, but if we lose our souls by gaining the world, the world we own will become worthless to us.

When the great ship, "Titanic" sank on April 14, 1912, a lady asked permission of the captain to go back to her room for a few minutes. She was given three minutes. In those three minutes she saw jewelry spilled all over, but she waded over it all and grabbed three oranges. She could not eat the jewelry, but she could use the oranges as food.

A little boy in Mold, England, was driven over by a dray and rushed to the hospital. The doctor said that he was bruised from head to foot, but that there were no bones broken. The boy's mother sat by his bed when he woke up.

What do you think he said? He said, "Mumie, I've lost my cap!" His cap had value to him.

Do we understand what has the most value to us? Do we realize that Jesus must save our souls? You do not want to lose your soul, do you?

Dear Lord, show us how much our souls are worth. Help us not to lose our souls? Even though worldly treasures may look valuable, let us not try to gain them at the expense of our souls. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

If I gained the world, but lost the Saviour,  
Were my life worth living for a day?  
Could my yearning heart find rest and comfort  
In the things that soon must pass away?  
If I gained the world, but lost the Saviour,  
Would my gain be worth the life-long strife?  
Are all earthly pleasures worth comparing  
For a moment with a Christ filled life?

# April 1

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." II Tim. 4:7, 8.

When Paul was old, how wonderful it must have been for him to look back upon the years of his life and be able to say, 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.' He had lived as a Christian, and now he could die as one. Not all people can say that.

Not long ago, a man in Europe, died at the age of seventy-three. He had begun a diary at the age of eighteen, and had continued to keep it for fifty-two years. In the diary he left, he had written that in those fifty-two years he had smoked 628,715 cigars, of which he had received 43,692 as presents, while he had paid about \$10,433 for the others. He had drunk 28,786 glasses of beer, and 20,085 glasses of other liquors, for which he had spent \$5,350. He closed the book with these word: "I have tried all things, I have seen much, I have accomplished nothing."

Just think if he could have written the same as Paul who said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith!" What will you be able to say?

Dear Lord, help us to turn to Thee when we are young, and then keep us ever Thine. Soon life is ended and what we have done will be written in Thy book. May Paul's last song be ours. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Fight the good fight with all thy might!  
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
Thy joy and crown eternally.

## April 2

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."  
Eph. 6:1.

It was quiet all over the house. In one room a man lay in a coffin. His wife and daughter stood near by and wept; but the son sat in a chair off by himself. This son had caused the father much sorrow. He had been disobedient. The mother and sister spoke between themselves about the wonderful husband and father whom God had taken from them.

When they left the room the son walked over to his father's body. "Father," he said, "you were always good to me even when others turned from me. Oh, how sorry I am for all the evil I have done to you! With your cold hand in mine, I promise you and God that I shall be a different boy."

We hope he meant what he said. How much better it would have been if he could have told it to his father while he was alive. If we have something good to say, or do to anyone, let us not wait until that person is dead, but say it, or do it now. The dead cannot hear us, but the living can.

Oh, God, as I walk through this world, let me not forget to say the kind words, or do the kind deeds I should say, or do while the loved ones are living. May I not have any regrets when they are gone. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus calls us: by Thy mercies,  
Saviour may we hear Thy call,  
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,  
Serve and love Thee best of all.

## April 3

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7.

The Bible tells us that Satan accuses us. He comes before God and points at our sins, and, if it were possible, he would tell us that we are such sinners that there would be no hope for us. But God says by walking in the light, the blood of Jesus will cleanse us from all sin. We may confess our need of Jesus as our Saviour from sin.

Satan had a long list of sins, and came to Martin Luther with them one day. Luther looked at them and said, "I know all about this, but don't you have any more?"

Satan was ready with a bigger list, and came with one which seemed to have no end. Luther waited until Satan did not have any more to present, and then he said, "Don't you have any more?"

"Well, aren't all these enough?" Satan asked, with surprise.

"Oh, yes, they are enough, but now write on the bottom of the list: 'The blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanseth us from all sin'."

Satan could not accuse Luther any more, and so he stole away. Marvelous power of the blood of Jesus! It can cleanse us from every sin. How grateful we ought to be!

Dear Saviour, make us grateful for the forgiveness of sin. Let us see Thy light, and cause us to walk in it every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.  
Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin. ♣

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## April 4

"If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20.

Open the door! Sup with Him! What blessings God holds out to us! Too many people will not let God bless them. They will not listen to Him when He speaks, nor will they open the door when He knocks; and then they cannot sup with Him, nor He with them.

A pastor heard that Old Mary was not able to pay her house rent, therefore he went to see her, one day. He thought he would bring her some money for her rent. When he got to her house he thought he heard someone inside. He knocked on the door, but no one opened the door. He could not get in, so he had to go home.

A few days later he met Mary on the street. "I was over to your house the other day with some money for your house rent. But I could not get in," he told her.

"Oh, was it you, Pastor!" Mary exclaimed. "I was home all right, but I thought it was the landlord who had come for the rent. That is why I did not open the door."

Are you like Mary? Can it be that you, too, will not open the door to the Saviour? Are you afraid that He will take something away that is dear to you? Would you rather have the world than have the free gift of Salvation?

Dear Lord, help us to open the door and let Thee in. Do not only come into our hearts, but also into our homes and our work. We thank Thee for all things. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## April 5

"Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of Thy judgments, O Lord." Ps. 97:8.

Do you bring sunshine into your home? You can only make others happy if you are happy yourself.

One morning a family was seated at the table waiting for the oldest daughter to bring home the bread from the bakery. For days it had rained, and it was cold outside. It was cold in the house, too. Father was in a bad mood, and Mother was tired because the baby had fussed all night. John did not feel well, and was not kind to his sister, Lena. That morning it was cloudy and cold indoors as well as outdoors.

Soon Elsie came rushing in. She had the bread from the bakery. Her face was rosy from the cold, and wreathed in smiles.

"I brought you the morning paper, Dad," she said as she handed him the paper. His face brightened. Then she planted a kiss on her mother's cheek, and the mother's tired face lit up with a smile.

"Good morning, John," Elsie said to him, as he sat looking glum. He could not help but grin when he heard her cheery voice.

"And here is a whole sack of bread for Kena," she said laughingly. In five minutes the whole room was filled with cheer because of Elsie's happy manner.

We will all be happy when we have the love of Jesus in our hearts, and each one will then bring joy and happiness to others.

• Dear Lord Jesus, make us glad in the Lord, and use us to bring joy and gladness to others. May our joy be real joy from the heart. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## April 6

"Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Ps. 50:15.

Do you have troubles? Most people do, but not all people know how to call upon the Lord. Our understanding of God, at best, is limited. Some of us seem to think that God might hear us if He cared to, and He might not; He might answer us and He might not. But He says: "You call and I will answer."

A poor farmer, living on the banks of the Murray River in South Australia, found himself unable to buy bread for himself and his large family. He fell on his knees and prayed earnestly to God for help. Since God had said He would answer prayer, this farmer decided to walk into town and ask the first man he would meet, for a loan to begin payment on a farm. The first man that he met was a friend. The farmer asked him for the loan, and the man without question gave him the money.

The farmer lived many years to tell of the wonderful answer to prayer. It is not hard to see this. I call, the Lord gives, and then I glorify Him! Have you tried this?

Dear Lord, show me my needs, and my troubles that I may call upon Thee. May it all lead to glorifying Thee who can answer every prayer. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

I need Thee every hour,  
In joy or pain;  
I need Thee, O I need Thee;  
Every hour I need Thee;  
O bless me now, my Saviour,  
I come to Thee.

## April 7

"And a little child shall lead them." Isa. 11:6.

When we pick a leader we do not as a rule pick a child. But a child has often led a grown person to know the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour. God wants to use children, too, in this great program of winning souls.

One day a minister and his wife stopped at a little Chinese store. The owner's children were in the Primary department of the Sunday school. Usually the conversation consisted of, "How are you? We are glad the children come to Sunday school. Good-bye."

But this time Mrs. Ah Chong seemed excited. She left her children and drew the minister's wife inside. With a beaming face, and in broken English she said, "I know God now. I know Jesus. I all same like you now. Amoe, she tell me. She tell me all you say. I pray God now. Before plenty trouble. Now no matter. When children grow up, I go to church all the time. I all the same kind of mother like you now."

The minister started to tell her more of the Way, but she said, "I know, I know, Amoe, she tell." Now Amoe was only a little child in the Primary department, and what she did all little boys and girls can do.

Dear Lord Jesus, let me speak of Thee simply as a child. Bless all the children who hear about Jesus, and help them to bring the wonderful news of salvation to their homes. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Little children, little children,  
Who love their Redeemer,  
Are the jewels, precious jewels,  
His loved and His own.  
Like the stars of the morning,  
His bright crown adorning,  
They shall shine in their beauty,  
Bright gems for His crown.

## April 8

"And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp." Exod. 32:17.

Joshua thought there was a noise of war in camp, but Moses did not agree with him this time. What Joshua thought was a shout of victory, was a noise of defeat to Moses. The two men were coming down the mountain side. Both heard the noise, but it did not sound the same to them. Moses heard the noise and became very angry. He lifted the two tables of stone he was carrying, and smashed them against the mountain.

What do you hear today? What is it? The terrible bombing of cities; the cries of the wounded and dying; the music from the dance halls and the theatres, are they shouts of victory or defeat?

"Listen, did you hear that?" said a man to his friend on a busy street.

"Hear what?" the other man answered.

"Oh, I'll show you!" And he lifted a rock where they saw an insect which was making the noise. That man had an ear for such a noise. The other man had no such ear.

How is it with you? Do you hear the still small voice of God, the voice of victory; or do you just hear all these cries, the cries of the world, the cries of death and defeat?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to understand what we hear, and may we know what the noises are. My heart shall rejoice when I hear the shouts of victory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When we all get to heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be.  
When we all see Jesus,  
We'll sing and shout the victory.

## April 9

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Matt. 11:29.

Our Lord Jesus who is meek and lowly asks us to learn of Him. And then, we will find rest for our souls. When He is so meek and lowly it is hard for us to understand why people will not come to Him. Many people are afraid to come to Him. Some people will not even go to church because the sermons trouble them. By His Word He shows them their sinful hearts. And they do not like to be shown that their hearts are sinful.

A man once wanted to join a church. He said, "I had not made up my mind to join when I came to the meeting tonight. But while the minister was talking I wanted to join. I have been like the man who bought a ticket to Chicago, and then rode on the platform of the train instead of going inside and taking a seat."

He was right, the man could have gone inside and had a seat, maybe eaten dinner in the dining car, and had someone to talk to. Just so, people who come to Jesus will have a place to rest, they will have His bread to eat, and they will have Him for company. Do you know Jesus? And have you rest for your soul?

Dear Lord Jesus, as we come today, let us learn of Thee how to be meek and lowly in heart. We thank Thee for the rest in our souls. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I need Jesus, I need a friend like Him,  
A friend to guide when paths of life are dim;  
I need Jesus, when foes my soul assail;  
Alone I know I can but fail,  
So I need Jesus.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## April 10

"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." John 7:37.

Have you ever been real thirsty? How good water tastes to a thirsty person! Jesus gives us the Water of Life, but there are so few who are, or seem to be, thirsty for the Water of Life. All who ever drink of the Water of Life are eager that others shall drink, too.

When travelers in the deserts in the Far East have no water to drink, the plan is for all the members of the party to spread out, each one as far from the others as his voice will carry. When one of the party finds water he cries: "Water! Water!" at the top of his voice to the men on each side of him, and they in turn do the same to those that are next to them, and so on.

What would you think of a man who found a cool rippling stream of water, drank his fill, and then went on his way, allowing his fellow-travelers to die of thirst? What are you doing? Are you drinking at the Water of Life, the Lord Jesus? And are you letting the Water of Life flow out from you to all others who are perishing from thirst?

Dear Lord Jesus, make us a well-spring of life springing up unto eternal life. We thank Thee that Thou art our Water of Life and because we have come to Thee to drink we will never thirst. In Jesus' name. Amen.

As after the waterbrooks panteth  
The hart, when it sinks in the chase,  
So thirsteth my soul, as it fainteth,  
For Thee, O my God, and Thy grace;  
For Thou art the fount ever living,  
Who unto the thirsty art giving  
The water of life that I need.

## April 11

"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."  
Matt. 11:25.

Marvelous is our God! He made the Gospel so plain that even the children can understand the way of salvation. Yet, to some of our wisest men the Gospel is so difficult that they cannot understand it.

In the Southern States, in the days of slavery, there was a Negro slave, who was called a preacher. This slave had an unbelieving master who thought he would test his slave. One day the master asked the slave, "Are you a preacher, Sam?"

"Well," said Sam, "I tells about Jesus some, Massa."

"If you are a preacher, you ought to understand the Bible. Now tell me what does this mean," and he opened the Bible and read—"And whom he did foreknow, them he did predestinate."

"Massa, where is that found?" asked the slave.

"It's in Romans," said the master.

"Oh, dear Massa! I will explain this ole business to you. It is very simple. You begin with Matthew and do all the dear Lord tells you to do there; and then you go on to Mark, and Luke, and John, and when you get to Romans it is easy enough, *but you can't begin there.*"

Dear Lord, let the Gospel become plain to us for our soul's salvation. We thank Thee Lord, that the way of salvation is so simple that even a child can understand it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord Jesus, be our constant Guide,  
And when the word is given,  
Bid the cold waves of death divide,  
And land us all in heaven.



## April 12

"I must work the works of him that sent me; while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work." John 9:4.

The most important work of all is God's work, That work *must* be done. God gives us a day in which we may work. Are you busy at God's work today?

In Minneapolis, Minnesota, there used to be a man by the name of Elbert W. Gilles. To many thousands he was known merely as an old man who delivered blotters. He tramped 100,000 miles during his lifetime distributing nearly 12,000,000 religious leaflets and blotters. Mr. Gilles not only gave his life, but also every cent of his income, except for just his living expenses, to his volunteer work of being a missionary and friend. Many times he said,

"I will carry on the work of the Lord until I drop dead."

He did just that! After he had died the newspapers stated that:

"Last night Mr. Gilles died after devoting nearly a half century of his life as a volunteer missionary." He carried on the work of the Lord until he dropped dead.

Are you doing what you can unto the Lord. Be it much or little, let us all do the work that we can do, and while it is yet day. "The night cometh when no man can work."

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to see the work Thou wouldst have us do. Help us to do Thy work willingly and gladly until our day is done. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Work, for the night is coming,  
Work thro' the sunny noon;  
Fill brightest hours with labor,  
Rest comes sure and soon.  
Give every flying minute  
Something to keep in store;  
Work, for the night is coming,  
When man works no more.

## April 13

"And they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13.

When you are with Jesus a great deal, something happens. Maybe you do not notice it yourself, but you can be sure that others do. It was so with the early disciples of Jesus. People could see that they had been with Jesus. Can people tell by looking at you that you have been with Jesus?

A faithful Sunday school teacher stood before his class. His example and character had made an impression on his class of boys, but the teacher did not know that the boys worshipped him as a hero. The teacher was telling the boys of the happy reunion of Christians in heaven. He asked a question, but the answer he received was not what he expected. This is what he asked,

"What would you think if you would all meet in heaven, but you would not find your teacher there?"

"We would know that you had not died, yet." They all answered.

These boys were so sure that their teacher would be in heaven from what they knew of him here in this world, that they could not imagine a heaven without him.

Oh, Lord Jesus, we want to spend more time with Thee than we have done. Help us to live Christ every day so that people may know that we have been with Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

More like the Master I would ever be,  
More of His meekness, more humility;  
More zeal to labor, more courage to be true,  
More consecration for work He bids me do.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## April 14

**"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love."  
Rom. 12:10.**

Carl had many books, but he did not want Eric to use any of them.

"They are mine, and I'm not going to let him read them," he said to himself.

The next day in school Carl broke his pencil. Eric leaned over and laid a pointed pencil in front of him. At recess Eric pulled a big red apple from his pocket, and breaking it in two he handed Carl half of it. Carl began to feel ashamed of himself.

"I—I guess I don't want it," he said.

"Oh, but I want you to have it!" cried Eric. "It is more fun when you share things."

When Carl reached home that afternoon he went upstairs to his room, and grabbing an armful of books he ran over to Eric's house.

"Want to read these?" he asked.

"I certainly do," answered Eric gladly, and added, "Help yourself to any of mine that you want to read, Carl."

Carl now felt very happy. He knew that Eric had been right when he said that happiness came from sharing things, the things that God has given us.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love. As Jesus loves us, so we should love and care for one another.

Lord Jesus, teach us the lesson of living for others. We thank Thee, Lord, for living and dying for us so that our lives can be spent in Thy service. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Then help us, Lord, Thy yoke to wear,  
And joy to do Thy will,  
Each other's burdens gladly bear,  
And love's sweet law fulfill.

## April 15

"And with my song will I praise him." Ps. 28:7.

Singing is a wonderful way in which to praise the Lord. We often sing:

"O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise!"

Why beg for a thousand tongues when we do not use the one God gave us? But oh, how blessed is the power of song!

The wounded were being borne from the field of Shiloh. A fatally wounded captain speaking of his sufferings during the preceding night, said, "I could not help singing that beautiful hymn, 'When I can read my title clear.' There was a Christian brother in the brush near me. I could not see him but I could hear him. He took up the strain, and beyond him another. All over the terrible battle field of Shiloh the echo was resounding, and we made the field of battle ring with hymns of praise to God."

This story is taken from a book called, "Life of General Grant." It tells the story of the power of song. We may praise our God in song. Let us think of that the next time we sing. God is eager to hear our praise.

Dear Lord Jesus, we would tune our hearts today and praise Thee with our song. "Let all that is within me, praise Thy holy name." For Jesus' sake. Amen.

When I can read my title clear To mansions in the skies,  
I'll bid farewell to every fear, And wipe my weeping eyes.  
I'll bid farewell to every fear, And wipe my weeping eyes.

## April 16

"And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off." Mark 9:43.

When we let sin come into our lives, there are many things that Christians do that they should not do. There are many things that they do that they do not want to do. Old sins come back to tempt us. Jesus said that if your hand, for example, should offend you, it would be better to cut it off than to let your hand lead your whole body into hell.

One day a man was selling Bibles who had one short finger on one hand. What had happened? Upon being asked about it he said that he had been a leader in a gang of gamblers. He was very skillful in playing tricks. In these tricks this third finger played an important part. So, when he became a Christian, in order that he might not be tempted to go back into his old life, he had this finger cut off. And he cut it off himself with his short sword. He cut it off at the middle joint. Then when his former companions asked him about his finger he could tell them about Jesus, and why he had cut it off. He did not want to sin again, and that would always remind him of his former sin.

Sin is powerful! We need to be on our guard against it. Live near Jesus in prayer and do not yield to sin.

Dear Jesus, we need Thy presence every moment of the day so that sin shall have no dominion over us. May we shun all that is sinful and flee to Thee our Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

To him that o'ercometh,  
God giveth a crown;  
Thro' faith we will conquer,  
Tho' often cast down;  
He who is our Saviour,  
Our strength will renew;  
Look ever to Jesus,  
He'll carry you through.

## April 17

"Let your light so shine before men." Matt. 5:16.

A Christian's light should shine and be so bright that people can see it, and be helped by it.

One night there was a terrible snowstorm sweeping over the prairie. A man had gone to town and was now trying to find his way home. His wife at home had placed a lamp in the window, when it began to get dark, so that her husband would be able to find the house. The hours went by—ten, eleven, and then midnight, and her husband had not come. The wife was sure that her husband had decided to stay in town so she put out the light and went to bed.

Far out on the prairie a man was guiding his weary team of horses towards a light he saw in a window. "Thank God," he said to himself, "for Bessie's light!" And then as he looked up again, he saw the light go out. For hours and hours he fought his way through the storm. Finally he came to a fence and used that as a guide to get to his house. The first words he said to his wife were,

"Bessie, you must never put out your light as long as there is a possibility of any man being lost out on the prairie!"

Is your light shining so that people can find their way home to God?

Do not put your light out now; it is too dark in the world!

Dear Lord Jesus, Thou art the Light of the world. Shine through us, Lord, that we may give light to someone who needs to come home to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;  
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;  
Once I was blind, but now I can see;  
The Light of the world is Jesus.

## April 18

"And the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." Rom. 5:15.

A Sunday school teacher wished to show his class how free is the gift of God. He took his silver watch from his pocket, and offered it to the oldest boy in the class.

"It is yours, if you will take it," the teacher said. But the boy just sat and grinned at the teacher. He thought he was fooling. The teacher offered it to the next boy and said,

"Take the watch. It is yours." The little fellow thought he would be laughed at if he held out his hand. He sat still and did nothing. In the same manner the teacher went around the class. No one would accept the gift. Finally, he came to the smallest boy in the class. When he was offered the watch, he took it and put it in his pocket. The class laughed at him.

"I am thankful, my boy," said the teacher, "that you believe my word. The watch is yours. Take good care of it. Wind it every night." The rest of the class looked surprised. Then one of them asked,

"Teacher, you don't mean that the watch is his? You don't mean that he does not have to give it back?"

"He does not have to give it back. The watch is his," the teacher replied.

"Oh-h! If I had only known that, I would have taken it!"

Just so God holds out His gift, the Lord Jesus Christ, to sinners, but sad to say, too many people do not believe Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the greatest gift of all, the Lord Jesus Christ. Give us grace to accept Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## April 19

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."  
Josh. 24:15.

That great general Joshua, had made up his mind that no matter what others did, he and his house would serve the Lord. Do not wait for others to come with you, but serve the Lord even though you have to serve alone.

In the home of a Christian farmer hung a motto which read: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The motto meant something in that house, for the farmer prayed daily that all might serve the Lord.

The motto fitted all in the home except the oldest son, Henry, who refused to accept Christ as his Saviour. One day the father and son were alone in the room where the motto was hanging. The father said, "My dear Henry, I can not and will not be a liar any longer. You, who belong to my house, do not want to serve the Lord. Therefore I must add the words, 'except Henry' to the motto. This made Henry feel bad, and that day he gave himself to the Lord.

How is it in your home? Are you all serving the Lord?

Dear Lord Jesus, we are happy to be Thy servants. We want our whole house to serve Thee, too. Search our hearts and lead us to repentance and faith, In Jesus' name. Amen.

The service of Jesus true pleasure affords,  
In Him there is joy without an alloy;  
'Tis heaven to trust Him and rest on His words;  
It pays to serve Jesus each day.

Verse by permission, Standard Publ. Co.



## April 20

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." II Cor. 6:17.

All through God's Word we are told that as His children we are to live separate from the world. And all through the Bible we read how Satan in various ways tried to get God's children to mix with the world. He does the same with Christians today. Many people live lives so mixed with the world that it is hard to see that they are Christians.

A farmer once went to town with two barrels, in one was cottage cheese, and in the other was sauerkraut. He sold the cheese and the sauerkraut to the people right from these two barrels. He dipped the contents out with a big ladle, but he used the same ladle for both barrels. He was not very careful to empty them, either, as he dipped from one to the other. At first those who bought got just what they ordered, but as he kept dipping and letting some of the cheese drip into the sauerkraut, and the sauerkraut drip into the cottage cheese, it became mixed so that those who bought last could not tell what they were getting.

Just so with Christians who mix with the world. They cannot remain God's children unless they come out of the world and live for Him.

The Lord is holy and wants a holy people. So he tells us to come out and be separate from the world.

Dear Lord Jesus, Help us to be willing to suffer outside the camp with Thee, and not take of the unclean things of this world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Take time to be holy,  
The world rushes on;  
Spend much time in secret  
With Jesus alone—

By looking to Jesus,  
Like Him thou shalt be:  
Thy friends in thy conduct  
His likeness shall see.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## April 21

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1.

There are many things we cannot do, but God is not asking us to do the impossible. He alone can do that. But God is asking us to present our bodies to Him. He wants us to do service for Him. He wants us to be obedient soldiers of the Cross.

One there were some men who went from their nation to counsel about war with the king of another nation. When they had sat with the king and told him of their demands, he answered the men by clapping his hands. A soldier came in with a sword. The king commanded the soldier to step forward and fall on his sword. The soldier did so at once and died. The king clapped again, and another soldier came. He was ordered to do the same thing, and that soldier complied with the order of his king. A third soldier was sent for, he was given the same command. He, too, obeyed his king, and gave his life. Then said the king to the men,

"Go home and tell your king that I have three thousand men like that!"

These men gave their lives for their earthly king, when he commanded them to do so. Dare we do less for Jesus, our King?

Dear Lord Jesus, we present our bodies to Thee. Use us as loyal soldiers as we fight on Thy side of the battle of life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

True-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful and loyal,  
King of our lives, by Thy grace we will be;  
Under the standard exalted and royal,  
Strong in Thy strength we will battle for Thee.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## April 22

"Refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul." Ps. 142:4.

The man of this Psalm complains that no one cared for his salvation. The man at the pool of Bethesda complained to Jesus and said: "I have no man when the water is troubled to help me into the pool."

A medical missionary said to his friends as he left for his field in Persia: "I am sorry for you, that you cannot all go to Persia."

He told of a young man with eye trouble who came to his office in the mission hospital soon after he had arrived on the field some years before. Nothing could be done to keep the young man from going blind. "You should have come sooner," said the doctor.

"Sooner?" the young man replied. "I have been here all the time!"

All these people around us who do not know Christ have been here all the time, too. Do you care for their souls, or do they have to complain and say: "No man cared for my soul?" Could you not bring someone to Sunday school, to church, or to the Lord personally?

Dear Lord, help us to care for souls. Lead us to some soul today, and help us to win that soul to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus  
Since I found in Him a Friend so strong and true:  
I would tell you how He changed my life completely,  
He did something that no other friend could do.  
No one ever cared for me like Jesus,  
There's no other friend so kind as He:  
No one else could take the sin and darkness from me,  
Oh, how much He cares for me!

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## April 23

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 18:10.

Little children are precious to God. They should be to us, too. It is a serious thing to lead one of them astray.

On his way to work in the morning a father was accustomed to stop at a saloon, and have a glass of beer. The snow had fallen during the night one night, and as he was on his way to work the next morning, his footsteps left tracks in the snow. When he got to the door of the saloon he stopped suddenly, for he thought he heard footsteps behind him. He looked back, and there was his little son trying to keep his feet in his father's snowsteps. The father watched his son for a few moments and then said;

"Say, sonny, where are you going?" All excited the little boy answered,

"I'se comin', I'se comin', I'se comin' in your steps!"

These words from his little son's lips made the father stop and think. Never should his son follow his dad into a saloon. From that day on the door of the saloon was never opened by that man. There are times when God uses children to work His wonders.

Dear Jesus, let us not be poor examples for the little children who believe and trust in Thee. Let us never be stumbling blocks for those who do not know Thee, but grant that we may lead some soul to God's house, and to Calvary. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May I be willing Lord to bear  
Daily my cross for Thee;  
Even Thy cup of grief to share,  
Thou hast borne all for me.

Lest I forget Gethsemane;  
Lest I forget Thine agony;  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.

Verse by permission, Hall-Mack Co.

## April 24

"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:21.

Some are rich in silver and gold, but are poor in Christ. Others are rich in Christ, but they have little of this world's goods. Those who are rich in Christ are to be praised, but those who are not are to be pitied. True riches are those we have in Christ.

Once a young man found a five dollar bill while walking on the street. From that time on he always walked with his eyes down hoping to find some more money. In the course of the years he gathered 29,516 buttons, 54,172 pins, twelve cents, a bent back and a bad disposition. He lost the glory of the sunlight, the sheen of the stars, the beauty of the tree-blossoms in spring, the sight of the blue sky, the smile of friends and the joy of living. But so it is with those who lay up treasures in this world and are not rich toward God.

Had he looked up to God he would have gathered treasures for heaven, he would have had the glory of God, stars in his crown, the friendship of the Lord, the beauty of His presence and the fullness of joy.

Dear Lord, make us wise as we choose our riches. Help us to lay up our treasures in heaven, and not work for the gain of this world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A tent or a cottage, why should I care  
They're building a palace for me over there!  
Tho' exiled from home, yet still I may sing:  
All glory to God, I'm a child of the King.

## April 25

"Honor thy father and thy mother." Exod. 20:12.

This is fast becoming a forgotten commandment. Children show little or no respect for their parents, for their teachers, for those who are in charge of them. As a result there is increased lawlessness and crime. But what blessed memories have those who have honored and respected their parents!

A doctor tells about when he was a boy. He came home one evening tired out from a long day at school and work after school. As soon as he arrived home his father asked if he would take a package to a friend about two miles away. The boy was tired, and he had wanted to go to singing class after his supper. When he came back later in the evening, he saw a group of people gathered around the house. His father had passed away while he was gone. Ever after the boy was glad that he had obeyed his father.

How important it is for us to obey our fathers and mothers; then we will have no regrets when they are gone!

Dear Lord Jesus, keep us obedient to our parents so we will not have to regret our conduct when they are gone. Bless the parents that they may lead their children to the Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O blest the parents who give heed  
Unto their children's foremost need,  
And weary not of care or cost:  
To them and heav'n shall none be lost.

## April 26

"The Lord of hosts . . . shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver." Mal. 3:3.

The Lord wants His children clean, and He will purge them of their sins. Purging is a process which no one enjoys, but we are to be conformed to Christ's image, and we will have to be purged. The tin and the dross in our lives hinder us from living for Jesus.

A blacksmith, who had been a Christian for eight years, was asked why he had so much trouble. The blacksmith's answer was,

"Do you see this piece of iron? It is the springs of a carriage. I have been tempering it for some time. To do this, I use a red-hot fire, I plunge the springs into the heat, then into a tub of ice-cold water. This I do many times. If I find that it will take temper, I heat it and hammer it unmercifully. In searching for the right piece of iron, I found several that were too brittle. I threw them onto the scrap pile. Those scraps are worth only a few cents, but the springs are valuable. God saves us for something more than a good time—for His service. We Christians have a good time, for God smiles down upon us from His place in heaven. But He wants us for His service, just as I want this piece of iron. Ever since I saw this truth, I have been saying to Him, 'Test me in any way you choose, Lord, only don't throw me on the scrap pile'."

Dear Lord Jesus, search us and try us to see what hinders us from being used of Thee. Purge away all the tin and the dross for Jesus' sake. Amen.

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;  
Lean, weary one, upon His breast, God will take care of you.  
God will take care of you, Thro' ev'ry day, O'er all the way;  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## April 27

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Rom. 5:6.

Christ died to save us. He died while we were ungodly. We did not love Him, but still He died for us. You see, Jesus loves us before we come to Him. He died for us!

On a ship there was a Christian young man who was often ridiculed by the ungodly men on the ship. One day a fire broke out near the steering apparatus of the ship. It was headed for shore and some one had to steer its course into shore, or they would all die. No one wanted to go into the pilot's house to steer the ship but John the Christian. When he disappeared into the smoke-filled room, someone cried,

"John, can you stand it?"

"With God's help," John answered. When the ship reached shore the men on the ship cried,

"John, are you there?" But there was no answer. On John's tomb they placed a stone on which his shipmates had inscribed the words,

"John died for us!"

Yes, Jesus died for us. He saved us so that we could have eternal life. We were not fit to stand before God, but Jesus died for us so that we could through His righteousness come to God.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us an understanding of what Thou hast done for our salvation. We thank Thee for dying in our place. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O Jesus, Thou art pleading  
In accents meek and low,  
"I died for you, my children,  
And will you treat me so?"  
O Lord, with shame and sorrow  
We open now the door;  
Dear Saviour, enter, enter,  
And leave us nevermore.



## April 28

"Is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee? Deut. 32:6.

We belong to God in two ways. He made us, and because we sinned, He bought us back with a great price. He sent Jesus to buy us with His own blood. Thus we can truly call Him our Father.

A boy who had the ability to make things made himself a toy boat. He took his boat to a stream of water to sail. But when he put the boat in water it floated away from him. He tried to get it back by throwing sticks at it, but he couldn't get it. Then he tried wading in the stream after it, but the stream got too deep so he had to let it go. His boat was lost. He had to go home without it.

A few days later he was much surprised to see a boat in a store window with a sign: "Boat For Sale. Price \$1.00." It was his own boat, he was sure of it. He went into the store and told the storekeeper that the boat was his. But the storekeeper only laughed at him.

The boy ran home and told his father about the boat in the store window. The kind father said,

"Here's a dollar; go buy the boat." When the boy had the boat in his hands, he hugged it and said joyfully,

"You are mine twice: I made you and I bought you!"

Some of us are like that boat. We try to get away from God. But He has bought us back with the precious blood of Jesus.

Dear Lord, again we thank Thee for making us Thine. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All my life was full of sin when Jesus found me,  
All my heart was full of misery and woe.  
Jesus placed His strong and loving arms around me,  
And He led me in the way I ought to go.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## April 29

"And be sure your sin will find you out." Num. 32:23.

Sin is like a detective or a policeman who keeps looking for you until he finds you. Then you are arrested, brought to jail and, finally brought before the judge. None of us like to have sin find us out.

A man, one day, went to the woods for some wood, but instead of taking his own wood he took the neighbor's. Nobody found it out, and for a long while he forgot all about it. Later on he became a seeking soul. He wanted to become a child of God. He struggled and he prayed; he cried and he read his Bible, but there was no peace. One day he decided to take a walk into the woods. Walking alongside the river, he noticed that the floating logs had jammed, and were piled up one on top of the other. He looked and found what was causing the jam, loosened the logs, and they went floating down the river.

This taught him a lesson. It brought back memory of what he had done some years before. He had stolen wood from his neighbor and had not confessed it. He hurried to his neighbor and confessed his sin, and he found peace with God.

Lord Jesus, our Saviour, if there is sin in our lives that we have not confessed, reveal it to us so we can have peace with Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow  
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;  
Sin stains are lost in its life-giving flow:  
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## April 30

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"  
Ps. 27:1.

It is hard to be in darkness, and not to know Jesus as our Saviour. When people are in darkness they imagine vain things, and they hope in vain.

One day a missionary in India came to a mother who had a pair of twins, a boy and a girl. The girl was born blind. The mother complained and imagined that her god was angry at her since the girl was blind. When the missionary came back later, he found only the mother and the little girl.

"Where is your beautiful boy?" the missionary asked.

"I have thrown him into the river to atone for my sins," answered the mother.

The Missionary was deeply grieved and asked,

"But since you offered one of your children, why didn't you offer the blind girl rather than your sweet boy?"

"No," said the mother, "had I taken the poorest, my god would have been more angry at me. If my god shall be satisfied, I must offer the best I have."

How sad! If this mother had known Jesus she could have kept her son. She threw her boy away in vain. The Lord is our light and our salvation. We do not fear, nor do we have foolish superstitions.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for Thy Gospel light. Help us to walk in that light. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

No need of the sunlight in heaven we're told;  
The light of the world is Jesus;  
The Lamb is the Light in the city of God,  
The Light of the world is Jesus.

## May 1

"I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore." Ps. 86:12.

Many of us praise God in time of prosperity, and many praise Him for His help in time of trouble, but it is not always with our whole hearts, and we do not always glorify His name. But only the praise that glorifies His name can God bless and prosper.

Bishop Heuch, of Norway, tells of his experience. He visited a sick man who was suffering severely. The man moaned, sighed and cried in his pain. He threw himself from one side of his bed to the other; it seemed that he could find no relief nor rest.

"Oh," said the pastor, "how sorry I feel for you. How you must suffer!"

The sick man looked up with a bright and a happy smile, and answered,

"Am I to preach the Christmas Gospel to the pastor to-night? I must tell you of my great joy: A Saviour is born for me. If you could lie here with my pains, you would feel what a joy it is to have a Saviour. Every pain is challenging me to praise God. Every moment brings me closer to my Lord. Who shall change my pain to joy and praise? Before, I had so many joys, so many dear ones! Now, I have only One. Glory be to God in the highest!"

Yes, dear ones are precious, but they cannot bear our pain. Only He who suffered can give us the strength to suffer, and then be able to praise Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, we, too, come to Thee in our troubles. Show us the way to praise and glorify Thee in all of our suffering. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Just when I need Him, He is my all,  
Answering when upon Him I call;  
Tenderly watching lest I fall,  
Just when I need Him most.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## May 2

"Likewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10.

Mrs. Chen, the Bible woman, and the missionary's wife were on their way to the street-chapel in a busy section of a large Chinese city. The tang of spring was in the air, the trees were blooming, and the vegetable gardens were teeming.

Mrs. Chen had to take short, slow steps on her tiny feet. When she was a child, her parents who knew no better, bound her feet as was the Chinese custom. Even though she later unbound them she could not walk properly. Her feet could not straighten because they had been bound too long when they were tender.

"How did you first hear of Jesus, our Saviour, Mrs. Chen?" asked the missionary's wife.

"Oh, it was one day, about six years ago, when the pastor preached in our village."

"What did you think when you heard about the one true God, and about Jesus the Saviour?"

"I thought," replied Mrs. Chen, "that if God was good, and kind, and could make people happier and better, I wanted to know Him and to follow Him."

"Are you happier now after you have become a follower of His?"

"Ai-yah, Mrs. I am living a new life!"

When Mrs. Chen became a follower there was great joy in heaven, for she had been a sinner, but was now a believer in Jesus Christ.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for new life in Thee. We thank Thee for the joy we have in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## May 3

"Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."  
Luke 15:6.

We will let Mrs. Chen of China talk today.

"You cannot imagine how terrible it was to live without God, and how unhappy I was! I thought there was no use living, and I was afraid to die. I was most wretched. How long will this life last, I wondered. There is no peace, no joy. Why not jump into a well and die, as so many women have done when they were unhappy? But, no! Oh, no! Who knows what would become of my soul?

"Then the missionary came. He told about the Heavenly Father and His great love, and about the new life we can live if we love and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. I listened and I wanted to hear more. The missionary asked my father to let me go to the mission school. My joy was boundless. This was like opening a door into a new world. As long as God will use me, I will tell the Gospel story to all the women whom I can reach. I know very well how unhappy many of them are. I know how they feel."

Oh, God, we thank Thee for bringing the Gospel to China, and to Mrs. Chen. Blessed Jesus, we pray that some lost sheep may, also, be found today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tell me the story of Jesus,  
Write on my heart every word;  
Tell me the story most precious,  
Sweetest that ever was heard.

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## May 4

"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."  
I John 1:7.

An engineer, when he was a young man, took his first glass of liquor. For ten years, there was not a week that he did not become intoxicated on Saturday night. During those years he never realized the hold that liquor was getting of him. At times he struggled in earnest against the desire for the alcoholic stimulants. His employers even offered him a thousand dollars if he would give it up for three months. He tried all kinds of antidotes for the craving, but he could gain no victory.

When his wife was dying he promised her that he would give it all up, but within two days he had broken that promise. He joined societies for the overcoming of the desire for liquor; he signed pledges, the liquor habit was still his master. His employers reasoned with him, they discharged him and then forgave him, but all to no avail. When he started a new job he did not expect to remain a week, but he kept his job a long time. When he was asked how he came to have victory over his drink habit he answered by taking his Bible and turning to it read,

"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

The blood of Jesus Christ was the cure, nothing else could release him from that terrible habit, and give him a new life.

Dear Lord, we thank Thee for the power to cleanse from sin. Wash us in Thy blood until we are made white as snow. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Nothing can for sin atone,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
Naught of good that I have done,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

## May 5

"Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." John 15:4.

Do you spend much time alone with God? If you would have much inner power as a Christian, you must listen when God speaks to you.

A man was once given a strange dream by God. He dreamed that he came to the door of the eternal home of God, and knocked. God asked, "Who art thou? I know thee not?"

"Can it be that Thou dost not know me?" he asked God.

"No," said God, "I know thee not." Surprised and trembling, the man repeated,

"Dear Lord, Thou must surely know me. I am the one who attended services every Sunday, was at the mission society every Monday, attended a Bible-hour every Tuesday, a religious club every Wednesday, a society for the welfare of children every Thursday, a society for the benefit of the poor every Friday, and a prayer meeting every Saturday. Surely, Thou knowest me."

"No," was the answer, "for every time I would speak to you, you would not listen to Me. It was well that you attended meetings, but you never attended to the most important matter. You never stopped long enough to confess your sins and accept Jesus as your personal Saviour."

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to spend time alone with Thee! May we meet the world in the power of the Holy Spirit! Lord, I want to abide in Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Alone with Thee, amid the mystic shadows,  
The solemn hush on nature newly born;  
Alone with Thee, in breathless adoration,  
In the calm dew and freshness of the morn



## May 6

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Mark 8:34.

Jesus does not force anyone to come to Him. If we will follow Jesus, we must deny ourselves, take up His Cross and follow Him. Jesus wants all of His children to be His disciples, but so many will not meet His conditions. Every Christian who does meet His conditions feels that it is a privilege and thanks God. But unbelievers cannot understand the way of the Cross. They have to accept Jesus as their Saviour and then they will be able to take up His cross and follow Him.

A church in Copenhagen, Denmark, has Torvoldsen's statue of Christ. Among the visitors to the church, there came, one day, a German pastor. As he entered the door, he could not observe anything unusual about the statue. A little girl who was standing nearby, came over to him and said,

"Sir, if you are going to see Him, you must get close, kneel down, and then look up into His face."

The pastor did this, and then he simply adored the beauty of His face.

He had gotten a new vision of his Lord; he was now more willing to take up the Lord's Cross, and to follow Him more closely.

We thank Thee, dear Lord Jesus, that we may come the way of the Cross to Thee. We thank Thee we have the privilege of serving Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I must needs go home by the way of the cross,  
There's no other way but this;  
I shall ne'er get sight of the gates of light,  
If the way of the cross I miss.  
It is sweet to know, as I onward go,  
The way of the cross leads home.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## May 7

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Matt. 6:13

Satan with his wiles is like a poisonous serpent. His plan is to give his poison to all of us so that God and His plan for redeeming sinners will be hindered. And also that the Christians will not be able to do the work that God has given to do. But we have One who stands between us and Satan. When Satan comes to tempt us, we should look to Jesus who can free us from his poison and his wiles.

A farmer saw a rat running on the ground, and stopping. When the farmer went closer to see what was holding the rat from going on, he saw a serpent holding the rat spellbound by its eyes. The rat squealed in fear, but nevertheless it crept closer and closer to the snake. It was utterly helpless under the spell of the serpent. As it came closer the snake opened its mouth and swallowed the rat.

Another time the farmer saw another animal caught in the same way, under the spell of a serpent. The farmer took a leaf from a tree, put it on a stick, and held it between the snake and the animal. Immediately the animal was released and ran away.

Satan would hold sinners and keep them away from Jesus, but He holds out His hand to them and saves them by His blood. Satan also tempts Christians so they cannot be of any use in God's vineyard, but when Satan would accuse us and hinder us Jesus stands between Satan and us, and we are free.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us in our hour of temptation. Deliver us from the wiles of Satan. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

## May 8

"I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3.

We who love the Lord Jesus shall be with Him in glory. Jesus went home to set The House in order for us. Now He calls us one by one in death, but one day He shall take all the rest who love Him at once. That will be a great day.

A mother told a story of her little boy who had been in church. The choir sang, "When the roll is called up Yonder, I'll be there." The boy asked his mother what a roll call was. His mother said it was like a teacher calling the names of her pupils to see that all were in school. The little boy said that if God should call out his name in Heaven, he would say, "Yes."

That day the little boy was taken ill. He was unconscious for a long time. Suddenly he called out, "Here!"

When his mother saw that his spirit had flown, she realized that he had answered to his name in Heaven.

Oh, God, grant that our names, too, may be called from the book in Heaven and that we may answer, "Here." We thank Thee, Lord, for the hope of an eternal mansion. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,  
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;  
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## May 9

"And beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord save me."  
Matt. 14:30.

There is a great need in the world today. People are sinking in the clay of sin. They need help, but there are few who are willing to help them. Few people want to leave their easy chairs, their amusements, their businesses, or their incomes to save the lost. They have no time to rescue a brother in sin, no time to rescue a fallen sister, no time to dry a tear of sorrow, grief or pain.

One day a steamer was going full speed ahead on the ocean. The captain stood near the pilot's helm with his binoculars. He was looking over the ocean, and saw some signal. The captain saw a man drifting along on a piece of wreckage. To save that man the ship would have to change its course. To the captain that would mean a waste of time.

"No," said the captain, "let another ship rescue that man."

The ship rushed along and reached the harbor in record time. The captain was praised for having made the trip in such a short time. But the captain could not forget the man that he had refused to save. Let us not be like that captain, but let us heed the call of those in need.

Let us all tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save. He stands ready and willing to accept all that call upon Him.

Dear Lord, let us not be so slow to heed the call so that those who are calling will be lost. Help us to throw out the life-line. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Throw out the life-line to danger fraught men,  
Sinking in anguish where you've never been:  
Winds of temptation and billows of woe  
Will soon hurl them out where the dark waters flow.

## May 10

"Be still, and know that I am God." Ps. 46:10.

God is mighty and powerful. Let us be still, and know that He is God. When God was to show Himself to Elijah, He let a storm, an earthquake, and a fire come first, but we are told that God was not in these. Then came a still, small voice, and God was there. In other words, be quiet and experience God's presence.

A ship was plying its way through the ocean waves. Suddenly the motor stopped. Several of the passengers asked what the trouble was. The captain explained,

"We are out of our course, and must lie at anchor until we hear some signal that will direct us on our course."

There soon came a sound. The captain recognized it as the foghorn from the lighthouse. He hurriedly gave the order for the motors to be put back into operation. He now knew where they were. The ship started on its course and was soon safe in harbor.

When we are in trouble, or perplexed about some problem, we should sit still until we hear what God has to tell us. Listen until we can hear Him direct us as to what to do. Then we will know that it is of God, and all will be well.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be still before Thee, quiet our restlessness. Help us to listen to Thee, and send us on our way rejoicing. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessed quietness, holy quietness,  
What assurance in my soul!  
On the stormy sea,  
He speaks peace to me,  
How the billows cease to roll!

## May 11

"For in time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion." Ps. 27:5.

In this world we shall have trouble, so the Lord told His followers. Most of the Christians learn to know Him best in time of trouble. But He does not leave us in our trouble. He hides us in Him; He holds us fast so that we will not fall, or be a stumbling block to those who are weaker in the faith than we are.

Long ago, in the year 325 A. D., there was a meeting of the Christians in a place called Nicea. About five hundred people were at this meeting. Of these about two hundred could walk on only one leg. They had been forced up against a stone wall where their enemies had broken the bones in one leg. The enemies thought this would make them turn from the Lord, but these Christians would rather go on one leg than to give up their Lord. They were men of the Cross of Christ, and they went on in obedience for Him. Christ was their strength, and their hiding place.

A mother who lived in one room with her many children, had no privacy for prayer. But that did not stop her from praying. She taught her children that, when they saw her with her apron over her head they would know that she was at prayer. They were quiet when they saw her in this attitude. Prayer was this mother's pavilion.

Do you know the Lord as your personal Saviour, so you can go to Him in trouble. If you do, He will hide you in His pavilion.

Dear Lord, we want Thee to be our hiding place. We want to know that we will be abiding under the shadow of the Almighty when our days on earth are over. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## May 12

**"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Matt. 19:19.**

Sometimes when we do not like a certain person, it may not be that person's fault, but our own. If we love our neighbor, maybe he will love us. It is worth trying.

A boy had his home in the woods. One day he thought he heard the voice of another boy not far away. He shouted, "Hello, there!"

A voice shouted back, "Hello there!"

The boy did not know that it was the echo of his own voice that had answered him, so he shouted again, "You are a mean boy!"

Again the cry came back, "You are a mean boy!"

The boy ran home and told his mother that there was a bad boy in the woods. His mother, who understood how it was, said to him, "You speak kindly to him, and see if he does not speak kindly to you."

The boy went to the woods again and shouted, "Hello, there! Hello there! You are a good boy."

The answer came back, "You are a good boy."

Then he said, "I love you."

The other voice said, "I love you."

Try kindness to your neighbor the next time you meet him and see what return you have.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us love in our hearts for people so that we love others as ourselves. We thank Thee, Lord, for loving us first. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Love divine, all love excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.

## May 13

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house." Exod. 20:17.

Ahab and Jezebel, in the Old Testament, coveted Naboth's vineyard. Zacheus, in the New Testament, wanted the other people's money. But after he accepted Jesus, and became a new man, he saw the sinfulness of wanting what belonged to other people.

Three hundred years ago there were some Cornish folk who made a great profit from wrecks of the ships. The ships drifted ashore in storms, and some were wrecked on the rocks as they were lured there by false lights. When the government at that time, put a lighthouse on Lizard Point, the people protested. The whole neighborhood was up in arms.

They declared that it would take away God's grace from them, meaning that they would receive no more benefit from shipwrecks. They had been so long reaping profit from shipwrecks that they claimed it as their right.

The Lord warns against wanting our neighbor's goods. It brings us into much trouble, and takes away our love for Jesus.

Dear Lord Jesus, keep us from coveting that which is not for us. Help us to rejoice in the good things that others can afford and we cannot. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Naught have I gotten but what I received;  
Grace hath bestowed it since I have believed;  
Boasting excluded pride I abase;  
I'm only a sinner saved by grace!

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## May 14

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."  
Mark. 11:22.

Faith is like an arm with which to reach out for God. The more we dare to reach out to God, the more God will bless us.

Two men came walking up to the garden gate one evening as two children passed them. One man said to the other, "Watch the difference in these two boys."

He took one of the boys in his arms, and stood him on the gatepost. Then the man stepped back a few feet, folded his arms, and told the little fellow to jump. In an instant the boy sprang toward him and was caught in his arms. Then turning to the second boy, the man tried the same experiment. But in the second case the result was different. The child trembled and refused to move. At last the man had to lift the boy down from the post and let him go.

"What makes such a difference in the two?" asked this man's companion.

The man smiled and said, "The first is my own boy and he knows me. The other is a stranger's child whom I have never seen before."

By faith we learn that God is able and willing to help us.

Oh, God, let us trust Thee more than we have ever done. We want to reach out and trust Thee in life and in death. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Trusting Him while life shall last,  
Trusting Him till earth be past;  
Till within the jasper wall:  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Trusting as the moments fly,  
Trusting as the days go by;  
Trusting Him whate'er befall,  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

## May 15

"Lord, how long wilt thou look on? Rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions." Ps. 35:17.

Jesus is the only One who can rescue us and save us. He uses Christians as instruments to win others to Him.

There is a legend that tells of a monk who wished to get close to God. He climbed up into the church tower. For days he waited there, listening for God's voice. Then, one day he heard it. But it sounded faint and far away.

"Where art Thou, Lord?" he cried.

"Down here among the people," came the answer from the pavement below.

Why, of course! You will meet God where there are souls to be rescued. Have you been saved? If you have, you want to rescue others who are about to perish without Christ.

Lord Jesus, there are so many to be rescued. Use us to win souls. Warm our hearts until we love all the unsaved. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Rescue the perishing, Duty demands it;  
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;  
Back to the narrow way, patiently win them;  
Tell the poor wanderer a Saviour has died.  
Rescue the perishing, care for the dying;  
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

## May 16

**"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom." Luke 6:38.**

Sometimes one may think that money given to the Lord's cause is lost. Many people think so because they do not understand God's Word: "Give, and it shall be given unto you!" It holds true both ways so that we can also say, "Don't give, and nothing will be given to you."

A seventeen-year-old boy brought an envelope with forty-seven dollars in it to the treasurer of his church, one Sunday morning.

"Here is the money for my church pledge," said the youth.

Thanking the donor, the treasurer asked why he had paid his pledge in advance, and commended him, also, on the amount of the donation.

"My salary is nine dollars a week," said the youth, "and I have decided to give ten per cent of my wages to the Lord during the year. I am paying it in advance because no one knows what may happen to me, and I want to be sure that it is paid."

This young man was putting first things first. He was paying his dues to God first. God would honor his promise when He says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you."

Dear Lord, make us willing to give Thee first. Help us to believe Thy promise that Thou wilt give us more in return. Help us to see that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." In Jesus' name. Amen.

## May 17

"Him they understood not." Acts 7:25.

When Moses brought the children out of Egypt, and when they had to go through trials, they murmured against Moses. They understood not.

Not understood we move asunder  
Our paths grow wider as the seasons creep along the years.  
We marvel and we wonder why life is life,  
And then we fall asleep—not understood.

One day a woman was seen on the streets carrying a boy who was much too heavy for her. People who passed them made many unkind remarks about the boy being lazy. The boy heard the remarks and was deeply grieved. He did not want his mother to have to carry him. But he had a withered leg and could not walk. People did not understand.

Not understood! How many hearts are aching  
For lack of sympathy? Ah, day by day.  
How many cheerless lonely hearts are breaking.  
How many noble spirits pass away—not understood!

But Jesus was not understood. How can we expect to be understood!

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to understand others and not criticize them. Help us to understand Thee, and Thy sacrifice for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Not now, but in the coming years,  
It may be in a better land,  
We'll read the meaning of our tears,  
And there, some time, we'll understand.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## May 18

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

The Gospel is for all people. The Gospel of Christ alone can save a sinner from eternal death. The Gospel must be told at any cost.

Doctor Duff, broken in health, came back to England after spending twenty-five years in India as a missionary. While he was speaking at a great meeting, he fainted. When he became conscious, he begged his friends to carry him back, so he could finish his speech. They told him that he might die.

He said, "I will do it if I die."

When he was carried into the hall, the audience arose at the sight of the white-haired missionary. Many cried.

This is what he said, "Has Scotland no more sons to give to the service of the Lord Jesus in India? Then, although I have lost my health in that land and come home to die, I will be off tomorrow to let them know that there is one old Scotchman who is ready to die for them. I will go back to the shores of the Ganges, and there lay down my life as a witness for the Son of God."

Let us be ready to go and serve Jesus when God calls us.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the Gospel. Help us to bring the Good News as far as possible. May all people hear it, and be saved. We pray this in Jesus' name.

Go and tell unto all the gospel story,  
They wait for the light of His word;  
They wait for the Messenger of glory,  
Of whom they as yet have not heard.

O who will tell the story old,  
The story of redemption ever new?

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## May 19

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain."  
Exod. 20:7.

What a terrible thing it is to take God's name in vain. This sin is being committed by old people and even by children. Older people are not careful of the example they set before small children. Children like to do what they see and hear older people do. It makes them think they are big.

One day while a father was shaving he cut his face. His little daughter who was playing near by heard him use the Lord's name in vain. She asked him why he called upon Jesus. But her father could not tell her. She kept on asking until he realized he had committed a sin. He felt very bad about it, and asked Jesus to come into his heart, and save him. Children talk about Jesus openly, and they make the older people ashamed of the way they talk and act.

Children praise God more freely than do older people. They sing songs about Jesus, their Saviour. And by their speaking and praising God they bring conviction to older folk who are careless in their speaking and their actions.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to talk of Thy wondrous love and grace to all people. Help us never to take Thy name in vain, but only to praise Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O for a heart to praise my God,  
A heart from sin set free,  
A heart that always feels Thy blood,  
So freely shed for me!

## May 20

"And while they are yet speaking, I will hear." Isa. 65:24.

The children of God are blessed. He is mindful of their every need. In their suffering He stands by to help them bear it; in their distress He stands ready to relieve them. Often people try to carry these burdens and difficulties alone. But God's Word tells us to call upon our Refuge and our Strength who is the Lord Jesus Christ, and while we are speaking to Him, He will hear us, and come to our aid. When we try to carry our burdens we fail, but when our Helper carries them for us we have victory, for He has all power in heaven and in earth.

It was winter time. A widow was heavy of heart, for she had no food for her children. In her need she went to the Lord whom she knew as her Saviour. After the mother had prayed, her seven-year-old son asked,

"Does not the Bible tell us that God sent the ravens to feed Elijah? Don't you think God has some ravens to bring us food, Mother? Don't you think we had better open the door so the ravens can get in?"

Just then the pastor of their church went by; he noticed that the door of their house was open. He stopped and asked why the door was standing open on such a cold night. They told him their story and he said that he and his wife were glad to know that they could be of help to them. He gave them enough for their immediate needs.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us in our difficulties. Help us to have faith to believe that Thou wilt hear us when we call upon Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

If our love were but more simple,  
We should take Him at His Word,  
And our lives would all be sunshine  
In the sweetness of our Lord.

## May 21

"Let my mouth be filled with thy praise." Ps. 71:8.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

The Lord is worthy to be praised. He is worthy of all the praise that we can give Him. He rejoices in our praise of Him. A true Christian desires to praise the Lord.

Those who have not a deep love for the Lord do not like to hear people praise God. They cannot understand such joy in the Lord.

Some years ago a man was converted, and he felt that he wanted to praise God all the time. He praised him for everything. He praised Him when he was walking; he praised Him when he was talking. He was continually saying, "Praise the Lord."

One night this man came to a church service. He had his hand bandaged. He had cut his finger badly. There were those that thought, "Now he will have to be silent, he won't have anything to praise God for." But that is not what the man thought. Near the end of the meeting he asked to speak.

"I have cut my finger, but praise God, I didn't cut it off." He still had something to praise God for.

When things go wrong, let us remember that they could have been worse. Let our mouths be filled with praise unto God!

Dear Lord Jesus, give us thankful hearts, and mouths that will praise Thee. Keep us praising Thee as long as life lasts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!



## May 22

"If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."  
1 John 2:15.

Anything wrong or sinful is of the world. Sin is anything that is contrary to the will of God. If one loves anything that is not pleasing to God, that is sin. People who do not know God are worldly; they are of the world. Only those who know God's Word, and are living a true prayer-life, will know what is God's will.

A mother wanted her son to go to dancing school because he was so awkward. She wanted him to acquire more grace with his feet. The son went to dancing school for six weeks, but he did not improve very much. His mother became impatient with him, and scolded him.

"I'm sorry, mother," the boy answered his mother when she reprimanded him, "I'm so stupid about it. But I can't seem to do any better. You see, it is something that I cannot pray about."

Dancing is one of the worst evils of the world. A true, sincere, happy, soul-winning Christian does not defend dancing. When anyone defends worldly things they are of the world, and the love of the Father is not in them. A Christian cannot love the things of the world and the Father at the same time.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us such a love for Thee that we will shun all worldly pleasure. We thank Thee for God's love in Jesus' name. Amen.

I take, O cross, thy shadow  
For my abiding place:  
I ask no other sunshine than  
The sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by,  
To know no gain or loss;  
My sinful self my only shame,  
My glory all, the cross.

## May 23

"And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking."  
Mark 8:24.

When Jesus healed the man of the text, he did not give him complete sight at first. When the man first was able to see, things were not clear to him. He could not distinguish things as they were but as they seemed to be. But after Jesus dealt with him further he could see things clearly. Christians are the same; they cannot always discern things as they should.

One day a rich man who was of a miserly disposition, visited a rabbi who took him by the hand and led him to a window.

"Look out there," the rabbi said. "What do you see?" The man looked out into the street.

"I see men, women and children," answered the rich man. Again the rabbi took him by the hand. This time he led him to a mirror.

"What do you see now?" asked the rabbi.

"I see myself," the rich man replied.

"Behold in the window is a glass, and in the mirror there is a glass. The glass in the mirror is covered with a little silver. When the silver is added you cease to see others, but only yourself."

We cannot see Jesus as we ought to when we have anything that darkens our vision. We need to remove all things that hinder us from seeing Him and His will clearly for us.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to see others as Thou sees them. Help us to live for others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Help me the slow of heart to move  
By some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
And guide them in the homeward way.

## May 24

"Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." Matt. 6:10.

God wants us to be willing to leave all things to Him, and to trust Him even in those things that we cannot understand. We pray, "Thy will be done," but when God has His way with us we complain and sometimes we rebel. We do not always like His way.

A happy, loving Christian couple had a little boy. Everything was going well with the little family until God took the provider, the husband and father, home to Himself. After the father was gone the mother lavished all her love on the little boy. One day the boy took sick. The mother began to worry. She sent for the doctor. The doctor examined the boy, and looked doubtful. He had to visit another patient, but said he would return.

While the doctor was gone, the mother knelt and pleaded for the boy's recovery. She did not say, "Thy will be done." The doctor was surprised when the boy took a turn for the better, and was soon well again.

But the mother was not happy. What if her boy should live to be a drunkard or a thief! After a long struggle she again knelt by the bedside of her boy, one evening and prayed, "Now, Thy will be done." The boy died the next morning, but the mother did not complain. She was assured that the Lord had saved her son.

Dear Lord, let Thy will be done in our lives to Thy glory now and for ever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

My Jesus as Thou wilt! O May Thy will be mine;  
Into Thy hand of love I would my all resign  
Through sorrow, or through joy, conduct me as Thine own,  
And help me still to say, O Lord, Thy will be done.

## May 25

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

I Pet. 5:8.

The devil has great and terrible power in the world. He goes about seeking whom he can destroy. He wants Christians to doubt God and His goodness to them. He wants Christians to deny their Lord in their lives. He wants to keep Christians from telling others about Jesus. And he wants sinners to be so hard that they will not let Jesus into their hearts.

There was a drunkard who once had a strange dream about three cats. One of the cats was well-fed; the other was starved and poor, and the third one was blind. When he had told his family about his dream, his little son said,

"I know the meaning of your dream, Daddy. The man at the saloon who sells you the liquor is the well-fed cat; the starved, poor cat is mother; and you are the blind cat." The father thought about the explanation that his little boy gave him of his dream, and he never forgot it.

Listen to the Word of God! It will give you strength to resist the devil. It will give you a new life in Christ Jesus. Be on your guard against Satan and all his ways of leading you into sin.

Dear Lord Jesus, keep our hearts and lives safe against the power of Satan. Free those that are in his power. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Come, every soul by sin oppressed,  
There's mercy with the Lord,  
And He will surely give you rest  
By trusting in His word.

## May 26

"For the joy of the Lord is your strength." Neh. 8:10.

There are some things which only appear real. Many people appear to be joyful, but they are far from being happy. Only the Christian has the real fullness of joy. Christ is our strength.

The famous composer, Joseph Haydn, was at a party of artists. During the conversation one of the guests asked the question,

"What can best give strength to a man when he is tired and distressed?"

One suggested a glass of wine; another suggested jolly companionship. Then someone turned to Haydn and asked him what he had to suggest; what he used to strengthen himself. Humbly and soberly Haydn answered

"In my home I have a little chapel. I go there and pray whenever I am tired. This recipe has never failed to give health and strength to my soul. But," he added, "this power is not mine. It is the power of God given to me as I need it."

Do you have the joy of the Lord? Do you seek His power and His strength for your need? He is willing to give it to all who call upon Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, Thou who hast suffered for us, and hast taken away our burden of sin, give us the joy of Thy salvation. Give us the strength that we need for our tasks, and our walk with Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## May 27

"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."  
Matt. 28:19.

Jesus has all power in heaven and in earth. You can, therefore, safely go where He tells you to go. All Christians should be willing to be His disciples.

A missionary from China told of a soldier who was brought into their hospital. He had been fighting the Communists all summer, and had been able to help keep them out of the city. But now he was wounded. He had been brought into the hospital by his comrades. He had a high fever, and he was spitting blood. He was exhausted. The nurses put him to bed on the sunporch.

After several days of good care, with a calcium and cod liver oil treatment, he seemed to improve. His face was radiant, but not because of the treatment at the hands of the nurses and the doctor. The hospital evangelist had told him the Gospel message each day. One day, when the doctor asked him if he had peace in his heart, he became all smiles and said,

"Yes, I spend much time thinking about Jesus." He was being healed spiritually as well as physically. Are you teaching anyone about Jesus?

Lord Jesus, we need Thy help as we endeavor to bring some soul to Thee. Give us the courage that we need. In Jesus' name. Amen.

From Greenland's icy mountain,  
From India's coral strand;  
Where Afric's sunny fountains  
Roll down their golden strand;  
From many an ancient river,  
From many a palmy plain,  
They call us to deliver  
Their land from error's chain.

## May 28

"But be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

There are many testings in this world, but when we take them to the Lord they will not overcome us. We will have victory over them. Satan has dressed up the things of this world so that they are very attractive; we find that they are gilt, not gold. When we go to Him we do not ask, "Is it wrong to go to the movies? is it wrong to dance?" for when we are in Jesus we do not have those desires; He has overcome the world.

The following story is taken from "China's Millions":

Two Chinese Christians, Mr. Cheh and Mr. Tseng, had found difficulty in overcoming the drink habit. They had been able to overcome other sins, but it seemed that they could not give up wine. It is considered bad manners in China to refuse an invitation to drink with a friend, so they decided to place a notice in the paper to the effect that they had given up wine. This is the way it read: "Having over and over again received the reviving grace of our Lord Jesus, we in one moment gave up wine. Henceforth, when we are at a table with friends, forgive us if we do not drink with you!"

Are you letting Satan have victory in you? Are you being a defeated Christian? The Lord said, "I have overcome the world," and He is waiting to give you victory over your weaknesses, too. Only trust Him!

Dear Lord Jesus, Teach us how to be victorious Christians. Keep us from yielding to temptation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O pilgrim, as you journey,  
Do you ever gladly say,  
In spite of heavenly weather  
And the roughness of the way,  
That it really does not matter,

All the strange and bitter stress,  
Heat and cold, and toil and sorrow,  
Will be healed with blessedness!  
For the road leads home,  
Sweet, sweet home!

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## May 29

"For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds." Ps. 108:4.

Wang Ta-Chien, a young Chinese girl of about eighteen years, was brought to the hospital by her father. The bones in one of her bound feet had withered and died. The doctor operated on her foot and while it was healing she stayed in the hospital. Her mother was dead, so she lived with her father, her brother and his wife. Because Wang Ta-Chien stayed in the hospital such a long time her sister-in-law became angry. She thought of all the money they were spending, and was afraid her husband's inheritance would be all used for his sister. She made so much trouble that the father-in-law had to divide up the inheritance.

While Wang Ta-Chien was in the hospital she learned to read; and as she was told about Jesus she would ask to know "More about Jesus." When Christmas came she was able to go to church on her crutches. There she praised her Saviour whom she had learned to know and to love.

After she went home she told her father about Jesus, and soon he started to go to the meetings; and then the father brought the son to the meetings. When they came to know the Saviour Wang Ta-Chien began to tell the neighbors about Jesus who died for them. It was not long before she had four of her neighbors living for Jesus, and Christ was honored in their homes. All four families took down their idols, and worshipped only the living God.

God's mercy and truth reaches as far as we are willing to spread it. Don't you want to be like Wang Ta-Chien?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be faithful as was this little Chinese girl, and spread the news of salvation to our neighbors and loved ones. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## May 30

"What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." John 13:7.

There are many things which the Father in heaven does which we cannot understand. But when we know the Father, we can leave them in His hands, and know that He doeth all things well.

A doctor, with his son, was traveling in a dangerous part of China. They were attacked and captured by some bandits. When they came to the bandit camp they found a man who was very ill. He had to have an operation if he was to live. But the doctor did not have his instruments with him. The bandit had a very sharp knife, and the doctor took this and operated.

The young son stood by and watched his father use this sharp knife on the bandit. The patient was helpless, and as the boy watched he could have said,

"I never thought my dad would do such a thing." And his father would have answered,

"You may not understand now, but you will later on." And the boy would be satisfied, for he would know that his father would explain things to him later on.

The Lord does many things we do not understand but when we accept them we are satisfied and more sympathetic with those who are tried in the same way. We learn to know more about Jesus and His way for us.

Dear Lord, help us to be satisfied with all that Thou doest unto us, even though we cannot understand Thy ways with us. Help us to know that all things work together for good to those who love Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## May 31

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."  
Gal. 6:3

To older people the burdens of the young people do not seem to be very heavy. But to most people the older they get the more heavy the burdens of life seem to weigh upon them. There are some burdens that we have to bear ourselves, but there are burdens that we can help lift and make lighter for others. How often we forget to lift someone's burden!

A congregation sent a missionary and his wife out on the mission field with a promise to support them. Years passed. The work of this congregation went on through those years.

One evening a stranger stepped into the meeting. Before the meeting was over, he arose and said,

"I am your missionary. My wife and child lie buried in Africa, and I have come home to die. This evening I listened anxiously as you prayed. Listened for you to mention your missionary as you had promised, but I listened in vain. You prayed for everything connected with yourselves, for your church, but you forgot your missionary. You have failed to hold the ropes, and to bear my burdens."

Are we forgetting those in need? Forgetting those whom we have promised to uphold in prayer so the Lord's work can be carried on? Have we forgotten to give a kind word, do a kind deed for those who are less fortunate than we are?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to live close to Thee so that we will be able to see people's burdens, and give us the will to help lift them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## June 1

"He is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Prov. 18:24.

A sailor writes:

"It was during my period of serving in the United States Navy that the Lord became more precious to me than at any other time of my life. Our carrier was operating in dangerous areas in the Pacific. Japanese suicide planes were flying all around us. As they came close to us the presence of my Lord became more real and sustaining. Surely He is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother! My heart went out to my shipmates. While we were operating off from Luzon of the Philippine Islands, one Catholic boy accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour. It gave me great joy when he said, with an outstretched hand,

'I want to shake the hand of another Christian.'

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me." We could say together and mean it: "Hallelujah, what a Saviour."

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for saving us, and for being our constant Friend. Bless all those that accept Thee while they are young. In Jesus' name. Amen.

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.

## June 2

"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21.

Ten Christian students were shot by the Nazis at Grini, Norway, near Oslo, on July 5, 1944. On Monday, at one o'clock in the afternoon, four of the boys were brought to the police court. By four-thirty that afternoon the trial was over and the boys were condemned to die, and they were placed in cell number two. In the evening a large crowd of people gathered outside of the cell windows.

Many of those who stood outside watching could hardly control their feelings. Especially was it hard when one of the boys called out to them, "Greet our fellow Christian students. Tell them we have found the 'peace that passeth all understanding'; we are safe in Christ."

Another one of the boys called out,

"Greet the friends at home, and tell them that we are going to heaven, and to meet us up there."

How wonderful that Christ can make even death attractive! To live for Christ is wonderful, and to be sure of heaven is still more wonderful. Are you sure of heaven; have you accepted Christ as your Saviour?

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for those who are willing to suffer the death of martyrs for Thy name's sake. May their testimony bring many souls to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

In heaven above, in heaven above, What glory deep and bright!  
The splendor of the noonday sun Grows pale before its light:  
The heavenly light that ne'er goes down,  
Around whose radiance clouds ne'er frown,  
Is God, the Lord of hosts.

## June 3

"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord." Rom. 14:8.

To live for the Lord is not easy at any time, but to live for Him in an age when Satan is so busy is less easy. Many people think they have nothing to give to the Lord, but every bit of service unto Him is precious in His sight. Everyone can speak to someone about our Lord. We can all pray, and be intercessors. We can live unto the Lord in our walk, in our talk, and in our actions.

Many people say that they can live their own lives, but if we do we have to pay the price of living unto ourselves. If we have lived unto the Lord, we will then die unto the Lord. We will be safe evermore.

Each one of the ten Norwegian students testified to their Lord before they were put to death, in 1944. One of the boys was seen with folded hands as he quietly withdrew from the window of his barred cell. And with a quiet, but slightly trembling voice he was heard to say,

"Bring my greetings to them all at home." The fourth boy was heard to say,

"Greet the loved ones at home and tell them this," and he drew the sign of the Cross—"holds in life and in death." The people were deeply moved, and as they turned away they said,

"Never give up the fight for Christ."

Dear Lord Jesus, make us strong in the hour of testing. Help us to be willing to die for Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How blessed is the host in white whom Jesus made His own,  
To serve the Lord in their delight, To worship at His throne.  
He spreads in New Jerusalem His tabernacle over them,  
And there secure from harm they dwell; Their bliss no tongue can tell.

## June 4

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matt. 28:18.

We who know the Lord can understand only in part what Jesus meant when he said that all power was given unto Him in heaven and in earth. But those who do not know Him cannot understand it at all.

Rev. E. P. Scott wanted to bring the Word of God to a very dangerous tribe in India, but his friends tried to prevent him from going. But being courageous he set out, trusting God to see him through.

When he came to the people, the spears of the men were pointed at him. He had his violin with him, and he lifted his violin and began to play and sing, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

When he lifted his eyes all the spears had dropped, and it was not long before he was able to tell them about Jesus, and His love for them.

Only Jesus has the power to free us from the bondage of sin. Only He can give us peace within. Only He can give us power to live for Him. Only He can give us joy to share with others.

Have you the power of Christ in your life?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to go forth in Thy power, fearing nothing but our God! Give us more of Thy power to win souls for Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All hail the power of Jesus' name, Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!

## June 5

"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious." Isa. 11:10.

There is no rest apart from Jesus. Many people in the world think they can have peace and rest for their souls by doing the things that they desire. But only as we come to know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour is there rest and peace. Jesus said that He did not come to call the righteous, but He came to call the sinners to repentance.

One day a small, ragged boy came to the Dr. Bernardo's Children's Home in London and asked to be admitted. Dr. Bernardo suggested to the boy that he should go and find someone who could vouch for him, and then come back the next day.

The boy looked disappointed. After a moment's silence, he said,

"But I have no one to speak for me. My mother and father are both dead. I am alone in the world. Ah, sir, I have no one to speak for me." Then his face lit up and he said, pointing to his rags, "But can't these speak for me, sir?" His eyes were full of tears as he looked up at Dr. Bernardo.

"Yes, my boy, they are telling me all I need to know," Dr. Bernardo said softly. And the boy was accepted into the home.

The little boy sought a rest, and he found it. Have you found rest in the Lord Jesus Christ? If you haven't, won't you accept it now?

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for Thy rest. Use us to help others to find Thy rest. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## June 6

**"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea he shall give delight unto thy soul." Prov. 29:17.**

Children do not like to have to obey their fathers and their mothers. They think that their way is just as good as that of their parents. They think that their parents owe them everything, and they owe their parents nothing, not even respect. But only those that obey and respect their parents can expect God's blessing upon their lives.

A widow had an only son. From early morning until late at night she washed clothes so that he could stay in school. Graduation day came, and the mother thought that she should keep on with her washing. But her son insisted on her coming to see him graduate. They walked arm in arm to the exercises.

The mother thought she ought to sit near the door, for she was not as well dressed as the other mothers, and she did not want to embarrass her son. But her son insisted that she sit in a seat near the front of the auditorium. When the honors were to be given out the son's name was the first to be called. He walked up to the front to receive his medal. The audience stood as the words of commendation were given him. He turned after receiving the medal, and went to his mother and pinned it on her dress. He said,

"Mother, it is you who have earned the medal. God bless you for everything!" This son had been trained up in the way he should go, and he gave his mother delight.

Dear Lord, help parents to train their children in the way they should go, and help the children to honor and respect their parents. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I was lost in sin when Jesus found me,  
But He rescued me, all glory to His name!  
And the cords of worldly pleasure bound me,  
Till He saved me from sin and shame.

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## June 7

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1:22.

All people do not understand what it is to be a *doer* of the Word. But to be a doer of the Word is to *obey* what God has told us to do in His Word. Few people are willing to obey, and thus we have much sin in the world. The Lord has admonished us to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we grow in the Lord, we come to know His will, to be used of Him, and to obey His commands.

When a little girl came home from church, one Sunday morning, her mother asked her what the minister had preached about that day. The passage was, "Many are called, but few are chosen," but the little girl put it, "Many are cold, and a few are frozen." How sad, but how true in this day and age! Too many are cold, and many are frozen. Many are Gospel hardened, having no burden about their own indifference, nor about lost souls.

A young boy asked his ten-year-old sister just as the sermon was concluded,

"Now is it all done?"

"No," whispered the sister, "it's just all said, but now we must go and do it." It is well to hear the Gospel, but after hearing we must go out to do. We must show that we really want to see souls saved. The hearers say,

"Now, it is all done." But the doers of the Word say,

"It's just all said, and now we must go and do it."

Dear Lord Jesus, open our eyes so that we will see the need of being doers of the Word as well as hearers of the Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

And we believe Thy Word,  
Though dim our faith may be:  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,  
We do it unto Thee.

## June 8

"Christ died for our sins." I Cor. 15:3.

Jesus died for me. He was my Substitute. He suffered and died in my place. By faith in Him I am redeemed from all sin, and am an heir to heaven.

Sometime after the Civil War a man was seen in a cemetery in a Southern State. He was decorating a soldier's grave, and placing a tombstone at the head of it. Someone asked him,

"Is your son buried in this grave?"

"No," said the man, "he was not my son."

"Was he your brother?"

"No, he was not my brother," answered the man.

"Well, how was he related to you?"

"He was no relation whatsoever," said the man, "but he died for me."

During the war this man had been called by the draft. He was to go to war, leaving his wife and children in a state of destitution. Then the soldier who had died offered to go in this man's place.

"Therefore, I say he died for me," said the man. "And I have come to set up this memorial stone as an expression of my love and gratitude."

This soldier died for our earthly welfare, but Christ died to give us eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for dying in our place. We thank Thee that through Thy death we have eternal life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## June 9

"The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, follow me." John 1:43.

Jesus finds us, and then He saves us. But then he asks us to *follow* Him. When we follow Him it is not always in the places where we would choose to go, nor in the kind of work we would choose to do. When we follow Jesus we have a concern for the lost souls around us.

One night, when a young man was preparing for bed, his father called him aside. He expressed concern that his son had not accepted Christ as his Lord and Saviour. The young teen-ager went to bed, but not to sleep. He arose, dressed, and went to the home of a friend who was an earnest Christian. He told the man of his problem. The man explained the way to Christ, and Cyrus McCormick became a Christian.

Cyrus McCormick became a wealthy business manufacturer, and gave much of his wealth to Christian enterprises. He founded the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, so that young men might be trained in the winning of souls, and in the preaching of the Gospel. What if his father had not been concerned about his son's salvation?

Are you concerned about your loved ones? Have you asked them to come to Jesus, and to follow Him?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be soul-winners for Thee. Help us to follow Thee no matter where Thou wouldst lead us; help us to go willingly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Behold the Christian warrior stand In all the armor of his God;  
The Spirit's sword is in his hand, His feet are with the gospel shod;  
Undaunted to the field he goes; Yet vain were skill and valor there.  
Unless, to foil his legion foes, He takes the trusted weapon prayer.

## June 10

"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them; otherwise ye have no regard of your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 6:1-4.

Alms are gifts for the poor, and many people like to have others know that they are willing to help the poor. They do not do it for love, but in order to get a good name. They want people to think well of them. They do it openly so that all their friends will know about it. Many of them have their names, and the amount of the gifts listed in papers. This is having 'no regard of your Father in heaven.' They are not seeking the Father's glory when they give in this way. But if they do it in secret, the Lord will reward them; and He will receive the glory, for they are not thinking of themselves, but of Christ and His cause.

A little girl in England used to catch and save rain water so she could sell it for a cent a bucket at times of drought. In this way she earned almost five dollars which she brought to the Missionary Society. She was a modest little girl, and when the secretary asked for her name, she failed to answer.

"But I must put down from where the money came," said the secretary.

"Call it rain from heaven," replied the little girl.

She had done it for the Lord's cause, and so had 'regard unto her Father in heaven.'

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be willing to do our good deeds in secret, and may we be willing to give because we love Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## June 11

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:28.

The free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. If we possess eternal life, we cannot perish, for 'there is therefore no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.' Eternal life begins in this world, and continues throughout eternity. Eternal means forever and forever, without end. This is the wonderful hope for each Christian.

One afternoon, Bishop Maroni, of Norway, went to visit Pastor Gustav Jensen who was very ill. That day Rev. Jensen was feeling worse than usual. With a blanket wrapped around him, he sat bent over in a chair. When the bishop asked him how he felt, he shook his head, and said,

"Not so good!" Then as if to himself, he began to quote some lines he once had written:

Here all is turning old,  
Worn my clothing fold.  
My hut is leaning over,  
As my evening o'er me hover.  
Slower my heart doth tender  
As thoughts and mind surrender.

Then he looked up with a smile and said,

"Oh, how I rejoice to begin over again—in eternal life!"

"The work that the Holy Spirit has begun in us He will perform until the day of Jesus Christ."

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that we have eternal life as a free gift. We thank Thee for our living hope. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thou art the life: to all Thine own Thou givest  
Eternal life where Thou forever livest;  
There without ceasing, as we stand before Thee,  
Let us adore Thee.

## June 12

"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27.

To be a Christian is a full-time task. We each have a cross to bear for Jesus' sake.

Must Jesus bear His cross alone,  
And all the world go free?  
No; there's a cross for every one,  
And there's a cross for me.

A Chinese boy had asked to be baptized after his graduation from school. He had been awarded a scholarship of six hundred dollars a year, for four years, at the University of Hong Kong.

But the boy had to be a Confucionist to be able to accept it. That meant he would have to worship false gods. The boy was tempted, but he soon made his decision. He had accepted Christian baptism, and he would be willing to lose the scholarship.

Next in line for the scholarship was a Confucionist. As it was offered to him, he said,

"If Christ is worth so much to my classmate, He is worth the same to me." He, too, became a Christian.

How God blessed these boys for their faith! Are you willing to follow Jesus in the same manner, and to forsake all for His sake?

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the grace we need to follow Thee, and to bear our cross for Thee, in a way that will draw others to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Humbly at His feet I bow;  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,  
Take me Jesus, take me now.  
I surrender all, I surrender all;  
All to Thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all.

## June 13

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

We have seen the picture of Jesus with the little children all around him. Some are black, some are white, some are yellow, some are brown, but all are precious to Him. There are those in the world who do not want children to know about Jesus. They say that it makes them have fear; that it takes away all their love for enjoyment; that it makes them old before their time. Jesus is saying to these people, "Forbid them not."

There is a group of dark-complexioned people whom we call gypsies. They wander from place to place. Their children seldom get to hear about the love of Jesus for them.

Once a gypsy boy lay sick in his tent. A kind Christian heard about it and went to visit him. He told him about Jesus, and quoted John 3:16 to him. The boy listened eagerly.

"Did God really love a little boy like me so that He sent Jesus to save me?" he said. Then he thought for a while, and said,

"Tell me that story again. Nobody ever told me this before. If God said, 'whosoever,' He must have sent Him to me, too."

We must tell the story to little children so they can accept Jesus when they are young. Then they will have their whole lives to be used for Jesus.

Dear Lord Jesus, lover of little children, bless those who have come to Thee. Keep them safe, free from sin, harm, and danger of all kinds. Help us all to bring the Good News of salvation to many children. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## June 14

"I am the door of the sheep." John 10:7.

No one can come to God but through our Lord Jesus Christ. Many people, in these days, would like to come to God by their good works. Some would like to buy their way into heaven. But Jesus said, 'I am the Door of the sheep.'

He calls us sheep because we follow those who are in the lead, or those we admire, just like the sheep do. A pastor tried to win a boy to Christ. The boy turned to the minister and said,

"The best man in the city is not a Christian, why should I be?"

When the pastor asked him who the best man in the city was, the boy replied,

"My father is the best man in the city, yet he is not a Christian. Why should I be?"

The pastor hurried to the father who was a doctor, and said,

"Do you know that you are keeping someone out of the kingdom of God?"

"What do you mean?" inquired the doctor.

"I mean your son told me you were the best man in this city, and because you did not seem to need Christ in order to be saved, he can not see why he should. The doctor was much disturbed and asked at what hour the church service began.

Both the doctor and his son were at the next evening service and when the invitation to receive Christ was given, the doctor went forward. And the next moment the son went and stood at his father's side.

Dear Lord Jesus, Thou art the Door of Thy sheep. Call all into Thy fold. May all see that they cannot come by any other door, but by Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## June 15

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me: And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37.

A pastor was visiting the sick in the Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. In one of the wards a man beckoned to him, saying,

"Please go and see a Norwegian boy on the top floor. He is very ill."

The boy was twenty-two years of age, and had come from Norway three years before. He came from a large family, and had come to America hoping to be able to help his mother in a financial way. As he was telling his story to the minister he covered his head and cried, "Mother! Mother!"

"Please let me try to take your mother's place," the minister said.

"I came here healthy and strong," said the boy, "but I suddenly took sick. I have had two operations, and now I cannot get well." Again he covered his head and cried, "What shall I do? I am not saved, and now I must die."

The pastor prayed with him, and showed him the way to be saved. A few days later when the pastor came to see the boy, he saw that the boy was dying. He asked the boy, "Are you better?"

"No, I'm very sick, but, oh, I have it so good. Will you please write my mother in Norway, and tell her that Jesus says: 'Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.' Tell her that we will meet in heaven."

Have you come to Jesus with your sinful soul? Have you been washed in His blood? If you have not, come now.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that Thou dost receive all those that come unto Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## June 16

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him." Heb. 7:25.

It was dark in Mrs. Li's heart. One day, as she went to visit some neighbors she passed an open door. Inside sat a crowd of people, and a man stood talking to them. She heard him say,

"God in heaven has sent His Son Jesus Christ down to this world to die for our sins. If we believe in Him, He will forgive us all our sins."

Mrs. Li stopped, and then went inside the door. She sat down and listened. For the first time she heard the story of God's redeeming grace. It was as a stream of light in a dark dungeon.

"Jesus," she said, "Jesus—maybe this God can take my burden and fear away."

When the people had left Mrs. Li went to the evangelist and asked,

"Is this true? Tell me more about it." The evangelist was glad to tell her about Jesus; about Calvary and Christ's resurrection. She drank in the truth. She listened—she asked questions—and as she listened to the explanation, the truth fell like dew on a dry ground. She drank it in, and in her innermost soul she knew that it was for her. She accepted Him. How good it sounded. 'God so loved me—shall not perish—have everlasting life. . .'

Yes, Jesus is able, and only He is able to save all those who come unto Him. No matter how black our sin, He will wash it white as snow. Accept Him today.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for salvation full and free. Use us to make the message clear and plain to those who know Thee not. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## June 17

"Looking for that blessed hope." Titus 2:13.

There is a picture of an old church with a steeple. In the steeple is a bell with a rope hanging down toward the earth. Nobody is pulling the rope. Therefore the bell does not ring. There is no message given forth and because there is no clarion call, the people remain in their trespasses and sins.

When there is a call going forth for the people to come to hear the blessed Gospel message of salvation, and of the return of our Lord, they receive a blessed hope.

Christians are told to be looking for the blessed appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, but many are too busy with the affairs of this world. They are like rowboats, for they have to be pulled wherever they go. Often it is hard to keep them pointed in the right direction.

Other Christians are like sailboats. If the wind blows east, that is their direction. If it blows west, they go that direction. They seldom beat against the wind.

Still, other Christians are like power-boats, which are able to drive against the wind and the tide. In the face of danger they are able to keep their course. These last ones are looking forward to reaching their goal. They are looking for the blessed hope.

Our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ, both now and forever. Do you have that hope?

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that we have our hope in Thee, and that someday we shall be with Thee forever In Jesus' name. Amen.

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

## June 18

"But I have called you friends." John 15:15.

When we have a friend who is dear to us, we may tell him all our troubles, all our hopes, and all our desires. There is nothing that we are not willing to share with our friends. We trust our friends, for we know they will sympathize with us in our sorrows and troubles; they will rejoice with us in our joys. Our Lord Jesus Christ is such a Friend to all who come to Him. He calls us His friends. If we are His friends then we, too, will want to share in the fellowship of His sufferings, and in the power of His resurrection.

A minister went to visit an old Scotchman in his last illness. The minister noticed that the man had a chair placed at an angle to suggest that someone had been sitting at the bedside.

"Well, Donald," said the pastor, "I see you have had a visitor."

"I will tell you about the chair," replied the sick man. "Years ago I found it impossible to pray. I often fell asleep on my knees, I was so tired. One day I spoke to my minister about it. He told me not to worry about kneeling down. 'Just sit down,' he said, 'and put a chair before you and imagine Jesus is on it; and talk to Him as to a friend'."

When the old Scotchman died a week later, his hand was resting on the empty chair by the side of his bed. He knew the friendship of Jesus.

Have you this wonderful Friend? If not will you accept Him as your Friend, today?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to trust Thee as a friend. Help us to lead others to Thee, and accept Thee as their Friend, In Jesus' name. Amen.

## June 19

"For God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."  
1 Pet. 5:5.

Pride is one of our worst sins. It makes us egotistical, selfish, and causes us to have a high opinion of our worth. When we are proud the Lord cannot use us, for we are always thinking of ourselves instead of the cause of Christ, and the welfare of others.

To be humble is to be submissive to our Lord and to think little of ourselves. We must seek the welfare of others before our own. God cannot prosper the proud in spiritual things, but He gives grace, and beauty of character to those that are humble.

A rich man in Sweden went fishing one day, but he caught nothing. Nearby was a young lad who was also fishing. He caught one trout after the other. The man of wealth watched for some time, and then his curiosity overcame him, and he asked the boy,

"How is it that you can catch so many fish when I cannot catch even one?"

The boy thought a moment and then he said, "You are too big. You scare the fish!"

Many of us Christians are too big in ourselves to be used by the Lord. He is waiting to use us to bring salvation to those who know Him not. Are you filled with your own importance? Yield yourself to the Lord and He will give you the grace that you need to be used of Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, humble us so that we can receive the grace Thou art waiting to bestow upon us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Less of self and more of Jesus; | In the vineyard of the Lord.    |
| Less of man and more of God;    | Less of self and more of Jesus  |
| Earnest prayers of many workers | Girds the soul with holy power. |

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## June 20

"Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you."

I Pet. 5:7.

Cares are burdensome responsibilities. Those of the world have to carry these alone, as they have no one else to turn to. But a Christian has the Burden-bearer upon Whom he can cast these responsibilities. Many Christians forget to go to the Burden-bearer. And many times they do take these cares to the Burden-bearer in prayer, but when they get up from their knees they pick up the cares, too. The Lord Jesus is our Burden-bearer; He is waiting to share the responsibilities so that we will not be weighed down by them; He truly cares for each one of us, whether we are great or small.

A little fellow, from the slum district of a large city, was induced to attend a mission Sunday school. He soon became a sincere and faithful Christian. He seemed happy and settled in his Christian faith. Someone thoughtlessly tried to test or shake his faith by asking,

"If God loves you, why doesn't He take better care of you? Why doesn't He tell someone to bring you shoes, and a warm coat, and better food?"

The little fellow thought a moment and then he said,

"I guess He does tell someone, but someone always forgets." This little fellow was casting his care upon the One Whom he knew cared for him, but the task of bearing one another's burdens and so fulfilling the love of Christ had been forgotten by those who had plenty.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that we may cast our cares upon Thee. We praise Thee for Thy understanding of our needs. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Tempted and tried I need a great Saviour,  
One who can help my burdens to bear;  
I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus;  
He all my cares and sorrows will share.

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## June 21

"Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren."

Gen. 37:14

The household of faith is to be the concern of each Christian. We are all sisters and brothers in the faith. If one is in need, this affects the whole family of faith. The world watches to see how much we love each other, as a family of Christian believers. Are we living in the unity of the Spirit, in a bond of peace, or are we concerned about ourselves. It is not always easy to love the whole household of faith, for we all have different dispositions and different habits; we all have different likes and dislikes. Some members of the family are sensitive, others are calloused.

A young Christian sailor went up to his superior officer on board ship, and asked,

"Sir, how is it with your soul?" The officer abruptly dismissed him.

That night the ship was torpedoed. As the lifeboats were picking up the survivors, the officer was pulled into one of the boats. The first person he saw was the Christian sailor who had asked about his soul.

"You're just the person I want to see," he said to the Christian. "Tell me what you were going to speak to me about this morning."

Our Lord is prompting each one of us to see whether it is well with our brethren, but He is also telling us to seek those who are not of the household of faith.

Dear Lord, help us to be concerned about our brethren. Give us the willingness to be diligent about Thy service. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus is waiting; O come to Him now—

Waiting today, waiting today;

Come with thy sins; at His feet lowly bow;

Come and no longer delay.

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## June 22

"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians."  
Rom. 1:14.

When we are in debt to any one, our conscience bothers us until the debt is paid. So it was with Paul. He was in debt to all people. He owed them the Gospel. Paul was not the only one who owed the people the Gospel. All we who are saved owe the sinners the Gospel.

One life to live, 'twill soon be past.  
Only what's done for Christ will last.

The life of a Christian is like a candle shining in the night. It guides the steps of those who are walking in the dark. It makes it possible for those who are in the dark to perform their tasks. It beckons to those that are in darkness to come into the comfort and cheer of the light.

So, is the life of a Christian. We are shining for the Lord. Sinners who see our joy in the Lord are attracted to that life. They see the peace we have with God, and they long for that peace.

Our lives are no more than just a stub of a candle. Soon they will flicker out. If we are going to do much shining, we will have to be busy now. Are you letting your light shine brightly?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to shine for Thee. Help us to shine so brightly that our light will attract sinners to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Only a beam of sunshine, But oh, it was warm and bright;  
The heart of a weary traveler Was cheered by its welcome sight.  
Only a beam of sunshine That fell from the arch above,  
And tenderly, softly whispered A message of peace and love.



## June 23

"Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord."  
James 5:7.

The trials of this life seem at times, to be more than we can endure. But the Lord is telling us to be patient. He will not leave us in this vail of tears and sorrow for ever. He will soon come and release us from the bondage of this world and this life. If we endure with patience these discomforts; if we do not fret and murmur, we will be able to endure them more easily. The fretting, the murmuring, and the complaining make the trial seem heavier than what it really is.

It is said of Abraham that as he sat at the door of his tent, one day, a stranger came. He was an old man. Abraham washed the man's feet, provided food for him, and gave him rest. But the stranger neither ate nor prayed. Abraham asked him why he did not worship God. The stranger said he worshiped fire only. Abraham became angry at that and made the stranger leave.

When the old man was gone, God asked Abraham where the old man was. Abraham told God that he had thrust him out because he would not worship God. Then God said to Abraham,

"I suffered him these hundred years. Could you not endure him for one night?" Then Abraham ran after the man and brought him back, and was kind to him.

God is patient with us; cannot we be patient and endure this life with its trials?

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us the lesson of patience. Help us to endure all things unto Thy coming. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee  
In closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

## June 24

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Eph. 6:11.

Satan uses many wiles to attract and to detract the Christians. He attracts the weak Christians to do worldly things, he causes them to doubt God's goodness when He tries their faith, and tests their obedience.

Satan tries to detract the stronger Christian from the purpose God has laid out for His life. He tries to make the Christian look at himself instead of at Jesus, so that he will be like Peter when Christ bade him walk on the water. Peter could walk as long as he had his eyes on Jesus, but when he took his eyes off of Jesus he began to sink.

Many Christians think they can play with the things of the world and not get hurt. They are like the man who had a tamed tiger. From outward appearances the tiger was as gentle as a lamb. He had the tiger in his home for a pet.

One evening as he sat reading in his living room, the tiger came up to his master and licked his hand until he drew blood. That brought out all of his wild nature. Satan is the same way. He appears as an angel of light, in order to capture us. Then he comes out in his true light. But when we put on the whole armour of God which is the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the sword of the Spirit, the girdle of truth, and the Gospel shoes, Satan cannot have entrance into our lives.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us as Christians always to have on the whole armour of God. Then Satan will not be able to pierce us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Faith is the victory,  
Faith is the victory,  
Oh, glorious victory,  
That overcomes the world.

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## June 25

"Leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation."  
Ps. 27:9.

When we are in distress it may seem that God has forsaken us. In times of troubles and trials it may seem that the Lord has left us. He tries us in various ways, but it is to bring out the best that is in us. There are depths that lie hidden in each one of us that are brought to the surface only as we are tested and tried. There is much dross in each Christian that only the refining pot of affliction can remove. But we have God to call upon; He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us.

At the time of the Civil War there was a soldier by the name of Tom. He was alone in the world as his parents and sister had died. One day he told his chaplain that he had been greeted by his mother and sister in a dream. The dream was so real that he did not seem to remember that his mother had died. "My mother pressed me to her heart. It was as real as you are real to me now!"

"Thank God, Tom," said the Chaplain, "that you had such a mother, who now is in heaven, and that you are hoping to meet her there."

When the battle was over, Tom was missing. His comrades heard him singing out on the field, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." As he sang, "Leave, ah, leave me not alone," his voice died away. His comrades found Tom sitting up against a tree—dead. God had not left him alone. He had taken him home!

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that we have Thee as our Saviour. And that no matter what trial or testing we shall have to face, Thou wilt not leave us nor forsake us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,  
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide, Till the storm of life is past;  
While the nearer waters flow, While the tempest still is nigh;  
Safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

## June 26

"And he said, my presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." Exod. 33:14.

When the Lord promises that His presence shall go with us, He means that He Himself will go with us wherever we go. He is concerned for His children. He wants to protect us, and keep us from all harm and danger. We are safe in His keeping.

A woman, when she met a young boy one day, recalled that she had not paid his father a sum of money that she owed him. She mentioned that fact to the boy. The boy told her that his father was dead, and that his mother was ill. He was now out looking for work. The woman had a lovely home and told the boy he could come and work for her.

This woman visited the boy's mother one day. While they were talking the mother mentioned George's companion and partner. The woman remarked that she had not seen anyone working with George at her home. George later handed her a bill which read: "George and Company."

George said, "You see, God directs and manages my business. I do the work."

God's presence was with George. Is God with you?

Dear Lord Jesus, go with us and be our Companion. Direct us in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour,  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

## June 27

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20.

If one sows a life of sin, a life of eternal punishment will be reaped. Sow the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of children, and they will have a summertime to grow in the Lord, and when they are in the fall of life they will be reaping souls for a harvest. The springtime of life is the time to begin a life with Christ; the summer to grow strong in the Lord; and when the fall comes and the harvest time, a rich reward will be had.

A doctor was called to a young man who was very ill. He examined the young man, and then frankly told him that he could not live. It was a big shock to the young man, who thought he had a long life to live. He looked up into the face of the doctor and said in a voice of despair,

"Doctor, I have wasted it." But when the doctor asked him what he had wasted he repeated,

"Oh, I have wasted it."

Is that going to be your cry when you come to the harvest time of your life? Or are you going to accept the Saviour and live a life for Him. It may be a long summer or a short summer, but if it is lived for Christ, it will bring forth fruit for the harvest.

Dear Lord Jesus, keep us from wasting our lives. Help us to sow good seed so that we will have a bountiful harvest. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,  
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;  
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,  
We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves.

## June 28

"And confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Heb. 11:13.

This world is not our home. We are truly strangers and pilgrims. This fact always should be in our minds so that we will not be too concerned with the pleasures, and the riches of this world. This world is not our abiding place, but heaven is the abiding place of the Christian.

Thomas Taylor was a young boy of eighteen when he accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour. He wanted to become a minister, but did not think that was possible because of his poor health. But even though he did not think he would live long, he felt that he had to preach God's Word. He was ordained as a minister and he began to preach. But his health broke. When he found that he was in the sunset of life, he wrote a great hymn, "I'm but a stranger here, Heaven is my home." His pilgrimage was short here on earth, for he died when he was but twenty-eight. But he knew Christ and heaven was his home. He was a prepared person for a prepared place.

Are you prepared to meet your God? Are you a Christian pilgrim traveling through this desert land? Jesus is waiting to make you His pilgrim, and to walk with you through life.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that we have the privilege to be pilgrims in this land for Thee. Use us to win others. Prepare us on earth for our home in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I'm but a stranger here,  
Heaven is my home;  
Earth is a desert drear,  
Heaven is my home.

Danger and sorrow stand,  
Round me on every hand,  
Heaven is my fatherland,  
Heaven is my home.

## June 29

"But godliness with contentment is great gain." I Tim. 6:6.

God wants his children to be content with whatever he gives them. God gives more to some than He does to others, but whether we have much or little; whether we are in good health or poor health, he is asking us to be content. But, you may ask, what gain is there for me. God tells us there is great gain. Our testimony to a lost and dying world is precious to the Lord. The manner in which we accept our trials and all our burdens, our privations or our riches, is the way we show forth our love for Christ. Few people realize how they influence others for Christ by the way they live. Living for Jesus can win a soul to Christ.

A Russian farmer was told that he could have as much land for one thousand rubles, as he could walk around in one day. If he did not come back to the spot from which he started, at a given time, he would not only forfeit the land, but he would have to pay the thousand rubles besides.

He walked and walked. His feet became swollen and began to bleed. But he kept on walking and returned to the starting place on time. But as he reached his goal a stream of blood poured from his mouth, and in a few minutes he was dead. He was not content with what he had, and he paid a big price for his greed.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us, first, to be rich in Christ. Then teach us to be content with that which Thou dost give us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

True-hearted, whole-hearted, Saviour all-glorious!  
Take Thy great power and reign there alone,  
Over our wills and affections victorious,  
Freely surrendered and wholly Thine own.

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## June 30

"And he arose, and came to his father." Luke 15:20.

Many people think that it is too difficult to come to God through Jesus. He asks us to come of our own free will. He will not force us to come but He invites us, and holds out His hand to us. Jesus was willing to shed His blood so that we could be saved. He has provided the way, and the Father is waiting to welcome us into His fold. There is nothing in ourselves to merit salvation, but if we come to Jesus just as we are, His blood will wash away our sin.

Charlotte Elliott was a crippled girl. She wondered how she could come to Jesus. When a pastor, Dr. Milan, visited her she talked to him about it. He told her that she had to come just as she was. Then she accepted Jesus as her Saviour. She wanted to do some service for Jesus, but being a cripple she could not see how she could do anything. She spent a whole night in prayer, asking the Lord to show her what she could do. Then the words of Dr. Milan came to her, "Just as you are." The next morning she wrote the song that has been such a blessing to many, and has brought many sinners to Christ.

Will you come to the Father; He is willing and waiting to receive you.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to show many how to come to Thee. Give us wisdom and understanding in dealing with sinners for Thy honor and glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



# July 1

"How shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"  
Rom. 8:23.

A Christian may not have much in this world, but in Jesus he has all things. Poverty may be caused, not by lack of things, but by failure to use what we possess. Jesus gives us all things, and gives them freely.

An old rag-picker was found on the streets of a city, weak from illness. Everyone thought he was penniless, but a will was found after he died. In court it was found that he possessed \$15,000 in cash, and property valued at \$30,000. He lived a rag-picker, but he had possessions that would have made it possible for him to live in comfort.

There are Christians living the same way. Their spiritual lives are weak, poverty-stricken and defeated, and many of them will die as paupers. Every Christian does not possess \$45,000, but the unsearchable riches of Christ. All things are ours! God has given us all things in the unspeakable gift of Jesus, and He has blest us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies.

Dear Lord, help us to yield our lives to Thee so that we are able to receive the gifts Thou hast for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Joys are flowing like a river,  
Since the Comforter has come;  
He abides with us forever,  
Makes the trusting heart His home.  
Bringing life, and health and gladness,  
All around this heavenly Guest,  
Banished unbelief and sadness,  
Changed our weariness to rest.  
Blessed quietness, holy quietness,  
What assurance in my soul!  
On the stormy sea, He speaks peace to me,  
How the billows cease to roll!

## July 2

"Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods." Exod. 18:11.

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, was amazed at the way the Lord had taken care of all the needs of the children of Israel, when he led them out of Egypt. He knew that God was great. People in this world may not realize it, but they worship gods just as the heathens do. Anything that they put before God is an idol. Some people worship their children; some, their homes; some, their positions; some, their beauty of face or figure; some, their power to speak. But none of these things can save one's soul from hell. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can do this. And He is the only One that can give us victory in this life.

An old doctor once said, as he was leaving the home of a patient,

"I'm an old man, and I've seen a great deal. Folks can ask me a hundred questions about Christianity that I cannot answer. But, I do know this: it bridges the gulf. I don't have to analyze the water I drink, or tell who dug the well, or when it was dug, to be able to quench my thirst. It satisfies and meets my needs—that's enough for me. When I see Christ come in and sit by the bed of my patient, and say, 'Lean on Me,' and I see my patient close his eyes, and with a smile go to sleep—well, it's pretty hard to convince me there is nothing to Christianity. I know there is!"

Yes, our God is greater than all gods of this world.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to taste and to see that the Lord is good. Help us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

There's a Friend above all others,  
Jesus, Son of God is He;  
His love is beyond a brother's,

Greater love there could not be.  
'Tis eternal life to know Him,  
For He died my soul to save.

Verse by permission, Al Smith

## July 3

"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28.

All things work together for good. Not just the good things, not just the easy things, but the hard things, the unpleasant things are also working together for our good. Each one has a lesson to teach us. Each one is drawing us closer to God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lee-Lee was a Chinese girl. When she was thirteen she was taken to the home of her husband. Her mother-in-law was a very unkind woman, and made Lee-Lee suffer a great deal. One day she was tied with heavy ropes to the ceiling of the stable, and left alone in the dark. She had learned Christian songs when she had gone to the Mission Sunday school, so she sang songs for a while, and then she prayed. Late at night, the second day, her uncle came and took her down. She was taken to the Mission doctor who had to amputate her feet. Her mother-in-law would not take her back into the home, much to Lee-Lee's joy. She went to stay at the Mission.

Today, in a Chinese Mission Hospital there is a young nurse whom everyone calls the "Heavenly Foot One." It is Lee-Lee, always ready to help, always happy and sympathetic, and so quick that people forget that her feet are not her own.

Can you see that your experiences are working together for good? Jesus will help you to see it if you will let Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to learn the lessons that Thou art endeavoring to teach us in these "All things." In Jesus' name. Amen.

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Should Thy mercy send me | Grant that I may never |
| Sorrow, toil, and woe;   | Fail Thy hand to see;  |
| Or should pain attend me | Grant that I may ever  |
| On my path below,        | Cast my care on Thee.  |

## July 4

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free." Gal. 5:1.

Americans love liberty. There is the statue of liberty, the liberty bell, the hall of liberty; all signify this liberty that America loves. But that is not real liberty, the only liberty that endures through eternity; the only true liberty is that which Christ gives us through His blood. He tells us to stand fast in this liberty, not to go back into the bondage of Satan. We are to use this liberty to give glory to God.

After the Civil War the slaves in a city down south held a great feast. They were rejoicing over their freedom from slavery. A colored preacher said, "Mothers, rejoice, today you are free! Your children have been torn from you for the last time." All the mothers clapped their hands and cried, "Glory to God in the highest." Then the preacher continued, "Young men, you have for the last time felt the sting of being a slave!" And the young men cried, "Glory to God!" Then he turned to the young women and said, "You are free today. You will never be brought to the auction block and sold again." They cried, "Glory to God!"

It was Jesus who set *us* free. Come, stand in His liberty, and praise Him for your freedom.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that Thou hast freed us from the bondage of sin. Help us to stand fast in our liberty. In Jesus' name. Amen.

My country! 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing: Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountainside  
Let freedom ring.

## July 5

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly." 1 Pet. 5:2.

A shepherd tenderly cares for his flock, watches carefully over the weak ones, the feeble ones, as well as the strong and healthy ones. He keeps all the wild animals from them; he sees that they are well fed. As Christians we are to care for the weaker Christians, we are to help one another, and to admonish any one who would be led astray.

Shoemaker Martin was a poor man, but he loved the Lord. He once dreamed that the Lord said to him, "Martin, I am the Lord whom you love. Tomorrow, look thou well into the street, for I am coming."

The next day Martin looked and looked into the street. He saw only an old man shoveling snow, but Martin invited him in and gave him a cup of warm tea. He looked again and saw a thin woman as she came down the street, struggling in vain with a ragged, old shawl to protect her child from the bitter, cold wind. Martin invited her in and gave her food and a warm coat for her child. And so he continued all day, helping first one and then another. In the evening he fell asleep in his chair. Again the Lord spoke to him and said, "Martin, did you know me when I came today?" "No," said Martin, "I didn't." Then Jesus said,

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to serve Thee willingly as Thou wouldst have us do. Not for self, but all for Thy glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I am happy in the service of the King,  
I am happy, oh, so happy;  
I have peace and joy that nothing else can bring,  
In the service of the King.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## July 6

"For ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another."  
1 Thess. 4:9.

The world is dying for lack of love. Selfishness abounds, and everyone seems to be growing harder and colder toward the Lord, and toward each other. Parents neglect their children, and children neglect their old parents. Jesus loves the little children, and they love Him. When they are left alone He expects the believers to care for His little ones.

A Civil War veteran took sick with the yellow fever and died. After the funeral his little son said to his mother, "Mother, what would happen to me, if you should go, now that Daddy is gone?"

"Jesus will take care of you," answered the mother. Later the mother passed away. The boy remembered what his mother had said. He went to his mother's grave and waited for Jesus to come and take care of him. But He didn't come. The little boy wept. A Christian man came by and saw him there.

"Why are you here?" he asked.

"This is my mother's grave. I'm waiting for Jesus to come and take care of me!" The man understood, and he said,

"I have come to take you home. Jesus has sent me." Through his tears the little boy said,

"But you waited a long time before you came."

Dear Lord, help us to be faithful in caring for all the little children. Help us not to fail them in any way. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus loves me, this I know;  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong  
They are weak, but He is strong.

## July 7

"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." John 17:18.

Jesus came into this world to seek and to save the lost. Even so He is asking for servants to go out and tell others in our day.

Robert Morrison, the English missionary, who left for Canton, China in 1807, said as he faced his life work, "Jesus, I give myself to Thy service. The question with me is, Where shall I serve? I consider the world as the field."

An artist had been painting a picture of a poor, thinly clad woman, pressing a baby to her bosom. The night was cold and stormy, and she was wandering about on a deserted street. As he painted, and as the picture grew, the artist, one day, threw down his brush and exclaimed,

"Instead of merely painting the lost, I will go out and save them!"

The artist was Bishop Tucker of Uganda.

There is room for all Christians to serve God, but few are willing to pay the price of service. The world is full of lost and dying sinners. Are you willing to tell some one of them about Jesus the Mighty to save?

Dear Lord Jesus, use us for Thy service. Give us willing hearts and feet to go where you want us to go. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go;  
Anywhere He leads me in this world below;  
Anywhere without Him dearest joys would fade;  
Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid.  
Anywhere! anywhere! Fear I cannot know:  
Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## July 8

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matt. 22:37.

When a sinner accepts Christ he has a new fellowship. Before he knew Jesus he had fellowship with the world and the world's people, but afterwards he has the fellowship of the Lord Jesus and His children. When he first accepts Jesus he falls in love with Him, but sometimes that love grows cold. But Jesus says, we are to love Him with our whole self, not just a part of ourselves.

Farmer Frank and his son Bobby went to town one day. As they walked about the town they passed a church. On the bulletin board they read,

"Love God, and do as you please."

"That's an awful sentence to put in front of a church," said Bobby. His father agreed with him. They walked along each one busy with his own thoughts. Soon Bobby spoke again,

"It isn't all wrong, though."

"Why isn't it all wrong?" his father asked.

"If you love God, you will do what pleases God, and then you will be doing as you please," Bobby replied.

"Just what I thought, too," answered his father. "If you really love God, you will want to do His will. You will live as He wants you to live."

Do you love Christ as your Saviour? Do you love Him with your whole heart, soul and mind? If you don't, accept Him now.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to love Thee as we ought. Help us to do Thy will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus! the very thought of Thee  
With sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far Thy face to see,  
And in Thy presence rest.



## July 9

"I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart." Ps. 9:1.

We cannot praise the Lord unless we know Him as our personal Saviour. There are people who think that because they go to church and sing hymns they are praising God. But this is not praise. When it comes from a heart that has been washed in the blood of Jesus, that is the praise that God wants, and is well pleasing unto Him.

Then there are people who are willing to offer praise to God if it does not cost them anything, but if God wants to use them, they do not praise Him as joyfully. They are not praising Him with their whole hearts.

A doctor in England who was not thought much of by some of his colleagues, received his greatest honor when he was appointed the doctor of the royal house. But this was not his greatest hour; at least he did not consider it so.

This doctor had a patient with a painful injured knee. He said that he could help her, but that it would require an operation that would be very painful. She consented to the operation, and in due time she was able to walk. Then she asked the doctor if it was permissible for her to kneel.

"Certainly, you may, and you will find your knee as sound as the other knee."

"You see, I should kneel to pray for a few minutes," she replied. She knelt and silently gave thanks to God. This made the doctor very glad and he praised God, too. This was his greatest hour.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank and praise Thee for the miracles Thou hast performed in our salvation, and in the wonders Thou dost perform in and through us. Help us to praise Thee in sincerity and truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform:  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.

## July 10

"I will show forth all thy marvellous works." Ps. 9:1.

God does marvellous things in and through His children. He gives them the strength to do things that they think they are not able to do. He gives them victory over temptations; He gives them the wisdom to lead sinners to the Lord Jesus Christ. He gives them peace in their hearts that the world cannot take away, even though there are wars and rumors of war, or pestilence and famine, abounding around and about them.

To the doctor, in our story of yesterday, the faith of the old woman was a marvellous work of God.

As the old woman arose from her knees, she said quietly, "All these years it has been a grief to me that I have not been able to kneel in prayer."

This was a concern that the doctor had never heard in his patients. Most people wanted to be able to get back to their pleasures, or their sports, or their business. As the old woman turned to leave, she said,

"It is always to God that we must return thanks. But also I have to give thanks to you."

She went out healed of limb, happy in spirit, and with a song of gratitude in her heart. To the doctor this was his greatest hour.

Do you know the Saviour so that He can perform marvellous things in and through you? If not, accept Him now.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to show forth Thy marvellous works in a yielded life to Thee. Use us to Thy glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take:  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and will break  
In blessings on your head.

## July 11

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Phil. 4:11.

Most people of today are not content unless they have all the wealth, and the luxuries of this world. And even then they are not content; they are always striving for more. But Paul says, in whatsoever state, to be content. Sickness or health, poverty or wealth, with all that God sends each one, or withholds from us, therewith to be content. Without the Lord Jesus Christ we cannot be content, but with Him working in and through us we can be.

A man who lost his business, went home to his family, and told his wife that he was ruined, that everything was lost. His wife told him that she was still here; his one son said that the father still had him; the tiny daughter told him that she still was his little girl; and the youngest son reminded the father that he was there, too. The wife reminded the husband of the fact that he had good health. And the youngest son said, "You have two feet with which to walk, and two good eyes with which to see, Dad!"

Then the grandmother quietly said, "And don't forget that you have the promises of the Lord."

"And a wonderful Saviour," supplemented his wife. The husband and father burst into tears and said, "Forgive me Lord, I have not lost all. How little I have lost in comparison to what I have left."

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to learn to be content with whatsoever Thou dost give us; only make us rich in Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## July 12

"I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word."  
Ps. 119:16.

God's Word is a two-edged sword that cuts us; it is a mirror that shows how we look without Jesus; it is a fire that refines us, cleansing away the dross of our lives; it is water that washes us clean from sin. We must study God's Word so that we will not sin against Him.

"Mrs. Jones has a colored Bible," said a little boy to his pastor.

The pastor answered, "I shall have to see that Bible."

The next time he called on Mrs. Jones the pastor asked to see her colored Bible, and told her that the little boy from her Sunday school class had told him of her unique Bible.

"This is the only Bible I have," she said, showing him an ordinary Bible. She had marked her Bible with different colored pencil leads.

"Black is for sin," she said, "the verses that speak of forgiveness of sin are marked in red. They speak of the blood of Jesus. Where the Bible speaks of being true to God, I mark blue." Each color had a meaning. Her Bible was well worn from much use, and a trifle dirty from much handling, but she loved the Word of God. Do you?

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for Thy word that teaches us about Thee, and Thy will for us. Help us to study it daily, and to grow more like Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thy Word, a wondrous guiding star,  
On pilgrim hearts doth rise,  
Leads those to God who dwell afar,  
And makes the simple wise.

## July 13

**"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39.**

The Lord tells us to search the Scriptures. Unless we read God's Word we will never know much about His love for us, and His provision for this life and the life to come. We are to prepare on this earth for our life with Him in eternity. By searching the Scriptures we learn who Jesus is, and how we are to grow to be like Him. We are to be conformed to His image.

A new minister came to a parish in South Ireland. He began to teach the people some strange theories. After two years of preaching to this congregation, he was called to the sick bed of one of the members. The man was dying. After the minister had talked with the man for a while he asked,

"Shall I read and pray with you?"

"Yes," the man answered, and called his wife to bring the Bible.

The wife brought a strange looking Bible. Some of the books were taken out, some of the pages were torn away, some chapters gone, and some verses cut out. It was a badly mistreated Bible, fit only for the waste basket.

The minister opened it and said, "Have you not a better Bible than this?"

The dying man said, "When you came I had a whole Bible. But when you told us that one book was fiction, I tore that out; and that one chapter was not true, I removed that; and that some stories were just tradition, I cut them out. If I had had another year under your teaching, I think I should have had only the two covers left, and nothing else."

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to search the Scriptures, and to believe the whole Bible. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## July 14

"In the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock." Ps. 27:5.

In Himself Christ will hide us from all troubles and dangers of life. But we have to go to Him and ask Him to hide us. He is our Protection from temptation and from evil. He is our Provision in time of want. But only those that are His have this blessing.

On a December afternoon five bombers dropped some sixteen or more bombs on a missionary's home and family in China. The members of the family were together on their knees in the living room. Dotty, the little girl, felt something hot hit her leg. As they arose from their knees they saw a piece of iron from the bomb. When it was picked up it was found to be still warm. A piece of glass had struck Dotty's cheek, but with the flat side, so it did not cut her. The Missionary's sweater pocket was full of glass, but not a piece had cut him. God had been merciful to them, not a hair of their heads was touched. He had hid them.

Do you know Him so that you, too, abide safely in Him? If not, accept Him today.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that we have Thee for our hiding place. Help us to trust Thee in danger, and cause our faith to become strong. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Lord's my Rock, in Him I hide,  
A shelter in the time of storm;  
Secure whatever may betide,  
A shelter in the time of storm.

## July 15

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." Lev. 17:11.

In the Old Testament, people had to take the life of an animal, and bring the blood to the altar of God, when they had sinned. Our Lord Jesus gave His blood on Calvary to pay for our sins once for all.

In 1927 at Lagos, West Africa, a specimen of blood from a native by the name of Asibi was taken, and as a result millions of people all over the world have been protected from yellow fever. Now a vaccine is made for the fever, and we are told that all medicine for yellow fever has some of the blood of this native African in it. To be freed from yellow fever one must receive an application of Asibi's blood, but to be free from our sins one must receive the cleansing of the precious blood of Jesus.

Only in the precious blood is there an atonement for sin. People try all kinds of other means, but they are of no avail.

Some people try good works, others try going into monasteries and convents; some heathen even burn their children, but only the blood of Jesus will wash us clean, and make us fit to meet our God. Some people in our Country try to be clean by worshipping the sun and nature, but, again, it is only the blood of Jesus. Are you washed in the blood of Jesus.

Dear Lord, we thank Thee that Thou didst die once for all for our sins. Use us to show others their need to be washed in the blood of Jesus. In Jesus' name. Amen.

|                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nothing can for sin atone,       | Oh! precious is the flow        |
| Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  | That makes me white as snow;    |
| Naught of good that I have done— | No other fount I know,          |
| Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  | Nothing but the blood of Jesus. |

## July 16

"To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend."  
Job. 6:14.

There are many afflicted and suffering people in our midst today. Many of them are neglected, and some are mistreated. But Christians are told to be kind to one another, to help those that are in need. We should endeavor to lift them up, to strengthen them, and help them to trust the Lord in a better way. Satan likes to get the Christian discouraged, for then he is useless, but God tells him that His grace is sufficient for the trial, for in our weakness His strength is made perfect.

A small boy had a boat which he took to a nearby lake to sail. Soon the boat went beyond his reach, and he called to a bigger boy to help him get it back. The older boy picked up a handful of stones and started throwing them at the boat. At first the small boy thought he was driving the boat farther away, but he soon saw that the waves moved the boat closer to shore, and he had his boat. He did not understand the kindness of the older boy. Just so, many Christians do not understand that God tests and tries us for our good. He is trying to draw us closer to Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be of service to those that are afflicted. Teach us how to be better friends to our fellow Christians. In Jesus' name. Amen.

In the hour of trial, Jesus plead for me;  
Lest by base denial, I depart from Thee;  
When Thou see'st me waver, With a look recall;  
Nor for fear or favor, Suffer me to fall.



## July 17

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." Eccles. 11:1.

Charlie and Dot had been in church and heard the minister speak on this text. Dot asked her mother the meaning of the text. Her mother said it meant that what we give to the Lord will be given back, increased a hundred fold.

After the three had eaten the evening meal, there was only one slice of bread in the cupboard, and no money to buy more. When all was quiet in the house, Dot took the slice of bread and sneaked out and walked towards the river. There she was overheard by a gentleman as she bowed her head and prayed, "Please God, this is all the bread we have. We have none for breakfast, but if it isn't too long till the hundred slices come back, maybe Charlie can get some money to buy some. Send it to Dotty Horn, in Thomas Alley, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

The little girl cast the bread on the water. Awhile later somebody knocked on the door of her home. A man entered and placed a large basket on the floor and a letter on the table. The basket was marked, "For Dotty Horn—her bread from the water."

The basket was full of bread, a chicken, and a lot of groceries. In the letter Charlie found that he was hired as messenger in the store of Lenox and Co.

Lord Jesus, teach us to believe and trust Thee. In faith, then, we 'cast our bread on the water,' and watch the return. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## July 18

"And shalt call his name Jesus." Luke 1:31.

How wonderful that His name should be Jesus! For Jesus means "He shall save us." Names should have a meaning; they should express our characters, but too many of the names of today seem to be just an identification. *Jesus* came to save us from sin, so that we can stand before God, and not be condemned.

A young man sat at his piano early one Sunday morning. His mother had placed a beautiful poem on the piano where he would see it. She had prayed that her son, who was a Christian, would dedicate his life to God's service. He had been offered a position on the radio that would bring him riches and fame. This Sunday morning he was practicing a song that he was to sing in church that morning. His eyes fell on the poem, and he read,

"I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold!"

The poem gripped his heart. He rejected the radio offer, and dedicated his life to the Lord. That young man was Beverly Shea who is now singing to thousands over the radio. But instead of singing for himself and his own fame, he is singing for the salvation of souls, and for the glory of God. He has had music put to the words of the poem and is using it on many of his programs.

Just so, the Lord is waiting for all of His children to dedicate their lives to His service, so the wonderful name of *Jesus* can heal people from their sin and despair. Do you know the Lord as your personal Saviour? If you do not, accept Him today.

Dear Lord Jesus, grant that our lives shall be dedicated to winning souls for Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold:  
I'd rather be His than have riches untold.  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands:  
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hands.

Verse by permission, Rhea Miller

## July 19

"For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

There have been people in the world who thought they could be saved by the name of man, such as Buddha, and Confucius. And there are people who follow man-made religions, such as: Christian Science, I Am, Jehovah's Witnesses and others, and have thought they could find salvation. They refuse to see that man's heart is so wicked that only God can know how wicked it is. Only a sinless Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, can redeem us. Only through His name can we be saved.

A young sailor wandered into a night club in Philadelphia, one evening, where the radio was going. A new program was on the air, and he heard a deep, melodious voice singing, "I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold." When the song was over a voice over the radio began telling the audience about taking Jesus as their Saviour. The sailor left the night club and went to the Christian Service Center around the corner, and there accepted Jesus as his Saviour.

It was Beverly Shea singing, and his dedication to the Lord had won a sinner to the Lord Jesus Christ, through the wonderful name of Jesus.

Jesus is waiting to accept you into His fold. Accept Him, and then you, too, will say, "I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords."

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that we have been saved through Thy matchless name, the name of Jesus. Give us a burden for souls who know Thee not. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;  
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause.  
I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame;  
I'd rather be true to His holy name.

Verse by permission, Rhea Miller

## July 20

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

Col. 3:3.

To be dead to the things of this life is only possible when one has dedicated his life to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians are new creatures in Christ Jesus. They have a new fellowship, and a new desire. They have the fellowship of the Lord Jesus and their desire is to please Him, and to be hid in Him.

In the first century of this age, a Christian man was brought before the king who demanded that the man renounce Christ, but the man refused. The king said, "If you don't renounce Christ, I will drive you out of the country."

The man smiled and replied, "You cannot drive me from Christ, for He says, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.'"

Then the king became angry and said, "I am going to take all of your property."

Again the man smiled and said, "My treasures are laid up in heaven."

That made the king more angry, and he shouted, "I can kill you, can't I?"

"Why," the man replied, "I have been dead for forty years; I have been dead in Christ, 'dead to the world, and my life is hid in Christ; you cannot touch it.'"

Are you hid in Christ? If you are not, there is no time like today. "Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation."

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the courage always to be true to Thee. Teach us how to be hid in Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,  
And it told Thy love to me;  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,  
And be closer drawn to Thee.

## July 21

"In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul." Ps. 94:19.

When our thoughts are divided between God and the world, we see only fear and dismay, but when they are centered on Christ we have consolation that the world knows nothing about. We have comforts that drive away our fears and our cares.

A beautiful, frail woman was hostess at dinner one evening. After dinner she drew apart from her guest, for she was both blind and partially deaf. The pastor whom she and her husband were entertaining, mentioned the fact that she had suffered a great deal in being denied the pleasure of the radio, of conversing with friends, of attending church, and the pleasure of reading. He wondered how she could be so happy. Her husband replied,

"She has treasured memories of a happy life. As a girl she memorized almost the whole of Isaiah, the Psalms, as well as other portions of the Bible. It delights her soul to go over these passages again and again. They are ever new to her, and they fill her with blessing."

Her thoughts were centered on Christ and He was her comfort and her joy.

Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Comforter?

Dear Lord Jesus, keep our thoughts centered on Thee. Help us to trust Thee and to receive our comfort from Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Once my way was dark and dreary,  
For my heart was full of sin,  
But the sky is bright and cheery,  
Since the fullness of His love came in.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## July 22

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20.

Giving thanks always! We are not to thank God for some of our blessings and then forget to thank Him for other blessings, but we are to thank Him for all things. We do not always have to thank Him in words, but our actions should be speaking praise to Him for the blessing of being a Christian. In deeds of kindness to others we are showing our thanks unto Him.

Dr. Pace was going from New York to Chicago on a crowded train. He had found a seat and settled down to read. He saw an elderly man standing, and offered him his seat. The old man gratefully accepted the seat for he was not well. Then he saw a tired mother with four small children. He went to her and asked, "Won't you let me amuse the children for a while so you can rest?" The mother gratefully accepted his kindness, and went to the dressing room while Dr. Pace amused the children with stories and pictures. A cultivated Chinese man was on the train, who was a Harvard University graduate, and he said to Dr. Pace,

"Sir, I know you are a Christian. I have been watching you. I, too, am a Christian."

Another man who was smoking, hearing the conversation, said, "I have been watching you, too, and I want to talk to you. I used to be a Christian, and somehow, seeing you, makes me want to come back to God."

Dr. Pace's life was giving thanks to God. Is your life a life of praise?

Dear Lord Jesus, make us a blessing to someone in need. Give us thankful hearts for all Thy blessings. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## July 23

"Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude 21.

We are looking for our blessed Lord, and His mercy which alone can give us peace and comfort for this day and age. This world has many remedies for the ills of the body, but Christ is the only One who has the remedy for sin. He alone can cleanse us from sin.

An eight-year-old girl got on a train going west. When the conductor came for her ticket she told him that she had none. He asked her where she was going, and she told him that she was going to heaven. Then the conductor asked, "Who pays your fare?"

"Mister, does this railroad go to heaven, and does Jesus travel on it?"

"I think not. Why did you think that it was, and that He traveled on it?"

"Why, sir, before my mother died, she used to sing about a heavenly railroad, and you looked so nice and kind, I thought this was the road. My mother used to say that the train stopped at every station to pick up passengers. Nobody sings to me now, and I thought I'd take the cars and go to my mother. Mister, do you sing to your little girl about the railroad that goes to heaven? You have a little girl, haven't you?"

Are you looking for the mercy that this little girl was looking for? And have you the faith to trust that she had? Your trust will be rewarded for our Redeemer is ready to receive all those that call upon Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to seek Thy mercy early. For only in Thee will we have mercy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## July 24

"How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the Lord?" II Chron. 18:15.

How dangerous it is for people to try to win souls to a man-made religion! Man does not like to face the truth, and the truth in the Bible proves man a sinner apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. Man would like to be able to wash his own sins away, to cover himself with his own righteousness, but only the robe of Christ's righteousness is the truth.

Abraham Lincoln was called "Honest Abe." His word could be relied upon. One day as he was carrying an axe to the house, his step-sister ran behind him, playfully leaped upon his back, and began to dig her knees into his back. The force of her leap upon his back brought him to the ground, causing him to drop the axe on her ankle which resulted in a big cut. While he was bandaging the cut he asked her what she was going to tell her mother.

"That I cut my ankle with the axe," said the sister.

"Yes, that is the truth, but it is not all the truth. You must tell the whole truth." She promised him she would. And when she told her mother she was cheerfully forgiven.

It is important to give forth the truth that is in Christ Jesus. What is of man will be brought to naught, but what is of God will endure.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us Thy truth, and help us to give forth Thy truth that others will be saved. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.



## July 25

"Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." James 5:20.

Everyone that is not born of God is a sinner. Everyone that does not do the will of God sins. We who are Christians are called to win souls from the error of their way. Then we will be blessed. All sinners can be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, if they will only accept Him.

Several miles above Milton, Pennsylvania, when the ice broke up, one spring, a farmer got into one of his boats in preparation to pulling it out of the river. A mass of ice struck the boat and broke it loose from the bank, carrying it and the farmer out into the current.

A neighbor, seeing the danger, mounted a horse and with all the speed he could command, rode down to Milton, where there was a bridge across the river. The people gathered ropes and rushed to the bridge. They suspended a line of ropes across the river from the bridge, so that no matter at what point the farmer would be coming down the river, he could seize a rope.

Soon the farmer was seen standing in the boat which was half full of water, and coming swiftly down the river. When he saw the ropes he seized the nearest one, and was drawn up and his life was saved.

Just so, we are to stand ready to help sinners to know the Lord Jesus Christ so that they will be saved. Sinners are drifting down the stream of life headed for destruction. Are you standing ready to show them Jesus Christ and His power to save them?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be ready and waiting to lead sinners to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Shall we whose souls are lighted With wisdom from on high—  
Shall we to men benighted The lamp of life deny?  
Salvation, O salvation! The joyful sound proclaim,  
Till earth's remotest nation Has learned Messiah's name.

## July 26

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Ps. 122:1.

All people should be willing to go to the house of the Lord. But sad to say, many people would rather go to a ball game, or horse race, or a picnic or anything than to the house of the Lord. Many people say that the church is full of hypocrites and so they are not willing to go to the house of the Lord, but such an excuse will not hold good when they stand before the Lord, their Judge.

Spurgeon tells this story:

One American said to another, "I wish you would come to my garden and taste my apples." But even though he asked the friend several times he would not come into the garden. At last the fruit-grower said,

"I suppose you think my apples are no good, so you won't try them."

"To tell the truth," answered the friend, "I have tasted them. As I went along the road, I picked a fallen one, and I never tasted anything so sour in all my life. I do not want any more of your apples."

"Oh," said the fruit-grower, "I thought that must have been the case. Those apples around the outside of the garden are for the special benefit of the boys; I went fifty miles to select the most sour apples, and planted them around the orchard so the boys would not think them worth stealing. If you will come inside, you will find that we grow a very different quality there; they are sweet."

If we go to the house of the Lord to meet the Saviour and have fellowship with Him, we will be glad and our lives will be strengthened.

Dear Lord Jesus, draw us close to Thee, and to Thy children, that we may rejoice in fellowship, one with the other. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## July 27

"Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them." Gen. 15:5.

The Lord is telling us, at all times, to look up to heaven where the Source of all things is. When we look to heaven, we cannot count the blessings we received. Just as the stars shine the best in the dark, so the blessings of our Lord shine the brightest in times of trouble and distress. But we have to look up to heaven, to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour if we are to be able to receive the blessings He has in store for us.

London was among the many cities which had blackouts during the World War II. Formerly this city had lights that could be seen from afar, but at that time the city was dark, and for the first time, the people could see the stars in the heaven from the center of the city. Before this the electric light bulbs, and other earthly lamps had hid the light of heaven. But during the war, London could see the glories in the sky through the myriad of stars!

When do you best see the light of God? Is it not when it is dark around you in the world? Then, let us look up into heaven, and up to Him who is the Source of all things, and we will receive the blessings that we long for.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to look to Thee for all things, and receive the blessings Thou hast in store for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Fair is the sunshine,  
Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.

## July 28

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness." II Pet. 3:9.

Sometimes when the Lord waits to answer our prayers we think He is tardy, but what He has promised us, that He will give us. He sometimes keeps us waiting in order to strengthen our faith for a greater testing. Those who want to destroy the work of the Lord say that the Lord is slack almost to the point of being neglectful of His promises to His children. They do not understand that God likes to test us to see if we love Him for the things that He gives us, or for Himself alone.

A Christian once received word from some relatives across the sea to the effect that they were ill and in need. She took her problem to the Lord, and asked Him to supply that need. She later went to the mail box to mail some letters, and on her way home she saw a paper in the sand which had gathered in the corner of the street. She stooped down and picked up the paper and found it to be a five dollar bill.

With the money in her hand, she bowed her head and said, "Oh, thank Thee, Lord, for answering my prayer so soon. May the person who lost this bill have enough so this one will not be missed."

With a song in her heart and on her lips, she hurried home to send the five dollars across the ocean.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to trust Thee and Thy promises. Give us the grace to wait upon Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Give these and then Thy will be done;  
Thus strengthened with all might,  
We, through Thy Spirit and Thy Son,  
Shall pray, and pray aright.

## July 29

"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isa. 41:13.

We greatly fear some of the experiences of this life, but when we trust Him and His promises we do not fear. He says, "Fear not; I will help thee." When the Lord holds our hands, we can go through all the trials of this life.

A crippled woman in England was waiting in a hospital ward to be operated—this time for the amputation of part of her leg. She was dazed and numb with dread as she faced a life with part of her limb gone. This woman was young, she loved life and freedom, but now she faced the life of a cripple. All seemed dark to her, she tried to pray but found that she could not.

The hour of the operation arrived, and she was in agony of mind and body. Just as the stretcher-bearers passed out of the ward into the corridor, a young nurse passed the woman on the stretcher. The nurse hesitated a moment, and then, leaning over the woman, said,

"Don't be frightened, dear, Jesus says, 'Fear not, for I am with thee, and I have loved thee with an everlasting love'." Pressing the patient's hand, she was gone. And the fear and dread had gone, too.

When Jesus holds our hands we can go through all things, for He strengthens us. Put your trust in the Saviour, today.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the grace that we need to trust Thee more. Help us not to fear. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I've tried in vain a thousand ways  
My fears to quell, my hopes to raise;  
But what I need, the Bible says,  
Is ever only Jesus.

He died, He lives, He reigns, He pleads;  
There's love in all His words and deeds;  
There's all a guilty sinner needs  
Forevermore in Jesus.

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## July 30

"Remember now Thy Creator." Eccles. 12:1.

We are to remember and praise our heavenly Father. Everyone cannot say, 'Our Father.' Only those who are born again through the blood of Jesus Christ can say this. If we remember the price our Lord and Saviour has paid for our redemption we will be careful where we go, and what we do. We will not want to sin.

A young man went to a large city to find employment, but before he left, his mother placed her hand upon his head and said,

"My son, remember that at nine o'clock every evening, I shall be praying for you."

When he got to the city, the son formed the wrong companionships. One evening when they were on their way to a questionable place, the tower clock struck nine. The young man stopped, but the rest of the group went on. They looked back and called, "Come on, we're late now."

"I am sorry," answered the young man, "but you will have to go without me." They tried to pull him along with them but he refused to be moved. He, then explained why he would not go with them.

"When I left home, my mother put her hand on my head and prayed for me. I can feel her hand now. I must go back. I cannot go on with you."

The Lord is waiting patiently to come into your heart and life. Accept Him today, without delay. And then you will keep in mind, with gratitude, the love of the Father for you.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to remember from where our blessings come. Help us to redeem the time for the days are evil. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A charge to keep I have,  
A God to glorify,

A never-dying soul to save,  
And fit it for the sky.

## July 31

"I am become a fool in glorying." II Cor. 12:11.

There are times when it is well to be, what some people may call, a fool. When you dedicate your life to the Lord, and live a consecrated and useful life people may call you a fool. When you take a stand for Christ in the company of the ungodly, they will call you a fool, but that, too, is well.

Roland Hayes, a Negro singer, tells about a time when he stepped upon the stage of a Berlin Auditorium. He was greeted with jeers and catcalls. He was a Negro and the audience took him for a fool, too. Mr. Hayes stood beside the piano for a few minutes and waited. When a lull came he began to sing a German song. Then he sang another German song, and after that a group of Negro spirituals. As he sang the crowd hushed, and when he had finished, the crowd broke into thunderous applause.

Do not be afraid to be a fool for God's sake. He gave His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ that we might be saved. Accept Him, the Saviour, today.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the courage to be fools for Thy sake. Use us as a testimony to others who know Thee not. In Jesus' name. Amen.

In the cross of Christ I glory  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

## August 1

"For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." II Tim. 1:12.

It is well to be certain about all things, but especially about our eternal salvation. Paul the Apostle knew Jesus, and he was sure that Jesus would take care of everything that he placed in His care. We should be certain of that which we believe, and then we will have confidence in it. But God tells us not to put our confidence in man. Man will fail, but our confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ will never bring us to shame.

A bishop in Norway once asked a boy if he knew God. The little fellow answered, "No." He didn't know anything about God. Then the bishop asked him if he knew Jesus. The little fellow answered,

"Oh, yes, I know Jesus."

All of us must know the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. Then when we commit our lives to Him, He will guide us into safe paths. He will lead us into paths of fruitful service. Our whole lives will be safe in His keeping now and eternally.

Have you placed your life in Jesus' keeping? If not, do it today, do not delay. Tomorrow may be too late.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that our lives are safe in Thee. Help us to know Thee better, and to serve Thee faithfully. In Jesus' name. Amen.

But I know whom I have believed  
And am persuaded that He is able  
To keep that which I have committed  
Unto Him against that day.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.



## August 2

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." Rom. 8:1.

In Christ Jesus! And no condemnation! How wonderful this promise is to those who love and serve the Lord. No fear of the judgment at the Great White Throne! Those that are in Christ have no fear of being turned from God, for they are safe in Christ, washed in His blood.

An old man, Mr. George Bay of Canada, went to the post office one day. In the next room to the post office were two girls playing a guitar and singing:

Come ye sinners poor and needy.  
Jesus' blood can make you free.

Silently the old man wept as he sat on a barrel and looked out of the window. Blinded with tears he stumbled home, went to bed and wept himself to sleep. He had been a cursing man, but he now found it impossible to curse, for the words of the song kept ringing in his ears. After three days of weeping he went back to the village and asked the girls to sing more songs for him. They sang *There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood* and *God's Wonderful Promise Is True*. Mr. Bay said,

"But I'm such an awful sinner." Dolly took out her Bible and showed him some verses she had learned in Bible school. Then she prayed with him and asked God to save him from his sin, and make him a child of God. Mr. Bay became a happy Christian. There was no condemnation upon him now.

Are you in Christ? Accept Him, and there will be no condemnation upon you. Accept Him today.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for removing the condemnation from us by the blood of Jesus Christ. Use our testimony for the sake of those who do not know Thee, that they, too, may be saved. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## August 3

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." Eph. 5:8.

Before we were saved we walked the way of the world, which is darkness. Now we walk with Christ; we are washed in His blood, and we are to walk as children of light. We are to walk as Christians. We have a new direction to go. When we were children of darkness we walked toward hell, but now we are walking the heavenly way. We are to let our Christian light shine for others to see.

Before the Allies could land in North Africa during World War II, General Clark and some of his men landed in the dark on the coast of Nigeria. They were looking for a light from a certain home. The man of this home had to be very careful. It was twenty-four hours before he dared to set a light in his house for General Clark to see. He had drawn a map to show the Allies where to land. That little light in the window may have been the turning point in that part of the war, for soon after, the Allies landed and conquered the whole country.

Are you walking in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ? And are you letting your light shine so that others will see Him living in you? If not, do so today, and have joy forever more.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to walk in the light as Thou art in the light, and let that light lead someone to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide,  
The light of the world is Jesus.  
We walk in the light when we follow our guide,  
The light of the world is Jesus.  
Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee,  
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me,  
Once I was blind, but now I can see,  
The light of the world is Jesus.

## August 4

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Rom. 13:11.

Those that know not the Christ are dead in trespasses and sin. They are asleep; they do not even realize where they are headed for. But many Christians are asleep, too. They are not awake to their responsibility to God, and to those who know not Christ. Many of them are willing to sit and soak up God's Word and His blessings, just like sponges, but they are not willing to give out God's Word to those who are lost. It is high time that we all awake from this sleep.

Twenty-nine badly wounded men were placed in a plane on an island in the Pacific. They became very restless and nervous during their flight through the air, so the doctor began giving sedatives to quieten them. One of the wounded men refused the sedative and said,

"But doctor, I cannot sleep now. I am so happy. I am going home."

Christians, too, should be too happy and too busy to sleep. We are on our way home to heaven, and need to be redeeming the time, for the days are evil. Satan would like to put us all to sleep, but the Lord would have us to be busy for Him.

Choose this day whom you will serve. May the Lord Jesus be your choice.

Dear Lord Jesus, stir our hearts so that we shall awaken to the evil of the times in which we live. Teach us how to redeem the time by winning souls for Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Awake, awake, and sing the blessed story,  
Awake, awake, and let your song of praise arise.  
Awake, awake, the earth is full of glory,  
And light is beaming from the radiant skies.

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## August 5

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matt. 6:14.

If we are not willing to forgive others their trespasses against us, we are not showing forth a life that is in Christ. God, through the Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood, has forgiven us our trespasses, and redeemed our life from sin. We are now to show forth a forgiving spirit in gratitude for His love to us.

A Christian soldier of England was sent to fight in France. One day on a mission he killed a German soldier. He searched the German and found a little book which he took. When he returned to England he found the name of the soldier's mother in the book, and wrote to her,

"As a member of a party of Commandos raiding a village in France, it became my duty to kill your son. Nevertheless, I sincerely regret my act and earnestly ask your forgiveness for this great wrong which you have suffered at my hands. I am a Christian, and as a Christian I have only love in my heart for you. After the war is over, I would like to be able to talk to you face to face."

Have you a forgiving spirit, or are you a grudge-bearing Christian? As you have been forgiven and are daily forgiven, forgive your fellow Christians, and thus glorify your Saviour which is in heaven.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to forgive others as Thou hast forgiven us. Keep us from being stumbling blocks to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Upon the cross of Jesus  
Mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of One  
Who suffered there for me;  
And from my smitten heart with tears,  
Two wonders I confess,  
The wonders of His glorious love,  
And my own unworthiness.

## August 6

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:25.

If we have sin in our hearts the Lord cannot and will not hear us. We have to confess that sin first to Jesus and then He will hear us. We must have a right spirit with our fellowmen as well as with God. The unsaved believe our testimony only as they see how we love Christ in our daily living. We sin daily in thought, word and deed. These sins must be confessed and forgiven by the Father. Many people think because they have accepted Christ they cannot sin, but this is not true. Our thoughts are sometimes unkind toward others, this is a trespass. We may have harmed someone, and need to make restitution. We are to be kind to one another. Sometimes people do us wrong, and if we do not forgive them, this is sin for we are then bearing a grudge.

The German mother of our story of yesterday, answered the letter of the English soldier by saying,

"I received your letter about my son. I have indeed experienced the deepest grief any mother could suffer. Yet, I forgive you, for I, too, am a Christian. After the war is over, I would like you to come to my home, and take the place of my son."

Have you this forgiving spirit? Do not put your Lord to shame by an unforgiving spirit.

Dear Lord Jesus, keep us in the center of Thy will. Create in us clean hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Before our Father's throne,  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.

## August 7

"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him." Isa. 53:10.

God was pleased to hurt His own Son for our sake. He paid our debt with His blood. It pleased God to bruise His Son. He loved us so much that He was willing to give His sinless Son so that we might have eternal life. We are free. Our bill is paid. How wonderful!

Once upon a time, Henry Clay, the great American statesman, borrowed some money from a banker in New York. Because of reverses he was unable to repay the loan at the given time. He asked if he might have an extension of time in paying the loan. The banker replied,

"We have no note of yours here."

"Oh, yes, you have. I gave you one six months ago," replied Mr. Clay.

"Yes," replied the banker, "we did have one sometime ago, but some of your friends came and paid it. There is nothing, now, against you on our books."

We, too, owed a debt to the Father, and could not pay it. A wonderful Friend paid it for us. The Lord Jesus Christ is His name. Have you brought your debt to Him? He stands ready to redeem you and make you free. Come to Him today; come without delay.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that Thou hast paid our load of sin, and has set us free. Help us to show forth praise unto Thee for our salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I lay my sins on Jesus,  
The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us,  
From the accursed load.

I bring my guilt to Jesus,  
To wash my crimson stains  
White in His blood most precious,  
Till not a spot remains.

## August 8

"Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4.

God has told us that we cannot serve God and mammon, too. We will either love one or the other. The way we spend our money; the way we spend our time; the pleasures we indulge in; and even the people we associate with, all tell which side we are on. The world will not have our Lord; then we should not want the world.

John and Leon came from Bohemia to Cleveland, Ohio, as babies. They went to school together, and graduated from the same high school. But on Sundays their ways parted. John went with his parents to church, while Leon went with his father to a meeting of unbelievers. John finished Denison University and became a minister, the Rev. John Parcha.

On September 6, 1901, the President of the United States, William McKinley, was shaking hands with the people at the Academy of Music at the Pan American Exposition at Buffalo, New York. In the line was a Negro, and behind him a young man with his right hand bandaged. McKinley greeted the Negro and then turned to take the left hand of the next young man, who fired two bullets into the president from a gun hidden in the bandages. As the president fell, he said,

"Don't hurt him."

The man who fired those shots was Leon. He had chosen the way of the world and died a criminal. Our governments are ordained of God, and we are to respect our president. Leon was not only an enemy of our government, but an enemy of God.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the courage to always choose Thy way, and to shun the world. In Jesus' name and for His glory. Amen.

## August 9

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Ps. 14:1.

Some people think that because they choose to believe that there is no God, their thinking will make this a fact. God is not mocked. He tells us not to be deceived. We do not fool God by these vain imaginations. The people who think this way are only fooling themselves. They live in sin, and refuse to believe that they will have to suffer the consequences.

A Father took to drink and a life of crime. He was caught and sent to the county jail where he was sentenced to die for his crime. He wrote his son,

"It is with a heart filled with sadness that I write to you from the jail. If you live to be old enough, I want you to visit the place where your father spent his last days that it may be a lesson to you. I love you with all the tender affection a father can feel for a baby, and I would rather you died in infancy than to follow the life I have led. Above all, never touch any strong drink. Remember your father's warning, and grow up to be a good man."

God is not mocked. Your sin will find you out. Do not be deceived. Turn to the Saviour, and make no delay. He is tenderly saying, "Come."

Dear Lord Jesus, lead us step by step in Thy paths, and keep us from the folly of this world. For Jesus' sake and in His name. Amen.

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He can hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so. He will hold me fast.

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## August 10

"Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col. 1:27.

Christ in us gives us the hope of eternal life. This will be glory for us. Many of us walk in this world as if God were dead, that His power and grace were of no value. We walk about with long faces, as if there was no glory for us. We should be radiant Christians, for we have a hope that the world knows nothing about, but are seeking for apart from Christ.

A little girl was being tucked into bed for the night. Her mother turned out the light, and started for the door. The little girl called,

"Mother, am I going to be left alone, all alone, and in the dark?"

"Yes," the mother answered, "but why do you ask such a question?"

"I do not want to be alone. I want to see your face," the little girl replied.

"And why do you want to see my face?" asked the mother.

"Because it shines and is happy; it makes me feel warm inside."

"That is Jesus in me," the mother answered, "and He is here with you, too."

"I know, He loves little children, too."

Christians should have smiling faces and loving hands that tell others of Christ living in them. Can others see Christ living in you? Have you the hope of glory abiding in you. If not, accept the Lord as your Saviour, and have this hope of glory.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be joyful Christians, showing forth Thy love to others, that we may win them to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## August 11

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

Some people are lost in snowstorms on the prairies; some in forests; some are lost in dense fogs on the ocean; and some are lost in a large city. Zaccheus, of Jericho, was lost in his own city. But Jesus found him in a tree.

Let us imagine a story of Zaccheus:

In his old age, Zaccheus went for a walk in the field at sunrise every morning. His wife wondered where he went, and one morning she secretly followed him. He went to the tree where he first saw Jesus. He poured water on the roots and pulled up some weeds here and there. Then he looked up at the branches where he sat the day when Jesus found him. When he came home his wife asked him why he took such good care of that particular tree.

"It was the tree that brought me to Jesus whom I love," he said.

It is only a story, but it teaches us that we, too, should be grateful for Jesus who died that we might be saved. We were lost, too, and He came to save us. Do you realize, sinner, that you are lost? To be lost is a fearful thing, but we have a Saviour who is willing to accept you into His beloved fold. Accept Him today, do not delay, tomorrow may be too late.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us never to forget that Thou hast redeemed us from a life of sin. Give us a burden for other lost souls. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Now I have found the ground wherein  
My soul's sure anchor may remain:  
The wounds of Jesus, for my sin,  
Before the world's foundation slain;  
Whose mercy shall unshaken stay,  
When heaven and earth are fled away.

## August 12

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" 1 Cor. 6:9.

The reason the unrighteous cannot inherit the Kingdom of God is that they have no way of getting there. The unrighteous have made sin their life, and they will reap the result of this life of sin in eternal punishment. Many people think because they do not drink, they do not smoke, they do not curse, they do not steal, they do not commit murder, that they ought to go to heaven. The Bible tells us that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; we all have to be washed in the blood of Jesus.

A little girl, of London, used to bring supper to her father who worked evenings. For several nights she could not find her father at his place of work. She found that he had gone to a saloon. She followed him there, and went to a table where he sat drinking with some other men, and said,

"Daddy, here is your supper. It is the same as we have at home for supper." She lifted the cover, and he saw an empty bucket.

This man's life was empty and full of sin. Many suffered because of his sin. He was headed for a Christless eternity. In hell there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Today Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart, waiting to come in, but you must open the door. Open it today and you will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to see the awfulness of a life without Christ, and give us a burden for those who are not seeking to inherit the Kingdom of God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

He will lead you at last to that blessed abode,  
To the city of God, at the end of the road,  
Where the night never falls, when life's journey is o'er,  
But you must open the door.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## August 13

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil." Luke 6:45.

Out of the heart good or evil comes. Love, joy, understanding, sympathy, gentleness are good treasures of the heart. But malice, strife, envyings, uncleanness are evil treasures from an evil heart. There is no real love apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, for He is love.

The love of a good woman for her drunken husband was a great influence for Christ in the life of Dr. Wilfred Grenfell of Labrador. The husband had come home drunk, one night, and had thrown a paraffin lamp at her. She was brought to the hospital terribly burned. The husband stood at the foot of the bed while the police tried to question his wife. She tried not to look at her husband, but soon her eyes rested on his hands. Then she raised her eyes slowly to his face. Her expression was that of tenderness and love. Turning to the police she said,

"Sir, it was an accident." Then she turned on her pillow and died.

Dr. Grenfell went back to his office. After communing with himself a while he spoke aloud,

"That was like God, and God is like that."

The man had evil in his heart, but his wife had good in her heart.

God loves us and sent His Son to this world to die for us, that we might have the good treasure in our hearts. The treasures that will abide throughout eternity.

What kind of treasure have you in your heart? Accept the treasure of the Lord Jesus Christ, eternal life in the Saviour. Accept it today.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us a forgiving and a loving heart such as this wife had. Lead us in Thy paths for Thy name's sake. Amen.

## August 14

"Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father . . . I am the Lord your God." Lev. 19:3.

God is not telling us to be afraid of our fathers and mothers, but to give them respect and honor. If children cannot respect and obey their earthly parents, how can they reverence and obey their heavenly Father?

In our homes we have rules and regulations so that things will run in decency and in order. For the same reason God has given us commandments to obey.

A naval ship was lying in the bay ready to leave. On the deck stood a young sailor. While he leaned over the rail something dropped into the water. He immediately jumped into the water and recovered what had fallen. This was against the rules of the ship. He was taken before his commanding officer for questioning, but the young man did not answer the questions.

"Why did you do it?" asked the officer more sharply than before.

"Because of this," said the young man, and pulled out a leather case in which was the picture of his mother. Instead of reprimanding, the officer commended him for his love for his mother. Her picture had kept the boy from many temptations; he loved her too much to want to grieve her. He had respect for his mother.

We must respect our parents and above all we must respect our God. We are to respect the rules of the earthly home, and we are to obey God's commandments for the sake of our testimony before others. Yield yourself to the discipline of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to that of your parents.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us obedient hearts and willingness to do Thy will, and to obey our parents. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## August 15

"The field is wasted, the land mourneth." Joel 1:10.

The Bible says that the hand of the diligent shall be made rich. To rise early and to be about one's work will bring forth fruit from one's labor. It is a shame to be slothful, and thereby bring want to many. The farmer has to be diligent in his plowing, sowing, cultivating and tilling if he is to reap a harvest. He cannot afford to let weeds and tares come into his fields for they will destroy his crops. His field would be wasted, and his land would be mourning because there would be no harvest.

A wasted field is a sad thing, but a wasted life is sadder. The life may not have been a wicked life, but if it has not accomplished something worthwhile it is still wasted.

Christians who have no vision live a meager life, but those who have caught the vision of God's program and are busy about the Father's business will have fruitful lives.

A man and his wife had a quarrel about a merry-go-round ride. The man wanted to ride but his wife did not. The man finally went, much to his wife's disgust. When he returned she said,

"See what you did, you spent your money, and you are back where you started from. You haven't accomplished a thing."

Are you wasting your life in sin? Come to the Saviour and yield your life to Him, then you will not have a wasted life. Accept Him today.

Dear Lord Jesus, keep us from wasting our lives. Help us to be fruitful Christians, to Thy name's honor and glory. Amen.

I've wasted many precious years,  
Now I'm coming home,  
I now repent with bitter tears,  
Lord, I'm coming home.

Coming home, coming home,  
Never more to roam,  
Open wide Thine arms of love,  
Lord, I'm coming home.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## August 16

"Let us walk honestly, as in the day." Rom. 13:13.

Each Christian is an open epistle to all who know and see him. We have to be careful in our conduct before others, lest we be stumbling blocks to those who are weak in the faith, or to those who are not of the faith. We must be upright in our dealings with others, whether they are Christians or unbelievers. We should be fair in our judgment of others as well. The same spirit of fairness must be shown in our pleasures as well as in our tasks. To cheat anyone is being dishonest, but to be honorable is to glorify the name of Christ.

A college teacher was playing a game of tennis with a high school girl. They both played well, and the girl tied the score with the teacher when suddenly her ball fell outside of the line. She ran over to the teacher and shook hands with her as the winner. The teacher said,

"No, you won the game."

"The game is yours," replied the girl, "I saw the ball fall outside of the line."

That evening the teacher called at the girl's home and said to the father, "Your daughter certainly plays a nice game of tennis, but more than that she is honest." And she told the father of the events of the afternoon.

Our walk with the Lord will either be a hindrance to those who are not saved, or an influence for Christ. How are you walking?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to walk as children of the day, so that our deeds will not bring shame and reproach upon Thy name. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## August 17

"In due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not." Gal. 6:9.

To wait for an answer to prayer is disheartening at times, but we will reap if we faint not. Sometimes one is tempted to murmur when one has to wait to see fruit from one's labors; but the Lord is testing our patience. When we see others having their desires granted, we are liable to complain. If we murmur or complain, if we are disheartened or are dejected, we are fainting; then we cannot hope to reap the reward that God has in store for us.

A Sunday school teacher was interested in a young girl who came from a home where the father drank. The mother had to take in washings, and went out scrubbing floors for a living for her children. This young girl took care of the younger children when the mother was gone.

The Sunday school teacher taught the girl about Jesus, and counselled with her through grade school, then high school, through normal school and even when she began to teach. She was patient and untiring in her efforts. When the girl married and reared three beautiful children in the Lord, the Sunday school teacher felt that she had been well paid for her efforts.

We, too, will be well paid for our efforts, if we will be patient and serve. We will not be ashamed, but we will be rewarded. Only those in Christ can look forward to this victory. Accept the Lord Jesus Christ and you too will reap a rich reward in eternity.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to wait upon Thee. We cannot do it in our own strength, but through Thee. Give us the grace we need, for Jesus' sake and in His name. Amen.

Lead on, O King Eternal,  
We follow, not with fears;  
For gladness breaks like morning  
Where'er Thy face appears;

Thy cross is lifted o'er us;  
We journey in its light;  
The crown awaits the conquest;  
Lead on O God of might.



## August 18

"He was despised." Isa. 53:3.

The Jews looked for a great King, and when Jesus came a lowly servant, they despised Him. They looked for one who would come in great splendor, and when He was born in a stable, they despised Him. When we accept the Lord as our Saviour, our former friends despise us; they are ashamed of us, and they turn from us. But the people turned from the Lord, too. Only a few went all the way with Him.

Lois' Sunday school teacher gave her a picture of Jesus on the Cross. At the bottom of the picture was written, "I did this for you. What have you done for me." This impressed Lois and she decided to do something for those who were in less fortunate circumstances than herself.

For Easter she picked a bouquet of flowers for her Aunt Mary who called her a "Sunbeam." To the old lady next door she brought a Bible-verse motto. The friend asked God to bless her. She brought a gift of food to blind Hans, read to him from the Bible, and sang him an Easter song. Hans cried for joy. Then she visited a little sick girl by the name of Bertha, and gave her one of her dolls. Bertha hugged the doll and cried,

"Now it won't be so hard for me to be sick, because I have a dolly with me all the time."

When she returned home Lois told her mother that she had never been as happy as she had been that day.

We, too, can have joy in serving Jesus, even though we are despised by the world and the ungodly people. Are you ashamed of Jesus? Be not ashamed of Him, and He will not be ashamed of you.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us never to be ashamed of Thee. Help us to be willing to be despised by others, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## August 19

"Thou art fairer than the children of men." Ps. 45:2.

The children of men dress in gorgeous array, and they do look attractive; but the children of God are clothed in the righteous robe of Christ, and are fairer than the children of men. No matter how beautiful the children of men try to make themselves outwardly, the Lord looks upon the heart and understands that it is all sham and pretense. He sees the real person underneath all the glitter and outward beauty. To the world His children may look very plain, but they have the beauty of Jesus in them, and are fairer than the children of men.

A young man went away to school and formed the wrong companionships. He had been attending the moving picture theatres and had become interested in the actors and actresses. He had covered his walls with their pictures. When his mother came to visit him she grieved to see that he had left his early training, but she said nothing to her son. She went to a store and purchased a picture of Christ and she hung it on his wall. She was overjoyed when she returned to his room later to see that all the pictures of the moving picture stars were down from the walls. When she questioned him, he replied,

"Well, Mother, you know I couldn't have His picture hanging among those others."

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to look at Thee, and to be so in love with Thee that the things of this world will fade away. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O that the Lord would guide my ways,  
And keep me ever true!  
O that my God would grant me grace  
His will to know and do.

## August 20

"But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:12, 14.

There are failures in life that are hard to forget. There are mistakes we have made that are hard to overcome. But we are told to forget all those things that are behind. Even the successes we had when we were in the world are to be forgotten. Only those things that are ahead and are of God, are we to press toward. And press on to victory!

No child of God should want to give up the race even though it might be hard. But press on, for there is a prize ahead!

The Sunday after receiving a message that their son had been killed in the first World War, the parents attended a church service in London. After the service the parents went into the pastor's study to speak to him. The great-hearted pastor, Dr. Adam, knew them. As he shook hands with them he turned to the father and said,

"Harry, we are all proud of the fine way in which you have borne this sorrow."

The father replied, "In a blow of this kind there are three ways open to one: drink, despair, or comfort in God. I have chosen God."

This man and his wife were forgetting the past and pressing on with God. If you are not one of God's children, choose Christ today, and enter the race with God against the forces of Satan.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the courage to fight a good fight, and to be victorious in this race. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## August 21

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." II Tim. 2:3.

Christians are soldiers in the army of Jesus Christ. We have a battle to fight. We have a great Commander; His name is Jesus. He will lead us to victory. But no battle is easy. There are dangers that must be faced courageously. There is discipline that must be endured, so that victory may be ours.

A commander in an army wanted a volunteer for a dangerous mission. He wanted someone who was willing to give his life for the success of the mission. He said, "I am going to turn my back to you men, and while my back is turned, the man who is willing to go will take a step forward out of the line."

He turned his back to the men, but when he turned back to them he saw that all the men were in line. He became very much angered and said,

"What! is there not one man who will risk his life for his country?" A soldier spoke up and said,

"Sir, while your back was turned every man stepped forward."

We are fighting for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is for eternity. Will you enlist in His army and for His cause today. Do it today, tomorrow may be too late.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the courage to be good soldiers of the Cross, help us to serve you faithfully. Give us a willing heart to obey your call, yes even to give our lives, if necessary. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus, going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master, Leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle, See His banner go.

## August 22

"Awake to righteousness, and sin not." I Cor. 15:34.

Sleep refreshes when we are weary, but those that wait on the Lord need not be spiritually weary. The Lord renews the strength of His children when they wait upon Him. Sin is abounding everywhere; the saints must be awake to the evils of the day. We shall have to give an account of how we have served the Lord. Let us all awake to righteousness.

A hired man on a farm set his alarm clock for five in the morning. But when the alarm went off he was too tired to wake up. He grabbed the clock and threw it out of the window. Then he went back to sleep again.

The circumstances and conditions of today are our alarm clock. They are calling us to arise and work. Many have closed their ears to the warnings, and have gone back to sleep.

Alarm clocks were not available during the last World War. A woman mailed a package and wanted it insured for fifty dollars. The clerk at the post office asked what was in the package, and when she said, "an alarm clock," he insured it for that amount without further questioning.

The price of warning about dangers ahead is never too high to pay, but the price of being asleep when there are dangers around us, is great indeed. For Christians to be asleep in these times of danger is a terrible sin." Awake to righteousness, and sin not!"

Dear Lord Jesus, open our eyes to the dangers of these days. Use us to win many from the way of unrighteousness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Come we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known,  
Join in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet accord  
And thus surround the throne, And thus surround the throne.

## August 23

"And his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." Dan. 6:10.

Daniel had his prayer-window open, and he kept it open. No one could stop him from seeking the God whom he loved, and desired to serve acceptably. Is your prayer-window open?

A Christian mother's greatest desire was for her children to turn to the Lord. She prayed for them often and long. During special services held in their church, many began to seek the Lord. Among those who sought the Lord were her own children. One evening, in the meeting all five of the children took part in prayer. A man who saw this said,

"I will never forget when the three girls and the two boys tried to reach their mother, to thank her for praying them through to Jesus."

When the prayer-window is open toward heaven the Lord gives blessings above all that we can ask or think. Open the window in faith believing. No matter what the circumstances are, do not neglect prayer. And do not forget to give thanks. Our Lord is pleased to hear our prayers, His ears are ever inclined toward us, and his arm is not shortened that He cannot perform in our behalf.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be Daniels. Keep us on our knees for Thy cause and Thy glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer!  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne,  
Make all my wants and wishes known.

## August 24

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."  
James. 1:5.

We are not skillful in handling our affairs, nor are we wise to the extent that we should be, in the things of the Lord. When we recognize our limitations and go to the Lord, He will increase our understanding, knowledge and wisdom. He wants us to ask, and then He gives.

A missionary was seriously ill. The fever mounted and he was in much pain. There was no doctor available in that territory. The Negro children whom the missionary had taken into his home, and was as a father to, were becoming increasingly distressed. They would often go into the sick room to inquire how their "father" was feeling.

After playing out of doors for some time, they went to the missionary's wife, and one of the children said, "Mother, will you kindly give us the key to the church?" The missionary's wife gave them the key. After a while she went to the church to see what they were doing. All the black children were on their knees asking the Lord to heal their "father." She quietly went away. God heard their prayer and the missionary was healed.

These children did not have the wisdom for the healing of their "father," but they knew that God could heal. The Lord Jesus Christ does not only heal the body, but He is waiting to heal the soul, which is even more important. Accept the Saviour, and be healed spiritually.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that we can ask for wisdom for all of our problems. Give us wisdom to lead souls to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
In living echoes of Thy tone;  
As Thou has sought, so let me seek  
The erring children lost and lone.

## August 25

"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live." Prov. 15:27.

After all bills have been paid what is left is profit or gain. But those that are greedy of gain are not always careful how they get their gain. They bring trouble upon their own households through this greediness. Many of them take bribes but those that love the Lord turn from this kind of gain, and seek that which will please Him. To gain the wealth of this world and then lose one's soul is too great a price to pay.

Two boys were about to graduate from Bowdoin college in the year 1877. They had been room-mates. One day Bob said to Charles, "What are you going to do when you graduate, Charles?"

"I'm going to make money. I'm tired of being poor. I'm going to become rich, and I don't care how I do it. What are you going to do, Bob?"

Bob's eyes seemed to be seeing things in the future. "I'm going places, Charles, where man has never gone. I'm going to be an explorer."

Thirty-two years later, Charles was found in the Atlanta prison as a swindler. From Spitzbergen, far north in the world, came a flash to the President of the United States, "Have nailed the stars and stripes to the North Pole." This was from Bob. He is known as Robert E. Peary.

The one gained money for a season, but lost his freedom and his soul.

What about your soul? Accept the Lord and your soul is safe for time and eternity. In Christ you are always safe.

Dear Lord Jesus, make us wise unto salvation. Keep us from making the wrong choices. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## August 26

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." Col. 3:23-24.

No one likes to lose a reward. A deed done for the glory of man brings no reward in heaven, even though an earthly reward is given. We are to serve the Lord with willing hearts, and to give Him the best we have. In heaven, then, we will receive our reward. Deeds of kindness done unto the Lord will bring such rewards. The service may have been only a cup of cold water given in the name of Jesus.

Minnie had been sick for a long time and it was doubtful if she would ever get well. One day as she lay on the couch, she spoke to her brother who was playing near by. She asked him for a drink of water.

"Yes, I will give you a drink," he answered. But he was much interested in his playing and forgot to give her the drink. Again, Minnie asked for a drink. A pitcher of water was standing near her on a table.

"No, Harold, give me some fresh water from the spring," she said when he was going to give her a drink from the pitcher of water.

"You must not be so fussy," Harold replied. "I haven't time to run to the spring just now." Minnie said nothing but drank the stale water. She never had to ask Harold for another drink. She died the next morning. The whole family felt sad about her death, but none felt as bad as Harold did when he remembered how unkind he had been.

Dear Lord Jesus, keep us from being selfish, and teach us to do little deeds of kindness each day. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## August 27

"I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Acts 26:19.

The heavenly vision! Many have a vision of material needs, but a heavenly vision and heavenly needs seem to be put in the background. Too many think that heaven is far off, and death is also far off. But no one knows his hour of departure from this life. We must be prepared to meet our God.

Christians have a commission to further the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth. Where the vision has died the people will perish. Christians, do not be disobedient to the commission given you.

George Hale, a medical missionary to Africa, relates the following story of a vision he received while on a trip to see the grave of a great man:

"After we had held a short service at the grave, we went back to our carriages. They were surrounded by a group of blind beggars. A beggar stood in front of me, blocking the way to the carriage. His sightless eyes were turned toward me, his hand was stretched out to me. He begged like a whipped dog, in some language that I couldn't understand. After I had seen people living in sickness and suffering and disease, I knew that God had a place for me to serve in the world. I knew that if I did not fill the place, it would not be filled."

Christian have you had a vision? If you have, what are you doing about it? Have you found your place in life, and are you filling it? Do not be disobedient unto the heavenly vision.

Dear Lord Jesus, open our eyes to the needs of the world. Open our eyes to the need of saving souls from sin and eternal death. Lead us into the place Thou hast for us in life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## August 28

"And thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."  
Micah 7:19.

When God casts our sins into the depths of the sea, He forgives, forgets and removes our sins forever from us. He tells us He will not remember them. He has removed them as far as the east is from the west. Come to the Saviour and leave your sins with Him.

A sweet aged Christian father had to live with his ungodly son and his family. The father was heard to exclaim, when reading his Bible, "Glory hallelujah, amen!" This was very embarrassing to the son. One evening when he was going to have company he asked his father to refrain from using this expression. To make sure that his father would not utter the expression the son requested that he would not read the Bible. The father said he would not read it. Then the son suggested that the father read in a geography book instead of the Bible. The father complied in this request.

All went well until the guests were ready to leave, when they heard a loud, "Glory hallelujah, amen!" come from the father. The son rushed angrily to him, and the father explained,

"Son, you asked me to read this book. It says here that the sea is six miles deep. And my Bible says that God will cast sins into the depths of the sea. Therefore, I could not help shouting."

Your sins can be cast into the depths of the sea. Accept the Saviour today, and your sins will be washed away.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the forgiveness of sins. Open people's eyes to see their need of the Saviour. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus, only name that's given  
Under all the mighty heaven,

Whereby man, to sin enslaved,  
Bursts his fetters, and is saved.

## August 29

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." Matt. 26:41.

If we are not on our guard against the wiles of Satan we will yield to temptation, which is sin. Before we start our day, we should pray. Before we go anywhere we should pray. And after we have prayed we must be alert to all evil around us. Yielding to temptation is sin, and sin separates us from God. God is watching us. Be alert!

Two small boys were walking along a railroad track. They were tempted to walk on the track, but the one little boy's mother had forbidden him to walk on the track. The mother could see them out of her windows. When they had gotten out of the view of the windows the boy said,

"Now we can walk on the track, come on, Joe."

"I guess I don't want to," replied Joe.

"Ah, come on, your mother can't see."

"I guess I don't want to, anyway," Joe answered.

Do you watch and pray when you think there is a danger of being seen, and when out of sight of others do as you desire? God is watching, His eye is upon you wherever you go. Do not yield to temptation.

Dear Lord Jesus, strengthen our convictions of sin; guard us and keep us from yielding to sin. Keep us from being stumbling blocks to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When I'm tempted to do wrong,  
Keep me steadfast, wise, and strong;  
And when all alone I stand,  
Shield me with Thy mighty hand.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## August 30

"Sennacherib, king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself." II Chron. 32:1.

The people of the world think their intelligence and their strength is sufficient for all problems of life. They do not think they need the Lord. But Christians know that the victory they have in themselves is not a lasting victory, for Satan is their enemy and defeats them. But when they seek God and His strength and wisdom they have lasting victory, for it is of Him and unto Him. Our thoughts are not God's thoughts, neither are His ways our ways. But His thoughts are toward His own, to give them victory.

A wife said she wanted to be a Christian, but she wanted to wait until her husband came to Christ, too. When the pastor called she told him that her husband had no use for the church or for preachers. But she told the pastor that her husband told her not to wait for him, but accept Christ. With a taunting remark her husband stated that if the pastor wanted to talk to him he would have to go where he was. At the time of the next pastoral call, he was on the steeple. The pastor climbed the ladders to the top of the steeple, to a much surprised Jim. Jim was in church the next Sunday.

"The preacher who'll climb two hundred feet of ladder to call on me can have me any time," was Jim's remark later on.

This pastor was concerned about a lost soul, and wanted to win him for the Lord Jesus Christ. He did not go with his own message, but a message from the Lord, and of redemption by the blood of Christ.

Dear Lord Jesus, restrain us when we would become self-sufficient. Help us always to seek Thy guidance in all things. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## August 31

"I will both lay me down in peace and sleep: for thou Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." Ps. 4:8.

A child of God is safe anywhere, and at all times. He is safe on a stormy ocean, in a land of suffering and war, and when sickness and death are near at hand. A child of God can arise from his bed in the morning, and go to sleep at night, in peace, for he knows that His Father is watching over him and he is safe. A child of God is safe in life and safe in death, for he is abiding under the shadow of the Almighty.

One day a little girl was taken to the operating room for surgery. As she was placed on the operating table the doctor said to her,

"Before we can make you well, we must put you to sleep."

The little girl looked up into the doctor's face, and said very earnestly,

"Oh, if you are going to put me to sleep, I must first say my prayer. Then she knelt by the operating table and prayed:

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;  
If I should die before I wake,  
I pray Thee Lord, my soul to take.

This little girl had no fear, for she was safe in the hands of her Lord. He made her go to sleep in peace and safety.

Dear Lord Jesus, increase our confidence in Thee, and help us to have the assurance of dwelling in safety in Thy care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus tender Shepherd, hear me,  
Bless Thy little lambs tonight,  
Through the darkness be Thou near me,  
Keep me safe till morning light.

# September 1

"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"  
Luke 2:49.

God's business is a vital business. The work of the Christian church is the greatest business in the world.

The employer in a large store wanted his partner to take a more active part in clubs and parties, but because he was a Christian, the partner said, "No." The employer became angry and gave his partner a week to think it over.

The partner said, "You do not need to give me a week to think it over. You can have my resignation now if my position depends upon my decision to join with the worldly crowd. *I am a Christian first.*

When later on his boss lay very sick, he called his partner and said, "I want you to take our business and run it as you have always lived. From the day you refused to join those social clubs I have tried to look at life in a different way and I want to follow the Savior that you know and love."

Are you about your Father's business, too?

Dear Lord Jesus, grant that I may perform all my business in ways pleasing unto thee. Let me be a Christian first and let nothing come between my God and myself. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Draw us to Thee in mind and heart,  
On heavenly things attending;  
In spirit hence let us depart,  
To Thee, O Lord, ascending.

## September 2

"They are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth." Zech. 4:10.

Would you do wrong, if you thought no one would find out? People who are unscrupulous in business dealings, and also in their social dealings, have this thought. God sees all things; He sees the evil deeds, and hears the evil words. He reads our hearts, and knows our thoughts. We cannot escape His all-seeing eye.

A rich Roman had two slaves. One was a Christian, and the other an unbeliever. One day the rich man went on a journey. As soon as he was gone, the unbelieving slave said,

"Now our Master is gone, let us have a free day. We don't have to work. Let us eat and drink and do as we please!"

But the Christian slave answered, "My Master is not away. I am serving a living God who looks at my heart and my hands even though my Roman master is away. I intend to attend to my duty today the same as if my master were at home."

The Christian was aware of the eyes of the Lord. He knew that the Lord could see him even though his master was away. Maybe you think that God cannot see your evil deeds. Maybe you think He cannot see your evil heart. But He does. Hear His invitation: "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." Come to Him now.

Dear Lord Jesus, make us conscious of Thy all-seeing eye. We thank Thee that Thou art watching over us in love and mercy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Let, O my soul, thy God direct thee,  
And trust in Him through all thy days;  
In every danger He'll protect thee,  
And crown thy years with peace and grace.



## September 3

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Prov. 1:10.

The world has many alluring attractions. These are so beautifully dressed that it is hard to distinguish them from the good. The unsaved follow these attractions, and seek to draw the Christians with them. The believer knows that the things of this world are of Satan, and as he studies God's Word he learns that the Lord says, "consent thou not."

If God's children seek His guidance, they will not be led into the paths of these attractions. Only those who refuse to yield their lives to the Saviour are led away by Satan. Keep close to the Lord and Satan will flee from you.

Iver and Arne were intimate friends. They were planning a trip together, but were having trouble gathering enough money for the trip.

"It shouldn't be hard for you," Arne said to Iver, "your father has a store and you can help yourself." Iver did not answer, but that night he could not get to sleep as quickly as usual. Five dollars—ten dollars—even twenty dollars—nobody would miss it. The ticking clock in the other room sounded louder than usual. "Thief—thief—thief!" was what he thought he heard.

His eyes turned toward the wall on which hung the head of Christ, and a light seemed to glow from the face of it. As he looked he thought he heard it say, "No—no—no!" Then he said to himself, "No, I shall never do it. Jesus will see it. I won't steal." His parents later gave him the necessary money for his trip.

*Consent thou not!* Never be a party to evil.

Dear Lord Jesus, guide us in all our actions and our words. Keep us close to Thee so that Satan will have no power over us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## September 4

"The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee." Num. 6:25.

All Christians desire God's blessing upon them. He is willing to give us grace upon grace, if we will but call upon Him, and then trust Him. He is willing to be gracious in His provision for all the Christian's needs: health, strength, food, clothing and shelter. He holds out many blessings, but Christians are slow to possess them.

Mary and her mother, who were very poor, went out daily to wash and scrub for others. Their work led them into various places. One day while Mary was working in a restaurant she heard a crying boy ask his father not to drink liquor, and heard the man use abusive language when he answered. Mary impulsively spoke to the man, saying, "You should never speak like that. Jesus will feel hurt."

"I don't believe on any Jesus," the man mumbled in reply.

Two weeks later a little girl called at Mary's home and asked Mary to come to her home for the father wanted to see her. Mary went with her and found the man who had been in the restaurant, to be very sick. He asked Mary to tell him of Jesus about whom she had spoken. Mary did the best she could in telling him about Jesus and His power to save him from his sins. Then she prayed with him, and read the hymn, "Lamb of God Most Holy." And then she prayed, "The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee." The man accepted Jesus and became a new creature in Christ.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us how to lead a soul to Thee. Give us boldness in speaking to people. For Thy name's sake we pray. Amen.

## September 5

"As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage." Josh. 1:5-6.

No matter where the Lord asks us to go; no matter what trials He puts us through, He will never leave us nor forsake us. Just as He guided and provided for the Israelites in their wilderness journey, so will He guide us today.

A group of tourists saw beautiful flowers growing on a cliff on a mountain. No one had the courage to go down the cliff to pick them, yet they wanted them. When they saw a boy herding sheep, one of the group asked him if he would be willing to go down the cliff and pick them, if they held a rope for him. They told him that they would pay him well. He said he would be willing to go down, but he preferred having his father hold the rope. He ran home and got his father who brought a stout rope. The boy gathered a large bouquet of the flowers, for which he was well paid. One member of the group said to him, "Why didn't you let us hold the rope? We could have done it just as well."

"I don't know you, but I know my father, and I am not afraid when he is holding the rope," the boy replied.

Are you depending on the strength of the Father through His Son? Only through the Lord Jesus Christ have we courage and strength to go through this life victoriously. Turn to the Lord, and put your confidence in Him. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us strength and courage for our walk in this life. Help us to lean heavily upon Thee. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

In God, my Saviour, I put my trust alone;  
His Word and favor My help in need I own;  
My life I tender, And all I have as well,  
In full surrender To Thee, whose grace I tell,  
My soul's befriender, My God, Immanuel.

## September 6

"O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me." Ps. 25:2.

Satan and his emissaries are ever busy trying to defeat the Christian. Friends forsake us, and many of them prove untrue, but the Lord remains true forever. The enemy's attacks may make us fear and have dread, but the Lord is mindful of our helplessness and defends us. When our enemies attack us, the Lord tells us not to repay, because that is His work. It may seem, at times, as though we are forsaken, but the Lord is loving us still. It may take a long time for a wrong to be made right, but the Lord will not let us suffer in vain. Our trust will not be misplaced.

A missionary had worked for several years alone in Africa. After much pleading he, at last, was to have help. The new workers would be with him soon. As he prepared to go to meet them, some natives came to him and requested him to come to the village of their chief. They were so persistent that he said he would go for a brief visit. On the way the natives noticed a hyena in the road. They did not dare to pass the hyena, and so the missionary decided to go to meet the new workers. Later the chief himself came to visit the missionary and said, "Now I have come to hear about your God. I was angry with you and tried to get you down into the village, the other day, to kill you, but your God placed that animal in the road." This experience led the chief to accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

Put your trust in the living God and He will not let your enemies have victory over you. Accept Him today, and you will have victory over your enemies.

Dear Lord Jesus, defend us when we are in danger. Help us to put our trust in Thee, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## September 7

"Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth." 1 Sam. 3:9.

The Lord has spoken from heaven in many ways. There were times when He spoke directly to man. Sometimes He spoke through angels. He speaks through His Word to us. When Samuel was a small boy He spoke directly to Samuel, and he answered and said,

"Speak, for thy servant heareth."

Our hearts must be in tune with God if we are to be able to hear Him when he speaks to us. We will have to study His Word so we will know of the things He would speak to us about.

A man who thought that he was going deaf, went to a doctor and was told that he had hardened wax. After applying oil to the ear the doctor was able to remove the wax and the man could hear again.

Some Christians have indifference and rebellion in their spiritual ears, and they cannot hear the Lord speaking to them. They need the oil of God's Word and the searching of the Holy Spirit.

Open your heart to the Saviour, He is calling you to come to Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, speak to us, and give us ears to hear Thy voice. Cleanse us from all that hinders us from hearing Thee speak to us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A call for loyal soldiers Comes to one and all;  
Soldiers for the conflict, Will you heed the call?  
Will you answer quickly, With a ready cheer,  
Will you be enlisted as a volunteer?

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## September 8

"I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications." Ps. 116:1.

When we love the Lord and put His will above our own, we can be sure that He hears us when we call upon Him. We love Him because He heard us when we were in our sin, and redeemed us from our sin and shame. We love Him because when we are in distress, His ear is ever open to our cry and to our need.

A native girl came to a mission station in Zuzuland, some years ago, and wanted to study the Bible. Her mother came for her, but she would not go home. A native man came with a letter from the chief, but she still refused to leave. She said, "Throw me in jail, or punish me—I have seen Jesus. I want white clothes now, and I want to go to heaven!"

The police came and took her home where she received punishment. The next day she came again to the mission. The police came again and put her in jail for fourteen days. After the fourteen days expired she came back to the mission. The missionaries sent her to another station where the police could not find her. At Christmas time she was baptized. She later visited her home and brought a New Testament with her from which she read to her relatives. She loved her Lord for He had heard her voice, but she also wanted others to know about Jesus.

Do you love the Lord? Open your heart to Him today, and He will deliver you out of your distresses.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that Thou didst hear our cry for salvation. Use us to win some soul to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## September 9

"I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments." Ps. 119:7.

Only an upright, and honest heart, a cleansed heart can praise God acceptably. When the heart is right, the praise will be well-pleasing to the Father. When we are being tested, God is perfecting our praise, but it is only perfected when we are exercised by the testing. Every trial is teaching a valuable lesson. God desires an upright heart in each one of His children.

Peter and Anna were discussing Anna's need of one dollar to buy a present for a friend's birthday. Peter felt bad because he wanted a knife. They did not know that their aunt, with whom they were staying during the absence of their parents, was listening. While they were busy talking the aunt left the house, but returned in a few minutes and said she had lost her thimble down the road. She offered a dollar to the one who would be willing to go and find it. Both of the children eagerly went to look for it. Peter found it, but he remembered that Anna wanted a present for her friend, so he pretended not to see it. Anna came from the opposite direction and when she came near Peter she exclaimed, "I have found the thimble!" Peter never told his sister that he had seen the thimble first. By putting his sister first he was a blessing and the Father was well-pleased.

Loving the Saviour and being kind to others is always well-pleasing to the Father. The Saviour says to those who do not know Him, "Give Me thine heart." He wants us to tell others about salvation and win them to God.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be upright in heart. Teach us to be thoughtful of others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## September 10

"But I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." I Cor. 15:10.

The work that we do as Christians is not of us but God working in and through us. In His strength we are able to do much more than we ever dreamed we could do. Under stress and trial we are able to continue to work because we have the strength of the Lord in us. We are often surprised at what we can do, and the amount of work we are able to do, but all that is only possible when we have the grace of the Lord with us. When our labor is the service of the Lord we seem to have a constant reserve of strength; the grace of the Lord is with us.

Hans wanted to do something for the Lord, but he did not know what he could do, so he went to his grandfather. Previously his grandfather had given him a considerable amount of money which he had given to the work of the Lord. The grandfather told him that he did not have any more money for him to give away. Then Hans thought a while and an idea came to him. He said to his grandfather,

"Grandpa, could I have a potato?" The grandfather gave him a potato.

Hans planted the potato, and in the fall the yield was nine potatoes. He kept the potatoes for seed and planted the nine the next spring. That fall the yield was forty potatoes which he sold, and the money he received he gave to missions. This is what he did for Jesus.

Jesus wants our service, but he first wants our hearts, and then we will be able to work more efficiently, for His grace will be with us.

Dear Lord Jesus, let the grace of God be with us so that we may be able to work more abundantly unto Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## September 11

"The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." Num. 6:26.

This verse is like a blessing, like a sunbeam upon us all. It is called a benediction. When the Lord is in our hearts, and we are in His will His countenance is upon us, and we have peace with Him and with one another.

For sometime, Grandma had been watching Susanna, who lived across the street, as she played out of doors. She asked her grandson, Arthur, if he knew what made her such a happy little girl. Arthur said that he knew her, but he did not know what made her happy. As he looked out of the window he saw that she was playing near by their house. He opened the window and called to her, telling her that his grandmother would like to see her. Susanna came into the room where grandma stood waiting.

"My grandmother wants to know what makes you always look so happy and pleasant," Arthur said.

Susanna looked surprised, and said, "My father is sick, and my mother is very tired, and now my baby sister is cutting teeth and is very cross. If I am not cheerful, who will be?"

Susanna had love for her parents and her baby sister, and she tried to be a sunbeam for them. Let Jesus into your heart and you, too, will be a sunbeam, not only for your parents but for Jesus, too.

Dear Lord Jesus, lift up Thy face upon us, and give us the peace that we need in our walk in this life with Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## September 12

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Ps. 91:11.

God is concerned about our welfare. He knows that we often have to go into dangerous places, and where Satan would cause us to fall. God has given His angels charge over us, so we shall have protection from the danger that lies in our way. But only God's children are given this protection; we are precious to Him.

One day, a native on the island of Sumatra came to the missionary, and asked to see the soldiers that stood guard over his house at night. The missionary told him that no one stood guard over his house. The native did not believe him, for he said that he and his people had tried to kill him when he first came to the island. Each night as they came to the missionary's hut, they met a double row of soldiers with shiny weapons in their hands. There had been offered a great price to the man who could get through the row of soldiers. Even though some had accepted the offer they were not able to get through the line of soldiers. As the missionary listened to the native, he knew that God had sent His angels to protect him from harm and danger.

Are you one of God's precious children? He is longing and waiting for you to accept His Son as your Saviour, so you will be His child. Accept the Lord today, and you will have angels to guard you.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for Thy protection over us. We thank Thee that Thou dost go with us wherever we go, and dost keep us safe in Thee, for Thine angels are watching over us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I love to hear the story Which angel voices tell,  
How once the King of glory Came down on earth to dwell.  
I am both weak and sinful, But this I surely know,  
The Lord came down to save me, Because He loved me so.

## September 13

"But ye have despised the poor." James 2:6.

Many people are very nice to the wealthy people. In the churches they give them the best seats, they are most polite to them. But too often the poor people are looked down upon. This is not pleasing to God, for with Him all are alike, no one is greater or less great in His sight. He loves us all the same. He gave His Son for us all. When we are tempted to treat those who are poorer than we are, less graciously than those who have more money, we must remember that all are our sisters and brothers in Christ. We all belong to one family.

Jennie came from a poor family, and had to play much of the time on the street. She seldom had any money for candy. One day a man lost his hat. Jennie picked up the hat and received a nickel. She immediately ran and bought a stick of red and white candy. While she was eating it another poor little girl came by. This little girl was lame, and she looked pale and tired. Jennie cried, "Look what I got! Look what I got!"

The lame girl asked her where she got it, so Jennie told her. There came a look of longing on the lame girl's face. Jennie looked at the candy and then at the girl. She took a step toward the girl and said happily,

"You can have the candy, Maggie. You can have the whole stick. And if I get another nickel, you can have that, too."

God wants us to love one another, and be kind one to the other. But above all He wants us to love the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Let Him in your heart today.

Dear Lord Jesus, keep us from despising the poor. Help us to love them as our Christian sisters and brothers. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## September 14

"Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled." John 6:26.

Jesus is glad when people seek Him. But many people seek Him in the wrong way. They do not want Him for salvation. They want Him only for the material things they can get. They seek Him only when they are in trouble or deep need of some kind. Then after they have been helped they turn to their own way again.

A little boy had gone to church and had heard the congregation sing: *The Old-Time Religion*.

The verse that seemed to impress him more than the others was, "'Twas good for Paul and Silas, and it's good enough for me." But when he tried to sing it the next day he ran the words together, and sang, 'Tis good for pendicitis, and it's good enough for me."

Many people have the same idea of Christ. He is good for their immediate need, but that is all.

But Jesus is waiting for us to want *Him*. To want His fellowship, to want the joy, and the peace that only He can give. *Then* we will be filled when we want Jesus, Himself, and not just for our selfish purposes. Our needs will be supplied as well. Then when the need has been filled we will praise Him and desire His fellowship to continue with us and in us.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to love Thee and to serve Thee for Thy sake, and not for material gain. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Feasting on the riches of His grace,  
Resting 'neath His sheltering wing,  
Always looking on His smiling face,  
That is why I shout and sing.

Verse by permission, Baptist Sunday School Board

## September 15

"I said in my haste, all men are liars." Ps. 116:11.

Lying is an evil which is practiced a great deal, even among children. It is easy to judge people, and to class them all in one class. When we are angry we often say things that would be better left unsaid. Here the Psalmist says, "in my haste," or when he was provoked, "all men are liars." If one is angry it is better to wait before speaking.

A man who was in need of a doctor asked a boy if he had seen the doctor pass by. The boy pointed in the wrong direction, so the man did not get the doctor. The boy had not told the truth, and as a result the man's little girl died before a doctor could be found. The preacher said in his sermon that a boy had told a lie with his finger, and the little girl died because of that lie.

We do not lie with our lips, but in our actions also. To pretend that a thing is one way when it is another way, is a lie. In business the merchants sometimes advertise a thing for gold, when it is only gilded. This is pretense and false. God wants us to be honest, so that people can trust our words, and our work. He wants us to be dependable. We show to the world by our actions as well as our talk whether we are Christians or not. Let Jesus come into your heart and He will teach you how to live for Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, keep our lips pure and clean. Keep us from lying, and pretense of all kinds. Help us to be true. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pressing more closely to Him who is leading,  
When we are tempted to turn from the way;  
Trusting the arm that is strong to defend us,  
Happy, how happy, our praises each day.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## September 16

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matt. 9:38.

The door for the Gospel is open in many lands today, but there are few who are willing to go to tell the story of Jesus and His love. The fields are white unto harvest in the home land and in the foreign lands. It is time to get the Gospel out for the days are increasingly evil.

A Missionary was telling the children at home about the children of Santal, India. He told them that the children had to work; they had few things to enjoy; they had no Christmas and no songs about Jesus. They needed someone to tell them about Jesus, for they did not even know that Jesus loved them. If they were going to send someone, they would have to have money to pay the traveling expenses.

A little boy sat and listened carefully. He decided to pray, but while he prayed he thought of the money that was needed. He had three dollars toward a watch. If he did without the watch he could give that money for the mission. It was not easy to make this decision. He talked it over with his parents, and they encouraged him. After this he found that it was much easier to pray. And while he continued to pray, the thought came to him that maybe he should be a missionary and go to India when he grew up. This he did, and is today a missionary in that country.

Do you want children in other lands to hear about Jesus? Then give of your money and pray for people to go, and if you can go, do not wait. The time is short, and there is much to be done.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us willing hearts to go and tell the story of Jesus and His love to others. Help us to give of our means. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## September 17

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."  
Ps. 103:2.

When we count our blessings we are often surprised at all that the Lord has done for us. It may seem that we have nothing, that we are poor in the things of this world, but when we begin to look at all the benefits that God has bestowed upon us we will praise Him. And when we begin to praise Him our love for Him grows, for our hearts are warmed toward Him.

A mother had asked her son to pray for the exercise of his soul. But the little boy said he did not know what to pray about. The Mother advised him to thank God for all that He had given him. The little boy was willing to do this and began: "Dear God, I thank you for my play-horse and all my games; for my legs that I can use to run around with, so I do not have to use crutches as Carl does; for my good eyes, so I am not blind as poor Fritz; for my warm bed; for my mother and father; for the food and—" and he stopped. Turning to his mother he said,

"But, Mother, there is no end!"

When we begin to praise and thank God for all His benefits toward us, there is no end. We are put to shame for our murmuring, and our complaining.

Dear Lord Jesus, rebuke Thy children when they would forget Thy benefits. Give us grateful hearts, and stir our hearts to sing Thy praises. In Jesus' name and for His sake. Amen.

Praise the God of all creation;  
Praise the Father's boundless love;  
Praise the Lamb, our Expiation,  
Priest and King enthroned above;  
Praise the Fountain of salvation,  
Him by whom our spirits live;  
Undivided adoration  
To the One Jehovah give.

## September 18

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps. 119:11.

When we hide God's Word in our hearts we will not be liable to sin. Dwight L. Moody used to say, "God's Word will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from God's Word." Unless we study God's Word and memorize Scripture verses we will not have any weapon against Satan when he tempts us. God's Word searches us to find that which hinders us from walking with Him as we ought to do.

As a train pulled into a station one of the passengers stepped off the train. A newsboy cried, "Paper, Sir?" As the man looked at the pale hollow cheeks, the large, brown eyes, he saw poverty and undernourishment written on the boy's face. After buying a paper he asked the boy, "What is your name?"

When the boy told him that his name was "Hans," the man asked him if he could read. When the answer, "yes," was given the man handed Hans a New Testament as he stepped on the train.

Several weeks later the man again made the trip through this town, and again stepped off the train to see Hans. What a change! Now he saw a boy who was growing stronger, more healthy, and happy. When Hans saw the man he exclaimed,

"I have wanted to see you again, and to tell you what a change that little book made. I took it home and asked my dad and mother to read it, too. We are now living in a nicer home, and Dad does not drink any more."

God's Word convicts us of sin, and it shows us how to be saved.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for God's Word. Help us to hide it in our hearts so that we will not sin against Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## September 19

"And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me." Dan. 10:19.

When we are in great distress and we can not see which way to turn, the Lord strengthens us so that we can go on with Him. He never sends us greater trials than we can bear, and He gives grace and strength to bear even the most difficult trials. Only those who know the Lord have this promise.

Ralph had repeatedly been naughty. This time he had made a boy cry, so the teacher told him he would have to stay after school. He looked rather sad as he sat there alone. Soon the teacher called him to her desk.

"Ralph, do you remember what we talked about the last time you stayed after school?"

"You mean about prayer," Ralph answered. The teacher nodded. Ralph thought a moment. Then he put out his dirty little hand. The teacher noticed a tear roll down his cheek as he said, "Yes, teacher, I'll promise to ask God to make me a good boy."

Two weeks later the teacher sat and corrected papers after school. Ralph opened the door and went up to the desk, and said, "It helps, teacher, it helps. It helps to ask God to make me a good boy!" The teacher rose and put her arms around the boy and said,

"Yes, Ralph, it helps to pray!"

Dear Lord Jesus, strengthen us that we might be strong Christians. Speak to us when we would walk in our own way. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## September 20

"But in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6.

If you have a need of any kind, God does not want you to fret about it, but to come to Him with the need. Ask Him to supply your need. With a thankful heart rise from your knees knowing that God has heard and will answer. You may not have the answer in the way that you want it, but it will be the answer that is best for you.

A little girl had prayed for her mother's recovery when she was ill. Soon after her mother became well, the little girl had a dream. She saw two angels pulling two baskets up to heaven. The one basket was full and heavy with prayer, and requests for blessings. The angel that pulled that basket was happy. When the little girl looked at the other angel she saw that he was sad-looking. His basket was almost empty. She asked him why there was so little in his basket.

"It is because God's people on earth forget to thank God for all the blessings He sends them. This is the basket of thanksgiving," the angel replied.

When the little girl awoke she remembered that she, too, had forgotten to thank God for making her mother well.

The Lord will meet every need you have; He will meet your need of salvation if you will open your heart to Him. Open your heart today.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee that Thou art our Refuge, our present help in time of trouble. Help us to trust Thee more for all of our needs. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## September 21

"Love . . . thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth." I Cor. 13:4-6.

Are you resting in the shelter of God's love? Have you grown in His love so that you can show forth that love to others? Love is the greatest of all things. It is willing to put others first, and thus glorify the Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It was during the lunch hour at school that Carl stood on the top steps as Minnie passed by. Looking up, she called, "Carl, come down, and I'll tell you something I heard about Bertha."

Just then their teacher passed by and overheard the conversation, turning to Minnie she said, "Minnie, may I see you before you tell Carl the story?"

When Minnie came, the teacher said, "Let us consider whether the story about Bertha is true or not?"

"Oh, the story is true, for Clara told it to me, and she is a good friend of Bertha's," quickly answered Minnie.

"Will telling the story help Bertha in any way?" asked the teacher.

Minnie hung her head. "No, it won't. I just wanted to tell it because it was funny.

Then the teacher said, "Is it necessary to tell the story?"

"I am not going to tell the story," Minnie replied.

"Love . . . thinketh no evil . . . rejoiceth in the truth!"

Dear Lord Jesus, fill our hearts with love for Thee and for others. Guard our lips so that we will not speak unadvisedly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Deep in my heart there's a gladness, Jesus has saved me from sin!  
Praise to His name—What a Saviour! Cleansing without and within.  
Why do I sing about Jesus? Why is He precious to me?  
He is my Lord and my Saviour, Dying, He set me free.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## September 22

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Matt. 7:12.

A doctor stood at a railroad station on a very cold evening, waiting for a friend to arrive. A crippled man elbowed his way through the crowd. No one helped the poor cripple. He was not able to get on the train alone. A boy ran over to him and said, "May I help you? Wait until I put away my papers." The boy laid down his papers and with a struggle lifted the man up the steps of the train. He went with him into the coach and found a seat. Then he said, "You may need some money. Here is a dollar." As he ran down the steps of the train he almost dropped into the arms of the doctor who was standing at the bottom of the train steps.

"Do you attend Sunday school?" the doctor asked.

"I did while my mother lived," answered the boy, "but since she died, I haven't had a chance to go. But I have not forgotten that the Sunday school teacher said, 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them!'"

The love of Christ in our hearts gives us a desire to do good to others.

This world is cold and hard and we need to have more love one for another. Sin makes people think only of themselves, and of their desires. May the love of Jesus be seen in us.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be kind one to another. Cleanse us of self, so that the beauty of Jesus can be seen in us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be;  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

## September 23

"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan." Matt. 4:10.

We must not make light of Satan's power. We must be wise to his wiles. We need to begin our day with the Lord so we will be fortified against Satan. When we yield to him we bring shame and reproach upon the name of Jesus. We must learn to do as Jesus did, tell Satan, "Get thee hence."

Grandmother had given Paul and his little sister a large box of strawberries to take home to the family. There was enough for all the family, and all enjoyed them. There were two small children living upstairs. The mother put strawberries in a dish and asked Paul to take them up to the children. As Paul went to the door his mother heard him count, "One, two, three, four, five," and so on. He counted louder and faster until he came to the bedroom door. Soon he came downstairs; his face was red, and he panted,

"It was terrible, Mother, just terrible!"

"What was terrible?" his mother asked.

"When I went out into the hall I thought the berries looked so wonderful that I seemed to hear them say, 'eat me, eat me!' So, I closed my eyes and counted real fast. I was scared that I would eat them," Paul said.

God tells us that if we will 'flee from Satan, he will flee from us.' Put your trust in the Saviour and He will protect you from Satan.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to flee from Satan. Give us strength to be overcomers. In Jesus' name.

To him that o'ercometh, God giveth a crown;  
Through faith we shall conquer, Though often cast down.  
He who is our Saviour Our strength will renew;  
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.

## September 24

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust." Ps. 91:4.

David often spoke of God as a bird. Under His wings we are safe from all harm. He is our protection from all of the storms of life. All He asks us to do is to seek Him. We need to come to Him and be washed in Jesus' blood. Then as His children we can claim His promises.

A little girl awakened her mother by screaming, "Mother, there is an angel standing in the door to the front room. He is beckoning to me. May I get up and go over to him?" The mother thought her little girl had been dreaming, and so she tried to quiet her fears, and told her to go to sleep. Soon the little girl cried again, "Mother, the angel is there yet. Don't you see how beautiful he looks? I am not dreaming, I can see him clearly."

The mother thought she had better pick the little girl up out of her bed and humor her in her wish. Just as they got to the living room door they heard a loud crash. When they turned they saw that part of the stove had fallen into the child's bed. The mother breathed a silent prayer of thanksgiving, for the child had been covered by God's feathers.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to alway trust in Thee. Enlighten our understanding so that we will always know Thy will for us. Continue to protect us wherever we go and in all that we do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Angel voices ever singing Round Thy throne of light,  
Angel harps, forever ringing, Rest not day nor night;  
Thousands only live to bless Thee,  
And confess Thee Lord of might.

## September 25

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."  
Rev. 2:10.

The Lord had a job for me, but I had so much to do  
I said: 'You get somebody else, or wait 'til I get through.'  
I don't know how the Lord came out, no doubt He got  
along;  
But I felt kind o' sneakin' like. I knew I'd done God  
wrong.

One day I needed the Lord—needed Him right away,  
But He never answered me at all, and I could hear Him say  
Down in my accusin' heart: 'Child, I've got too much to  
do;  
You get somebody else, or wait 'til I get through.'

Now when the Lord has a job for me, I never try to shirk;  
I drop what I have on hand and do the Lord's good work.  
And my affairs can run along or wait 'til I get through—  
Nobody else can do the work that God has marked for you.  
(by P. L. DUNBAR).

Dear Lord, Jesus, as Thy children let us be faithful in  
our work for Thee. We thank Thee for the crown of  
life for all those who are faithful unto death. May we be  
among these, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Give me a faithful heart, Likeness to Thee,  
That each departing day Henceforth may see  
Some work of love begun, Some deed of kindness done,  
Some wanderer sought and won, Something for Thee.

## September 26

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matt. 5:7.

The Lord asks each child of His to be tender-hearted and compassionate toward those who do not know Him, as well as to those who are weak in the faith, and sick. Those who are merciful to others shall be blessed.

In Mangarano, Madagascar, there are many children who have leprosy. A Mission has built a home for them. One missionary, Sister Marie, spent most of her life in that home. The children grew to love her, and when she came near them, they all were very happy. A lovely doll had been sent her from Norway, but because there was only one she brought it to them to look at.

One day a missionary from another station came to visit the leper home. As they walked into the room where the children were, the missionary saw children without fingers, some without noses and ears, and others with only one foot. A big boy was carrying a child on his back, who had only one foot. Sister Marie smiled at the children and said to her companion, "Are they not precious?" The visitor did not reply, but wiped away the tears.

Sister Marie was doing what she could for these children; she had compassion upon them. She also told them of Jesus and His love for them.

Have you compassion on the lost and the suffering? Christians must show forth the love of Christ, if they want to be blessed.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us compassion for the lost souls around us. Help us to win them to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,  
All His wonderful passion and purity;  
O Thou Spirit divine, All my nature refine,  
Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.



## September 27

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Heb. 13:2.

Every deed of kindness will bring with it some reward. The Lord never forgets a deed done unto the poor and needy, when it is done in His name. By deeds of mercy we glorify the Saviour's name.

Olaf was ten, and his sister, Clara, was eight. One afternoon the parents went to town, leaving the children home. As they were arranging the table for supper, Olaf said, "I wish Jesus would come and visit us this evening."

Clara said that she would put three plates on the table in case that He would come. They sat down and prayed: "Dear Lord Jesus, mother and father are in town, and we are home alone. Please come and eat with us!" Then they decided to wait a few minutes. Soon there was a knock at the door. Olaf ran to the door, but it was not Jesus at the door, but a poor, half-frozen, little boy. The children decided to ask him to eat with them. After the meal they made a bed for him.

When the parents came home, the children told them what had happened. They told them that they had asked Jesus to come, but only the little boy had come. The parents then explained that because they had done this deed of kindness, they had done it unto Jesus, which was pleasing to Him. They had entertained a stranger, and a needy one.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us always to be kind to the poor, and all those who are in need. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Help us thro' good report or ill  
Our daily cross to bear,  
Like Thee to do our Father's will,  
The brother's grief to share.

Let grace our selfishness expel,  
Our earthliness refine,  
And kindness in our bosoms dwell  
As free and true as Thine.

## September 28

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

James 1:6.

When we ask God for something we are to believe that He will give it to us. If we waver in our belief, our request will not be answered, for we are showing God that we are not stable in our faith. We must be firm in our convictions, for otherwise unbelievers will not believe our testimony.

When J. Hudson Taylor was on his way to China, the ship came into a strong tide north of the island of New Guinea. Helplessly they drifted towards the shore where the wild natives were waiting for them, and would kill them.

"We have done all we can!" said the Captain.

"No," said Hudson Taylor. "There is one thing we have not done. Four of us are Christians. We are going to pray to God to send us a wind. He can just as well send it now as later." After prayer, Taylor believed that the Lord had heard them, and he went back to the deck. There he asked that they raise another sail.

"What for?" asked the commanding officer, who was an unbeliever. Taylor insisted that they raise a sail, which they did. Soon the ship was sailing in a nice wind away from the island.

When we have Christ as our Saviour and Lord, we have an anchor that is sure. Have you this anchor? He is waiting for you to put your trust in Him. Do it today.

Dear Lord Jesus, strengthen our faith, so that when we pray we will believe that God will give us what we ask for. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## September 29

"So built we the wall . . . for the people had a mind to work"  
Neh. 4:6.

There is a trite but true saying: "Where there is a will, there is a way." Though a task may be a big one, and a difficult one, there is nothing impossible with God.

A congregation, in a certain city, needed to build a new church, but there was not sufficient funds, and where to get them they did not know.

One day, a little boy rang the bell at the parsonage. He asked to see the pastor; no one else would do. When the minister came, the little boy handed him two bricks for the new church. The boy's eyes were beaming!

The news of the bricks spread through the town, and soon others of the congregation gave bricks, until there was enough to build the church.

God had provided the bricks, but now the people had to have a mind to put the bricks into a building, which they did. To build for God means a life of self-denial. There are very few who are willing to build for Christ.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be builders in thy service. Give us a mind to work, and the strength to build. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,  
To tend the lone and fatherless, Is angels' work below.

## September 30

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36.

Many people seek freedom from poverty, from anxiety, and from many trials in the world. They seek it in their own way and in their own strength. It is temporary and will not last. But freedom that we receive through the blood of Jesus Christ is the freedom that helps in every need and will last throughout all eternity. This is the freedom that the world needs so sadly.

One day in the state prison of Ohio all the prisoners were assembled in the chapel. The governor announced that because of good behaviour he had in his hand freedom for five of them. There was a deep silence, and some of them turned pale. The governor called each of the five by name, and lastly he said,

"Reuben Johnson, come forward and receive your freedom." He had to repeat the invitation three times before the man realized that he was being called. Reuben had been in prison for nineteen years. Finally, he understood. Trembling from head to foot he went forward to receive his pardon, walked back to his seat and wept.

When the rest of the prisoners were to go back to their cells, Reuben lined up with them. The guard took him aside, and said, "Reuben, you don't go back to your cell. You are a free man!"

Trust in Jesus, and you will have freedom, the kind that will last.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to receive this freedom and enjoy it. May we never enter the prison of sin, again, but keep us free in Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Redeemed—how I love to proclaim it!  
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;  
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,  
His child, and forever, I am.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

## October 1

"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he loose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?" Luke 15:4.

People are called sheep because they follow a leader much as sheep do a shepherd. Children of the world go wherever their desires lead them, but children of the Good Shepherd go in the paths of righteousness. The Good Shepherd is constantly concerned about His sheep; when one goes astray he looks for it until He finds it, and brings it back into the fold.

An eleven-year-old boy was given charge of a large flock of sheep. In the morning he would bring them to the mountain to feed; he guarded them all day and brought them safely back each night. When it was about time to go home he would sit down on a rock and call them to him. The sheep would gather around him and he would count them. They knew his voice and he knew his sheep.

One evening the boy came home crying because one of his sheep had been lost. His parents tried to comfort him by telling him that he would find it the next day. The boy could not wait until the next morning but went back to the mountain that same evening. Late in the evening he found it on a cliff, but it was dead.

Jesus is calling us away from the cliff of sin. Heed the call and be safe forever.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us listening ears to hear Thy call. Keep us ever near Thee so that we will not fall into sin. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## October 2

"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways." Prov. 23:26.

The Lord Jesus Christ is asking each one of us to give our hearts to Him. He wants all of our hearts. It is said that there are many rooms in our hearts and we hold the key. Jesus dwells in only the rooms to which we give Him entrance.

A girl could not understand how God wanted her heart. She went to her father and asked him about it. He said that he would explain some other time, but just then he would like to borrow her pocket book. Although the girl did not know why her father wanted her pocket book, she gave it to him. A few days later her father gave it back to her.

"What did you think I wanted your pocket book for?" he asked her.

"Well," she answered, "I thought you wanted to put something into it."

"Yes," the father remarked, "That is it! Perhaps, now, you understand why God wants your heart. He wants to take care of your heart and fill it with good things. Therefore we can safely give Him our hearts.

Have you given your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ? Today is the best time to do so.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the grace to accept Thee and to yield Thee our whole hearts. Fill them with Thy goodness. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Jesus, I give Thee my heart today!  
Jesus, I'll follow Thee all the way,  
Gladly obeying Thee! will you say:  
This will I do with Jesus!

Verse by permission, Tabernacle Publ. Co.

## October 3

"And pray for one another, that ye may be healed." James 5:16.

Christians are concerned about one another. If they are not, they should be, for we are all one in Christ. We are all one big family, and what affects one will sooner or later affect the whole body of Christ. We can help each other through prayer.

Tom had been taught, as a small child, to pray. One evening, it was storming badly, and Tom remembered to pray for His Uncle George who was out on the ocean. About midnight he was awake, and called to his mother.

"Mother," he said, "I have to pray for Uncle George."

"But didn't you pray for him when you went to bed?" asked the mother.

"Yes," Tom replied, "but I have to pray for him, again."

Tom knelt by his bed, again, and prayed: "Oh, Lord, will you please watch over Uncle George, now, out there on the ship on the stormy ocean. Bring him safely home to us again, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

When Uncle George came home the next day, Tom's mother told him of Tom's burden for him. The uncle asked what time it was that Tom had prayed, and the mother replied that it was about midnight.

"How peculiar!" remarked Uncle George, "at that time a wave washed me overboard, and I thought my last hour had come. But I was washed back on ship the next minute. Now thanks be to God, here I am safe and sound."

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to pray for others. Help us not to pray only for their safety, but also give us a burden for their souls. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Keep on praying, prayer is not in vain,  
Day by day new vict'ries you will gain;  
More like Jesus you will ever grow,  
For God answers prayer.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## October 4

"Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine." Ps. 80:14.

God's eyes are everywhere at once. He sees not only the good but also the evil. But at this particular time of trouble it seemed that God had gone into His heaven where He was not concerned about His children. Therefore they were beseeching Him to return and look at their plight.

Anna and Jacob were home alone. They thought this was a good time to help themselves to something extra good to eat. When Jacob suggested that they look in mother's cupboard, Anna said, "Well, if you can find us a good place to eat it, where no one will see us, I'll help you."

Jacob suggested drinking some of the sweet cream in the pantry, but Anna said that the neighbor on that side of the house could see them. Then he suggested that they eat some bread and syrup in the kitchen, but Anna said that the neighbor's wife was sewing by the window and would see them. Then, Jacob suggested that they go to the basement and get some apples, but Anna said, "No, God can see us there. It is not too dark for him." Then Jacob realized that no matter where they were, God could see them.

Yes, God's eyes are everywhere. But He is also watching out for those who are in need, even though there are times when it seems that He is unconcerned. Even though we cannot see Him working, He is mindful of our needs.

Dear Lord Jesus, look down upon us in mercy. Turn our hearts to Thee in trust and confidence. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Whenever I am tempted, Whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, When hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him, From care He sets me free:  
His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He cares for me.

Verse by permission, Tabernacle Publ. Co.



## October 5

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you."  
II Cor. 9:8.

God's grace is sufficient for our trials; sufficient for our needs and sufficient for our growth in Him. No matter what the temptation, the trial, the heartache, the sorrow, or the joy, His grace can abound toward us, for God is able. We limit Him, but He is limitless in His resources, and His provision for the needs of His children. He is limitless in power.

A nine-year-old boy was delayed at home one morning. Just as he started for school he heard the clock strike nine. It was time for school to start. As he ran, he prayed so loud that people could hear him say: "Dear God, help me so that I will not be late to school!"

But he knew this would be impossible because the teacher always started on time. Yet, his prayer was answered. He was not late for school. That morning the teacher was unable to open the school house door, and had to send for the locksmith to help her. The pupils were standing outdoors waiting to have the door opened. God is able to make all grace abound toward you. Dare you trust Him?

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the faith to trust Thee more. Help us to go to Thee for all needs, knowing that thou art able to provide for them all. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Simply trusting ev'ry day,  
Trusting through a stormy way;  
Even when my faith is small,  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.  
Trusting as the moments fly,  
Trusting as the days go by;  
Trusting Him whate'er befall,  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

## October 6

"And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." II Cor. 8:5.

The Lord first wants your heart, and then He wants your service. Service without Christ avails nothing. When we are in Christ, we give of our time and our gifts, and they bring forth fruit unto Him.

At a meeting, a missionary told how the heathen needed the Gospel. He pleaded for help in bringing the Gospel to them. When the plate was passed for the collection, a little boy told the missionary to put the plate on the floor. The boy stepped on the plate with both feet. He told the missionary that he had no money, but he was offering his life. The Lord accepted the gift of himself, for in later years he became a missionary.

The Lord never refuses the gift of one's life, and when it is dedicated to His service, He is well-pleased.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to dedicate our lives to Thy service. Make us obedient servants of Thine. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Where I may labor thro' life's short day  
For Jesus, the Crucified;  
So trusting my all to Thy tender care,  
And knowing Thou lovest me,  
I'll do Thy will with a heart sincere,  
I'll be what you want me to be.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## October 7

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." II Tim. 4:6.

Saint Paul had lived a busy and a fruitful life. He was now near the end of his earthly life. He was ready and willing to meet His Lord. So we, too, should be prepared to meet our Lord.

A Christian sailor was stationed on a ship which was about to sink in the English Channel. The captain called his crew together, and told them that all hope was gone, and that they must be ready to die. He asked if any one of the men could pray. The young sailor was called. He had suffered much for his faith, but he was glad to take his Bible and read a few verses. Then, he prayed for forgiveness for their sins.

In the meantime the ship had been observed and a boat from shore was sent to rescue the crew. All the men, but the captain and the young sailor, were lowered into the boat. The captain then ordered the boy to get in, but the boy refused. He insisted that the captain go first, for he knew that he had a wife and child. As soon as the captain left the ship, it sank with the Christian sailor. His death caused his comrades to turn to the Lord.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be ready to meet Thee at all times. Teach us to be obedient unto Thee in life, and we will be ready to meet Thee in death. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

## October 8

"Yet we did esteem him stricken." Isa. 53:4.

The world did not honor the Lord when He was here upon the earth, and they do not honor Him today. But we who have been washed in His precious blood cannot look lightly upon His sacrifice; we dare not forget that He suffered for our sins.

In a school in Germany there was a very strict teacher whom the pupils greatly feared. Whenever there was an opportunity the boys played pranks on him, even though they knew that they would be punished. One day, a boy put paper in the teacher's ink well. When the teacher saw it he was much angered, and threatened severe punishment for the offender. He asked that the guilty person should come forward, but no one moved. Because no one would confess, the teacher made every student stay after school. The teacher seemed in no hurry to dismiss them, so a big, husky boy went forward and took a severe chastening.

In the back of the room sat a small boy weeping. After school he went up to the big boy and said, "It was I who did it."

"I thought you did, but I felt sorry for you," replied the big boy. "I didn't think you could stand the punishment so I decided to take it for you."

We deserved punishment from God, but Jesus our Lord and Saviour took our punishment. "He who knew no sin, became sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." Don't turn Him away, accept Him today!

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be worthy of Thy great sacrifice for us. We thank Thee for it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 9

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts." Ps. 139:23.

When we walk in the Spirit, we are willing to have God search us. He finds thoughts and desires that should not be there. It is not a pleasant thing to have Him prune away the dead branches in our lives, but such pruning brings forth fruit. Most Christians long to be fruitful; if not, there is something wrong with their spiritual lives.

Mother had given Helen a plot of ground where she could plant flowers. When the flowers started to grow she told Helen that she had to pull all of the weeds out by their roots. Mother told Helen to pull the small weeds as well as the large ones, but Helen only pulled the large ones. She did not think that the small ones would do much harm. Her mother noticed this, but said nothing.

One day her mother led her over to the flower bed and said, "Look, Helen! You pulled out only the large weeds, and thought the small ones would do no harm. Do you see? The small ones have grown big, and they have ruined the whole flower bed. It is the same way with your heart. If you leave the small sins there, they will soon grow into big ones, and ruin your life."

Dear Lord Jesus, search us and remove all that hinders Thee from having free course in our lives. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
Try me, O Saviour, know my thoughts I pray:  
See if there be some wicked way in me:  
Cleanse me from ev'ry sin, and set me free.

## October 10

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." II Tim. 1:5.

Faith through our Lord Jesus Christ is the basis for our salvation. Timothy's grandmother had this faith and so did his mother. They both taught Timothy about the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a blessed heritage for children to have parents who know the Lord. Then they in turn will teach their children about salvation.

A policeman saw a small boy huddled in the corner of a building on the main street. When he asked the boy where his father and mother were, he said that they were dead. The policeman saw that the boy had something under his coat, and asked him if he had stolen something.

The policeman grabbed the article and saw that it was an old Bible. He was deeply moved but decided to try the boy and said, "We had better throw this old book away."

"Oh, please don't," the boy cried in deep distress. "It is my mother's Bible which she gave to me before she died. I promised her that I would read the passages she underlined every day."

That mother's prayers bore fruit, for in later years that boy became a servant of God. There is no better heritage to give to one's children than the Word of God, and a firm faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the faith of those who have died in Thee. May we have great faith in Thee, too. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

O blessed is the man who stays His trust in God forever;  
He dwells within the secret place Where foes may enter never.  
God is my Refuge and my Stay, My God whoe'er directs me,  
In dangers, fears, and plagues that slay, His wings shall still protect me.  
I will not fear When God, my Shield, is ever near.

## October 11

"And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Eph. 4:32.

It is not easy for people to forgive the wrong others have done to them. It is not easy to have sympathy with those who are unkind to us. But we are to do to them as we would have them do to us. We must remember that God has forgiven us our sins for Jesus' sake. God wants us to have a forgiving-spirit. In this way we can give of our best to the Master.

Einar was having trouble with his playmates, and his mother wondered about it. One day, when he went on a hike with his playmates, she thought she would find out for herself what the trouble was. She followed them at a distance to the hill where they were to play for a while. She saw him off by himself, and asked some of the children why he was not playing with the rest of the group.

"He does not play nicely. He always wants his own way," was the reply.

When he came home that evening his mother told Einar what she had learned that day. Einar was restless that evening; he could hardly get to sleep. He finally confessed his sin, and God gave him a wonderful victory in his life. He did not have any more trouble with his playmates, for he had been given a kind and loving spirit by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be kind and tender-hearted. Give us victory over Satan. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

More about Jesus let me learn, More of His holy will discern;  
Spirit of God, my teacher be, Showing the things of Christ to me,  
More, more about Jesus, More, more about Jesus;  
More of His saving fullness see, More of His love who died for me.

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## October 12

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." James. 1:17.

The Lord says no *good* thing will He withhold from those who love Him. All gifts that we get from Him are good and perfect, for He can give no other kind of gifts. He is a Holy God, a perfect God, and He would give His children no other kind of a gift, for He loves us. If we ask for things that are not good for us we will not receive them, for He loves us and wants only the best for His children.

Hans and Arne were good friends; they lived on the same street, and belonged to the same class in school. Arne wanted a pocket knife and hoped to get one for Christmas. Because Arne wanted one, Hans did, too. At Christmas time Arne got his knife but Hans did not. He was so disappointed that he was not interested in his other gifts. When Arne came over and showed Hans his knife Hans felt worse than ever. He ran crying to his mother, and said, "Mother, I *want* a knife." His mother tried to remind him of his other gifts, and told him that he should be grateful for them. As Hans was trying to persuade his mother to get him a knife, they heard a commotion out of doors. Arne had cut his hand, and the doctor had to be called. Hans then could see that a knife was not a good gift for a small boy.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be satisfied with the gifts that we are given. Help us to see that the gifts we receive are those which are best for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Have Thine own way Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Wounded and weary, Help me, I pray!  
Power-all-power—Surely is Thine!  
Touch me and heal me, Saviour divine!

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## October 13

"How is it that ye have no faith?" Mark 4:40.

Faith is like an arm stretched out to God. But unless we exercise it, faith is of no avail. The Lord has told us that we can move mountains if we have faith. We can overcome all obstacles in our lives, if we have the faith to do so.

A ship had been in a dense fog over the Atlantic Ocean for forty-eight hours. The captain looked toward the front of the ship, trying to see if there was anything in front of them. A hand was placed on his shoulder, and the voice of George Muller, the great man of faith who had built a home for three thousand children without asking any man for a penny, said,

"Captain, I came to tell you that I have to be in Quebec by Sunday afternoon."

"That is impossible," answered the captain.

"It is impossible for you, but not for God. In fifty-seven years I have never broken a promise to preach," said Muller.

"I would gladly help you to get to the meeting in time, but we stand here helpless," the kind captain replied.

"Let us go into the cabin and pray," suggested Muller. The captain, who was not a Christian, looked at Muller and said,

"Mr. Muller, do you realize how thick the fog is?"

"No, I don't, and it does not matter, either. I am used to looking to the living God. Come on, let us pray." So they went into the cabin and Muller prayed. As they arose from prayer, Muller said, "God has heard us. Look outside and see!" The captain looked and stood dumb-founded. There was not a sign of fog anywhere. And Muller preached in Quebec that Sunday afternoon.

Dear Lord Jesus, strengthen our faith, and help us to be overcomers in this life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 14

"And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress and submit thyself under her hands." Gen. 16:9.

Sometimes we are placed in surroundings that are hard to endure. And sometimes it is hard to live peaceably in those surroundings. Many of us would like to run away from our troubles just as Hagar did, but the Lord told her to return to her mistress. God asks us to remain under these adverse circumstances until He has taught us the lesson He wishes us to learn; then, and only then, will we be blessed.

Martha was a little girl who did not like to go to school, and she did not like to study. She would always pout when her mother called her in to study, and she would say to her playmates, "I wish I never had to go to school!"

When a new teacher came to their school she not only taught them their lessons but she also told them about the children in heathen lands. Martha became interested in these children and told her mother about them. One day after she had been telling her mother about these heathen children, she burst out crying. Her mother asked her the reason for her tears. "Oh, I am so glad that I can go to school, and that I have you and Daddy and all my friends. I am going to do something for the heathen children, too!"

Her mother understood that her little girl was being sorry for rebelling against school and studying, and that she would not do so any more.

Dear Lord Jesus, we praise Thee and thank Thee for Thy goodness to us. Make us more worthy of Thy love for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 15

"I have chosen the way of truth." Ps. 119:30.

Most people do not want the truth today; even their lives do not speak the truth. They profess to know the Lord and they live for the devil. They give wonderful testimonies for Christ, but they will not live for Him. To live for Him is the way of truth.

A nine-year-old boy crawled out on the deck of a ship four days after it had left England. He had hidden himself among the boxes until all of his food was gone. He was taken before the captain of the ship who told him to tell the truth as to why he was a stowaway.

The boy said that his father was too poor to keep him any longer, so he was sending him to his aunt in America. The captain did not believe that the boy was telling the truth; after repeated questioning he became angry and took the boy by his coat collar and shook him. Then he said, "If you do not tell the truth within ten minutes we are going to hang you."

The boy stood before the captain sad and pale, and with tears in his eyes.

"Eight minutes are gone," the captain said, "you have only two minutes left to live. Tell me the truth!"

"Will you let me pray first?" asked the boy. The captain nodded. The boy knelt on the deck, folded his hands and prayed, "Dear God, take me up to heaven to You. I can die but I cannot lie." And then, he closed with the Lord's Prayer.

"Now," said the captain, "I know that you have told the truth." The crew grew to love the boy and cared for him all during the voyage.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us Thy ways, for Thy ways are truth. Keep us from sin of every kind. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 16

"Ask on, my mother: for I will not say thee nay." I Kings 2:20.

Our mothers have been given to us by God. Because father has to earn the living, it is mother who does most of the training of the children. A godly mother is to be treasured. Children should honor her, obey her and receive her instructions gladly.

The children in a family were telling their mother how much they loved her. Eric said he loved her the most because he was the oldest. Anna said she did because she was the only girl. Eugene said he loved her most and that he would protect her from all harm and danger. Einar just threw his arms around her and said he loved her more than he could tell. The mother said it was wonderful to be so loved by her children.

Just then the mailman brought a letter for mother which demanded an immediate reply. When she had answered the letter she said, "This letter must go on the train tonight. Who will take it to the post office?"

Eric looked out of the window and thought of his shoes which were upstairs. Eugene saw that it was getting dark, and hoped he didn't have to go out because he did not like to go out alone at night. Anna thought that she should not have to go when there were boys in the house. The children were busy arguing except Einar who quietly put on his overshoes, turned up the collar on his coat, and stood waiting. "But Einar," said mother, "aren't you afraid to go out alone in the dark and in the rain?"

"Yes, Mother, but I love you!" answered Einar.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to show our love for our mothers, and not just to express it in words. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 17

"And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isa. 32:18.

The only sure place to dwell is where God is. Every family should strive to have a dwelling place that is free from strife and contention; it should be a peaceable habitation. This is our privilege because we have our Redeemer as the Head of the house. The testimony of the home is important. When love is in the home it flows out into the church and into the community.

A teacher asked the members of his class if they knew where God dwelled. He received various answers, such as: "God dwells in heaven; God is in the church; God dwells in the heart," all of which were correct, but not the one that the teacher wanted. A small lad raised his hand and the teacher asked him where he thought God dwelled. The little fellow answered by saying, "God dwells down the street in the last house to the left."

The other boys began to laugh, but became serious when the teacher asked him to explain what he meant. Frank replied, "Last Sunday, my dad and I took a walk and went past that house. They sang beautiful songs. Dad told me that a shoemaker lived there. He has eight children, an old, sick grandmother, and a sick aunt to care for. They do not always have much food, but they are happy in the Lord. Dad said that God dwelled in that house, and that is why they are happy.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us how to have happy homes. Lead us so that we will live together in unity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O blest that house where faith ye find,  
And all within have set their mind  
To trust their God and serve Him still,  
And do, in all, His holy will.

## October 18

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18.

Scarlet is bright red, but crimson is purplish red. No matter how deep the color of one's sin, the blood of Jesus Christ will wash it white as snow. Some people think that if they sin a little that it does not mean anything, but if they committed a gross sin it would. But in God's sight all sin is evil, He does not countenance any sin; all sin must be confessed and washed away in Jesus' blood.

An Englishman stood on the street watching a regiment of soldiers, dressed in their red uniforms, march by. A friend came over to him and asked him what color the uniforms were. The Englishman said, "Red, of course!"

Then his friend handed him a red glass and told him to look at the uniforms through the red glass. He did so and was much surprised to see the red was white. A red cloth under a red glass will look white.

That is what happens to our sins when they are washed in Jesus blood; they become as white as snow. Are you still in your sins? Are they as scarlet or as crimson? Come to Jesus and He will wash them through His blood.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the blood of Jesus Christ that washes our sins as white as snow. Help us to tell others of this power in the blood. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord Jesus, for this I most humbly entreat,  
I wait, blessed Lord, at Thy crucified feet,  
By faith, for my cleansing, I see Thy blood flow;  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

## October 19

"Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness." Ezek. 3:3.

Jesus said that man cannot live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. To the sinner the Word of God may seem bitterness, but to the children of God it is sweet as honey. Salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ is sweet as honey to all who believe.

A ten-year-old girl's hunger for a Bible of her own led to the organizing of the first Bible House in London in 1807.

Mary wanted a Bible for her very own, but she had no money with which to buy one. A Bible, at that time, was very costly. She said to herself, "I must have a Bible even though I have to wait ten years for it." Mary waited until she was sixteen years old before she had enough money for a Bible.

One beautiful spring day Mary walked four miles to see her pastor, and told him of her desire for a Bible. The pastor was deeply moved when he heard how long she had desired one, and although the Bibles he had on hand had been spoken for, he could not let her go home without one, so he let her have one of the Bibles. He later went to London where he related the story of Mary's desire for the Word of God, and this led to the organizing of the Bible House.

May we each one eat the Word of God with hunger, and feed on it and find it sweet as honey.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to love Thy Word, and to feed on it more diligently than we have been doing. Help us to see the wonderful things that Thou hast in it for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 20

"I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth." 1 John 2:21.

God's children should know Him and His Word well enough so that they can detect a lie at once. They should be able to distinguish between that which is false and that which is truth. Too many people think lightly of lies. They lie because they do not want to hurt people's feelings.

A heathen boy who had broken his leg, was taken to the Mission Station for care. Later his father permitted him to remain at the mission even though he became well. The missionary noticed that Moya both stole and lied. One day her pencil was missing. A few of the boys went to Moya's room to look for it and they found it.

While the boys had been looking for the pencil Moya hid himself in the teacher's office. The boys brought the stolen pencil to the teacher, and after they left she knelt and prayed: "Dear, loving Father who has said, 'Ask, and it shall be given you.' I come to ask you that you shall help poor Moya not to steal any more."

This proved too much for Moya. He came out of his hiding place and knelt beside the teacher. Broken-hearted he asked God to forgive him. Moya became a new boy after this and later on was baptized, and given the name of Paul. When he grew up he became a missionary.

Dear Lord Jesus, cleanse our hearts so that we will neither lie nor steal. Guide us in the way we should go. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thy Word is everlasting truth:  
How pure is every page!  
That holy Book shall guide our youth,  
And well support our age.



## October 21

"Ye are the light of the world." Matt. 5:14.

Christians everywhere are supposed to be lights in this world. Those who go to foreign countries with the Gospel are called "missionaries." We are all to shine for the Lord Jesus Christ, and be separated from the world. We are to shine with joy, love, gentleness, kindness, and peace.

A teacher tried to illustrate to her pupils what she meant by people being lights. She had on her desk several candles, some long and some short. She lit a new one and called it "The Missionary." Then with the missionary light, she lit the other candles, both the long and the short ones. She asked her pupils if they knew why they were not all of one length. The children thought that they meant grandparents, parents, and children.

"Now, Iver, will you pick out a grandpa?" said the teacher to one of the boys. Iver picked out a long one.

"And this is the grandchild," said Anna pointing to a short candle.

"Is that correct?" asked the teacher.

"No," said Reider, "it is the other way. The short candles are the old people, for they have only a short life left to tell others of Jesus. The long candles are the young people who can let their lights shine a long time for Jesus."

Yes, young people, dedicate your lives early to the Lord, and for Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, help our young people to early yield their lives to Thee. Keep them from the snares of Satan. In Jesus' name. Amen.

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide,  
The Light of the world is Jesus;  
We walk in the Light when we follow our Guide,  
The Light of the world is Jesus.

## October 22

"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." John 10:4, 5.

The shepherds in the East name their sheep, and when the sheep hear their name they come running. The children of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, know their Shepherd, and when He calls them, they obey His voice. When they are thrust out into different situations, they know that their Shepherd has gone before them to lead the way.

A man in India was accused of stealing a sheep from his neighbor. The neighbor took him to court. The sheep was brought along. Because the judge did not know who was the owner, he told one of them to go into another room. He, then, told the man that remained in the room to call the sheep. Although the man tried to get the sheep to come, it would not move.

The judge told the man in the other room to call the sheep. He made a few sounds with his mouth. Immediately the sheep lifted its head, and on being loosened ran to its master. It was not hard for the judge to hand down a decision, for the sheep had proved who was the owner.

Likewise, those who have been born again know the voice of the Lord, and they follow Him. Are you following Him? If not, accept Him today, turn from the world, the flesh, and the devil, and follow the living Christ.

Dear Lord, help us to be wise unto salvation, and to follow the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 23

"He that scattereth Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd does his flock." Jer. 31:10.

The Lord God has permitted His sheep of Israel to be scattered throughout the world, but He says He will gather them again. We see the evidences of His gathering them in this day. A true shepherd is careful of his sheep; he does not want any evil to befall them.

A small boy went with his father to visit some relatives. He hopped and jumped along until they came to a stream which had a narrow plank over it. When the boy noticed the swift current and the narrow bridge he became frightened. His father took him by the hand and led him safely across the stream. All day the boy acted strangely. The father finally asked him what was wrong.

"I am afraid because we have to go back over the bridge tonight, and it will be dark," the boy answered.

His father tried to comfort him, but it was of no avail. Towards evening, however, the boy fell asleep, and the father carried him in his arms all the way home. The boy did not awaken until he was home in their cozy living room.

"But Daddy," he said, "how did I get across the bridge?"

"In my arms, son," answered the father.

In just such a way the Great Shepherd tenderly cares for us, who are His sheep. Are you His? If not, come into the fold today.

Dear Lord Jesus, guide us in all our ways; keep us from harm and danger; keep us safe within Thy fold. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 24

"And shalt call his name Jesus." Luke 1:31.

The name of "Jesus" has a great meaning. It means Saviour and that He shall save the people from their sins. It also means that whatsoever we shall ask in Jesus' name, the Father will grant according to His will, for He delights in honoring the name of "Jesus."

An old lady, who could not read, decided to learn to read. Together with some young people she attended an evening school, and began to study. She was very eager to learn, and was the first one in the class to learn the alphabet. After she had learned the alphabet she said to the teacher,

"Now, I would like to learn how to spell the name of 'Jesus.' I feel that everything will come easier after I know how to spell that precious name."

How do you begin your day? How do you end your day? Let each one of us be sure to call upon the name of "Jesus" at the beginning of the day and at the close of the day. We, too, will find that when we ask in the precious name of Jesus, things will go easier each day. And at the close of the day we can expect the Father's blessing on that which has been done in the name of "Jesus."

Dear Lord Jesus, hear our prayer. Lead many to trust in the precious name of "Jesus" for their salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

In Jesus' name We praise our God on high,  
He blesses them who spread abroad His fame,  
And we do His will thereby. E'er hath the Lord  
Done great things by His Word,  
And still doth bare His arm His wonders to perform;  
Hence we should in every clime Magnify His name sublime,    •  
Who doth shield us from all harm.

## October 25

"And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last." John 8:9.

God speaks through our conscience. This helps us to know what is right and what is wrong. When one ignores the pricking of conscience it becomes hardened, but when one obeys the promptings of the Spirit, the conscience becomes more tender. Jesus wants us to be sensitive to sin. He would have us quickly turn from our sins and be clean and pure before Him.

A couple of boys stood ready to throw a rock at a bird when their father noticed them. He called to them,

"Don't throw the stone, boys. The bird will fly at you. When I was a boy, fifty years ago, I had no playmates, so I trained myself to become skillful in throwing rocks. One day I went to work for an aged couple. For seven years a swallow had built a nest under the roof of their house. Each year the couple watched for the bird's return, and were happy when they saw it again. The bird, on this day, had settled on a post, and I took aim and struck the bird on the head with a rock. The bird fell dead, and when I saw the bird fall I felt as though the rock had struck me. The mate to the bird flew around and around the dead bird and cried and cried. I have felt bad about the episode for fifty years.

It is well to keep one's conscience clear before God.

Dear Lord Jesus, may Thy Word rule in our hearts so that we will not sin against Thee. Keep our conscience tender toward Thee. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

How shall the young secure their hearts,  
And guard their lives from sin?  
Thy word the choicest rules imparts  
To keep the conscience clean.

## October 26

"If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel." 1 Kings 2:4.

The Father promises blessings to those who will walk before Him with their whole hearts; when we walk thus we are walking in truth.

Arthur and some other boys were throwing snow balls in the street. The snow was soft and it packed hard. After a snowball was thrown, there was the sound of breaking glass. It was Arthur's snowball that had struck a grocer's window, and the broken glass lay strewn on the sidewalk. The boys stood white and trembling.

"Hurry, and run before the owner comes. We won't tell who did it," one of the boys advised Arthur.

"I can't do that," answered Arthur as the owner came out. He walked up to the man and said, "It was I that broke the window."

"And you dare to tell me?" said the man in great surprise.

"I dare not tell a lie," Arthur answered. His answer was so unexpected that the owner overcame his anger, and took Arthur into the store where he had a talk with him. It was decided that Arthur should shovel snow the rest of the winter to pay for the broken glass.

"The reason I am letting you off as easily as I am, is that you told the truth," said the store owner.

Arthur's honesty made it possible for him to continue to work for the man, and when he grew up, he became the owner of the store. Yes, God wants His children to walk in honesty and in sincerity, and when they do He will bless them.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be honest in all things. Help us to walk in truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 27

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." Ezek. 36:26.

When we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour God gives us a new heart and a new spirit. We will no longer think of ourselves only, but will think of others, too.

Peter used to visit his grandma every Saturday afternoon. Each time he came the grandma gave him two cents. This he spent for candy in the bakery on the way home. One afternoon she showed Peter some pictures of Negro children who did not know anything about Jesus.

"Can't someone tell them about Jesus?" Peter asked. Grandma then explained that if someone did go and tell them it would take money.

"Do you think one could give two cents?" he asked.

Grandma told him that Jesus would accept anything that anyone would be willing to give. When he was given his two cents, that afternoon, he ran down the street as fast as he could. When he came to the bakery, he closed his eyes, held his money tight, and ran home. All excited he said to his mother,

"Say, Mother, put this money in my bank. I'm not buying candy any more. This money is for the black children in Africa."

Peter had the spirit of love for children who did not know Jesus. Do you love Jesus? Accept Him today, and you will want to tell others about Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us. Help us to love those who do not know Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

## October 28

"Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you."  
Exod. 31:14.

When we think of the Sabbath, we think of Sunday, the Lord's Day, when we go to the house of God to worship. It should be a day of rest for soul and body. To neglect the Word of God is to sin.

An old Christian had a neighbor who never attended church services. He spent his Sunday chopping wood for the whole week. The Christian neighbor felt bad about this, and tried to reason with the man in a kind manner, but it did not seem to help. One Saturday afternoon the Christian man went to the neighbor's woodshed and began to saw and chop wood. When the man came home he heard someone at work in his shed and he went to investigate. He was surprised to find his Christian neighbor, and asked him what he meant by chopping and sawing his wood. The old man replied,

"I just wanted to give you a lift so that you could keep the Sabbath with us!"

There was never any wood chopped on Sunday after that. What do you do on Sunday?

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for a day of rest, for the Church, for the Word of God, and for all Thy blessings. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness, Most beautiful, most bright,  
On thee the high and lowly, Through ages joined in tune,  
Sing Holy, Holy, Holy! To the great God Triune.



## October 29

"And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee." Deut. 8:2.

In this life God will both humble and prove His children. The process is often painful, but it is effective, when God's children yield to the will of God and His ways of dealing with them.

A pastor, who had a large family, was in straightened circumstances. During the depression they lived in a small town on a sea coast. One day, as there was nothing in the house for their noonday meal, the mother and daughter went into the garden to see what they could find. As they were looking, a big fish fell at their feet. They could not see anyone who could have thrown the fish to them. The mother, in her joy, said, "Our Father in heaven saw our need, and sent the fish to us."

Their faith in the Father's provision for their need had been rewarded. Our Father tests our faith in various ways. He teaches us, in these ways, to trust Him for all of our needs, whether they are great or small.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us hearts to trust Thee more. Help us to be willing to have Thee prove us for Thy name's sake. Amen.

I am living now in Canaan  
since my soul is sanctified;  
Victory over all my trials,  
with His love I'm satisfied;  
Could I tell thee all the pleasures  
that are mine along life's way,  
You would come and share its treasures;  
why not come, and come today?

Verse by permission, Haldor Lillenas, copy't 1920

## October 30

"And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord." Lev. 19:12.

Many people use God's name in the wrong way. He will not hold them guiltless who use His name in vain. He is a Holy God and He wants His children to be holy, too.

Augusta, with several others, worked on a dairy farm for a Christian dairyman. Often she used the Lord's name in vain. The dairyman rebuked her for this, but she did not think it was a sin. She said that she did not mean any harm by it. Although she was told about this several times, she persisted in the practice. The other workers did not like to hear her use God's name in vain, so they thought of a way to cure her. One whole day, whenever they wanted to express themselves forcefully, they would say, "Oh, Augusta!"

When she asked them why they used her name in such a way, they replied, "Oh, we don't mean any harm by it!" Before the end of the day she became much angered by it, and complained to the dairyman. But he answered that they did not mean anything by it. Then she told him that she would not tolerate anyone using her name in such a manner.

"You demand that I shall stop the workers from using your name in vain, but when I ask you to stop misusing God's name, you say you do not mean anything by it," the dairyman said.

His remark rebuked Augusta so that she no longer took the Lord's name in vain. When we love the Lord Jesus Christ, we do not use His name in vain.

Dear Lord Jesus, guard our lips so that we will never take Thy name in vain. Teach us how to speak as Thou wouldst have us speak. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## October 31

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son." John 3:16.

To give is the nature of love. If you love, you give. The one you give to may not be worthy of the gift, but you give it anyway. Just so, we as sinners, were not worthy of God's Gift to us, but He gave Him anyway.

A little boy who attended Sunday school was accidentally shot by his playmate. His father, who was a heavy drinker, did not realize that his son had been seriously wounded until the next morning, after he had become sober. Then He refused to believe that his son was seriously wounded.

"I know my little man will get well, again," he repeatedly said.

"No," his little boy answered, "I will not get well. But, Papa, when I am gone, remember I loved you even when you were drunk."

That is the way love would say it. As the little boy loved his father who was a drunkard, so we should love all sinners, for so the heavenly Father has loved us, and He keeps on loving us still.

Dear Lord Jesus, dwell in our hearts so that we will love those who do not know Thee. Help us to hate all sin. In Jesus' name. Amen.

For God so loved the world,  
He gave His only Son,  
To die on Calvary's tree,  
From sin to set me free;  
Some day He's coming back,  
What glory that will be  
Wonderful His love to me.

Verse by permission, Al Smith

# November 1

"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant." Ps. 25:14.

The Lord has many secrets that he reveals only to those who know Him; to those who obey His commands; to those who are willing to go all the way with Him.

Ole and Hans were very good friends. One day Ole showed Hans the new dresser he had received as a gift from his parents. He opened all the drawers but one for Hans' inspection. That one drawer contained a secret which was known only to Ole and his mother. Hans begged to see what was in the drawer; he persisted until Ole opened it. Hans was surprised when he saw only a bowl of cubed sugar. He could not see that a bowl of sugar was a very great secret! Ole, then, explained to Hans that he wanted to give some money to missions and had made a bargain with his mother.

Ole's mother let him have a little coffee to drink each morning and afternoon, and with the coffee a cube of sugar. She promised him fifty cents for a full bowl of sugar, if he would save it instead of eat it. He told Hans that he had already filled three bowls of sugar and this one was his fourth.

In later life, Hans said, "I have heard many sermons in behalf of missions, but none that has gripped me as did Ole's sermon."

No one will ever know in this life how many souls were won to Christ through the secret that Ole had in his dresser drawer. Have you a secret with your Lord? A secret that will bring a blessing to others?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to know Thee and serve Thee so that many souls may come to Thee. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## November 2

"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." II Cor. 3:2.

An epistle is something to be read. Every Christian is an epistle. By our actions, our deeds and our words, the world reads the state of our love for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The people of the world are influenced either for or against Jesus by the way we live.

Tom went with his friends to a neighboring city, and when they arrived these friends decided to have a drink of liquor, but Tom would not indulge. His friends teased him; they ridiculed him and they sneered at him, but he still refused to take part in their drinking. When they pressed him for the reason for his refusal he said, "Fellows, it was strong drink that ruined my father, and sent my mother to an early grave. I promised my mother that I would never taste strong drink." The young men were much impressed with Tom's testimony of his regard for the promise made to his mother.

Are you willing to take your stand for Christ? It is not always easy to do so, but it will bring a blessing to your soul. Your stand for Christ may win someone to Him. Do not be ashamed of Jesus.

Dear Lord Jesus, guide us in our actions and in our speaking so that we will be worthy epistles of Thine. May we, as living epistles, point others to the Lamb of God that taketh away our sins. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

## November 3

"Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him." John 19:6.

All who have looked to the Cross have beheld Jesus the innocent and the spotless Lamb of God Who was willing to die for sinners. He died that we might be free, and God would then, find no fault in us.

Some missionaries were holding services for the Indians in a schoolhouse. One of the Indians was named Red Eagle. He did not, at first, attend the services. One day he walked into the meeting. The missionaries had just hung a picture of Jesus on the wall; Red Eagle sat down and looked at the picture for a long time. After some time had passed he said,

"Who is that? What have they done to him?"

The missionaries explained to him how Jesus had suffered and died to pay for the sins of Red Eagle. Without saying a word, Red Eagle quietly left the room. A few days later, he came back and sat before the picture a long time; then he walked out again. Some months later a new grave was seen on the prairie; on it stood a wooden cross. It was Red Eagle's grave. Shortly before he died, he had gathered his friends around him and said,

"The story of the Man on the Cross is true. When I am dead, place a cross on my grave so that all Indians will know what was in Red Eagle's heart."

Dear Lord Jesus, as we look at the Cross, may we see, again, Thy sacrifice for us. Help us to be worthy of Thy love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## November 4

"But whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Matt. 5:39.

If you have the love of God in your heart, you can love even those who mistreat you. A Christian does not have to repay anyone for an evil done to him, for the Lord will repay in His own time and in His own way. We are to repay an unkindness with kindness; by doing so we will put to shame those who harm us.

In one of the regiments of the army there was a soldier who loved the Lord. His ungodly comrades were very unkind to him, but he bore with them in patience for Jesus' sake. After a day of heavy rain, the Christian, wet and tired, came in to his barracks. Before he retired for the night he knelt to pray. This made one of the ungodly soldiers so very angry that he took his wet, dirty boots and threw them at the Christian. He, however, quietly continued to pray; then went to bed without saying anything in return about the deed done to him. The next morning, when the ungodly man arose, he found his boots beside his bed, all dry and polished. This was the Christian's way of answering to an unkind deed. Instead of throwing the boots back at the man, he polished his enemy's boots. By this act he won his enemy to Christ.

Do you think that you have to repay an injury, or an unkindness with unkindness? The Christian's method is the better one. Try it and you, too, will receive a good reward.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be kind to those who are unkind to us. Help us to love our enemies. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Fight on, my soul, till death  
Shall bring thee to thy God;  
He'll take thee, at thy parting breath,  
To His divine abode.

## November 5

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." Col. 3:9.

Lying is an indication of an unregenerated heart. Those who have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour are told to put off all evil deeds, and to show forth to the world that they are new creatures in Christ.

A Sunday school teacher heard one of her pupils ask a stranger on the street for some money. He said, "My father is dead, my mother is sick, and we are without food."

The man gave him ten cents which he immediately ran and spent for candy. He lied! The next Sunday the teacher told the class, without mentioning his name, what this boy had done. She asked, "Would any one of you lie for ten cents?" The answer, immediately, was a strong, "No!" Then she asked if they would lie for twenty-five cents, and the same answer was given; for a dollar, and the answer was the same.

Then the teacher asked if any one of them would lie for a thousand dollars. No one answered! A thousand dollars was a great deal of money. One could do a great deal with a thousand dollars. After a few minutes silence, one of the boys spoke up and said, "No, I would not."

The teacher then asked why he would not lie. "Because after the thousand dollars was used up the lie would still be left." It would be an evidence of an unregenerated heart. It would grieve God and please Satan. One lie, unconfessed, will keep a soul from Heaven.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us Thy truth. Give us the grace which we need to yield ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we will be led in all truth. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



## November 6

"Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him." 1 Sam. 3:7.

The Lord called Samuel, but Samuel at that time did not know the voice of the Lord. However, Samuel came to know the voice of the LORD when he was still a small boy. Do you know His voice? He is calling children to come to Him; obey His call today.

Knut had been told by his father not to use his tools. But one day while his parents were gone he needed a hammer, so he went to his father's tool box and helped himself to the hammer. While he was using it the handle broke. Knut became frightened and buried the hammer and handle in the ground behind the barn. A voice inside him said, "Tell your dad about it." But Knut was afraid, and as the voice kept speaking to him he dug them up again, broke the handle in small pieces and threw it away. The voice became more persistent, "You should have told your dad! You should have told your dad!"

One day his father said to him, "You are not eating well, Knut. You have been looking pale, lately. Are you sick?" Knut began to weep; and then broke down and told his father the whole story. His father was not angry with him, but said, "Be sure to listen to that voice within you. It is the voice of God speaking to you."

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to hear Thee when Thou dost speak to us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Father of mercies, in Thy Word  
What endless glory shines!  
Forever be Thy name adored  
For these celestial-lines.  
Here the Redeemer's welcome voice  
Spreads heavenly peace around;  
And life and everlasting joys  
Attend the blissful sound.

## November 7

"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom." Luke 16:22.

When Lazarus, the beggar, died his soul went to Paradise; this is difficult to understand. The soul of Lazarus was the real Lazarus; the body he left behind was just the form in which the soul lived for a while. This form is sometimes called a tabernacle of clay, and at other times a house.

A Sunday school teacher tried to explain this to his pupils by using his watch as an object lesson. He held up the watch and the pupils all agreed that it was a watch because they could hear it tick. The teacher then took the watch out of its case, and held the mechanism and the case in separate hands for the pupils to see. They agreed that it still was a watch, for they could hear it tick, even though the mechanism was not in the case. Then the teacher said,

"The body is the case. The soul is the mechanism. And even though the case and the mechanism are separated for a time the soul is still alive."

But only the souls which have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ will live throughout eternity.

Dear Lord Jesus, bless us as we try to walk with Thee. Cleanse us so that we will be fit to live with Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Asleep in Jesus! Blessed sleep,  
From which none ever wakes to weep:  
A calm and undisturbed repose,  
Unbroken by the last of foes.

## November 8

"What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight." Luke 18:41.

Are you blinded by sin? The Lord stands ready to cleanse you from that blindness, and give you eyes with which to see Him.

Mani, a little brown boy, came to the Mission station. He had never seen a house, a tree, a person, or anything, because he was blind. Mani listened to the other children sing and read the Bible. He heard, from the missionaries, how Jesus opened the eyes of the blind.

"I wish I could find Jesus. Maybe, He could make me see, too," thought little Mani. He told this to the missionary.

"Maybe, someday, you will be able to see Jesus with your fingers," the missionary told him. They soon taught him to read by the Braille system. Then they gave him a Bible. The first thing that Mani felt for in the Bible was the name of "Jesus." He was so happy that it was hard for him to speak. Then he said,

"Jesus once made people to see with their eyes, but He has made me see with my fingers."

Dear Lord Jesus, open our eyes to behold Thee, and Thy love for us. Cleanse us that we may see Thy will for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sun of my soul! Thou Saviour dear,  
It is not night if Thou be near;  
Oh, may no earth born cloud arise  
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes!

## November 9

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner." II Tim. 1:8.

You may not be ashamed of Jesus in Church, but are you ashamed to take your stand for Him when you are with those who do not love Him? His way is a straight and narrow way. It is not an easy way, but it is a satisfying way. He is not lovely to look upon, when we think of Him hanging on the Cross; but He took our sin, so that we would be lovely in Him.

A mother coming home from town one day, found her home in flames. The neighbors had brought the four oldest children to safety. The mother cried,

"But where is my baby?" They had forgotten all about the baby. The mother ran into the house, and soon came back with the baby in her arms, wrapped in a blanket. But the mother was very badly burned, especially in her face. She carried the scars with her as long as she lived.

Some years later the little girl for whom the mother had risked her life, went with her mother to a party. She stood with a group of girls when one of the number cried,

"Look at that awful looking woman, with those hideous scars. Do you know her?" The young girl turned red. For a moment she fought between shame and thankfulness. Then she said,

"No, I do not know her!" She was ashamed of her own mother.

Are you ashamed of the Saviour who died for you? He was not ashamed to die for your sins. Be not ashamed of the Saviour, but declare Him openly.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the grace to be seen in Christian company. Give us the grace never to be ashamed of Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## November 10

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." Rom. 1:16.

Many are ashamed of the Gospel. This should not be so. A Christian should be different from the unsaved. He should never be ashamed of Jesus. Many times, when the Christian speaks boldly for Christ, the ungodly call him names. If he is a weak Christian, he may fail his Lord. But His grace is sufficient for this trial.

A young man, when he began a new job, felt a strong urge to take his Bible from his case and read it, but he was afraid of his comrades. Two of his fellow workers noticed that he was uneasy and asked him the reason. He was honest, and said that he wanted to read his Bible, but he was afraid of being ridiculed. He was surprised that both of his fellow workers had wanted to do the same thing, but they were afraid of him. They agreed to have devotions, each day, together. Others in the office joined them, and soon their number grew to be sixteen.

Do not be ashamed of Jesus, it is a privilege to belong to Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us never to be ashamed of Thee. Help us to love Thee, and to show forth our love to others who do not know Thee. Use us for Thy glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ashamed of Jesus! that dear friend  
On whom my hopes of heaven depend!  
No; when I blush, be this my shame,  
That I no more revere His name.

# November 11

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."  
1 Cor. 15:33.

Many people are deceived by the outward appearances of others. Some who are outwardly nice to look at are quite different at heart.

Anton was forbidden to play with some boys in the neighborhood, because of their bad habits. But when Anton thought no one was watching him, he would play with them. The father decided he would teach Anton a lesson.

One day, he gave Anton a plate full of nice juicy apples, and told him to put them away for a few days, to ripen. Just as he was going to put the apples away his father placed a spoiled one among them.

"Dad, that apple will spoil the others," remonstrated Anton.

"Leave it there," answered the father, "the other apples may make that apple fresh again."

A week later they took the apples out, but they were all rotten.

"Hey, Dad," cried Anton, "see! I told you that the rotten apple would spoil the others."

"Well, Anton," the father said, "what do you think will happen to you if you continue to play with the bad boys in this neighborhood?" Anton hung his head in shame, but he did not play with those boys any more.

What kind of children do you play with? Jesus wants His children to stay pure and clean so that they can help others.

Dear Lord Jesus, create in us a love for Thy company, and a desire to be with those who love Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## November 12

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal." Matt. 6:19.

Some people do not like to be told not to lay up treasures upon earth. Each one must leave this earth, one day, and the treasures of this earth cannot be taken along, but the treasures we send up to heaven are eternal.

A farmer harvested a big crop one year, but he would not sell it because he hoped for bigger prices. When he heard that the prices were going higher he expressed his elation by getting drunk. That night because he could not sleep, he arose, took a lantern and went to the barn to have another look at his grain. As he entered the barn he stumbled, and dropped the lantern. The oil dripped from the lantern and caught fire. In a short time the barn was in flames, and all the grain was lost. The man's life was saved, but his treasure was lost.

Is your treasure in material, earthly things? Jesus asks us to put our treasures in heaven where they will be safe forever. First give Him your heart. Jesus longs for you to be wholly His. Then you will lay up treasures in heaven.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for salvation. Teach us to lay up our treasures in heaven, where they will be safe forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

My Treasure, Lord, Thou art,  
The Fount of every blessing;  
If Thou be in my heart,  
All else am I possessing.  
Be and abide with me,  
A constant Eucharist,  
Then death to me is life  
With Thee, O Jesus Christ.

## November 13

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."  
Eph. 6:1.

It is not always easy to obey. But God expects parents to train children in the way that they should go. Obedience to parents will make obedience to God easier.

Ted was walking away from the house when his mother called. "I wonder what she wants now; I suppose it is another errand," he thought. "I am not going back now. Bob's dog is being sold today, and I want to see it before it goes."

It was hard for the boys to see the dog go. Ted put his arms around the dog's neck and said, "I should have had you. Dad talked about it, but he was slow in making up his mind."

The boys waited around until the dog was taken away; then Ted went home with a heavy heart.

"It was too bad that you did not hear me when I called," said his mother.

Ted felt guilty, and looked at the floor. Then he said, "Dad said, before he left today, that you could have Bob's dog for a birthday present."

This made Ted feel bad, and he began to cry. He asked his mother's forgiveness because he had not answered when she called.

When we disobey, we lose a blessing, just as Ted did.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us a willing and obedient spirit to obey both Thee and our parents. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lead on, O King Eternal, The day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home,  
Through days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong,  
And now, O King Eternal, We lift our battle song.



## November 14

"Whose names are in the book of life." Phil. 4:3.

God keeps books and writes down the name of each child that accepts Jesus as his personal Saviour. Is your name in the Book of Life? If it is not, accept the Saviour, now, and it will be written in the Book.

It was announced in Sunday school, that all whose names were on the Sunday school records were invited to a party. A little boy became anxious to know if his name was on the record, and when the teacher told him that it was he went home happy. When the evening arrived for the party to be held, the teacher watched the door and admitted only those whose names were on the records. Several girls came thinking they could get in, but the teacher said,

"Your names are not on our records; we are sorry, but we cannot let you in." The girls had to go home.

Let each one of us ask God to write our names in the Book of Life.

Dear Lord Jesus, cleanse our sinful hearts, and write our names in Thy Book. Lead us in the way everlasting. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, I care not for riches,  
Neither silver or gold;  
I would make sure of heaven,  
I would enter the fold,  
In the book of Thy kingdom,  
With its pages so fair,  
Tell me, Jesus my Saviour, is my name written there?

## November 15

"Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but until seventy times seven." Matt. 18:22.

Paul and Eric were brothers. Paul was nine and Eric was seven. They were quarreling about a ball. Eric meant to kick the ball, but he stepped so hard on it that it broke. Eric felt bad about the ball and said,

"Don't be angry with me, I didn't mean to break it. You must forgive me!"

"I suppose I will have to," answered Paul, "but I will remember it for another time."

Mother had overheard the quarrel and the answer Paul had given Eric. When Paul came into the kitchen where she was, the mother asked,

"Paul, how much is seven times seventy?" He thought a while and then he said,

"Four hundred and ninety! But, why do you ask?"

Then he recalled that he had had a lesson in Sunday school about forgiving someone four hundred and ninety times. He went to look for Eric, and found him in the shed. When mother called them in for dinner, they both looked happy, and Paul said,

"Mother, I know why you asked me to figure out seven times seventy. I have forgiven Eric four hundred and ninety times."

Do you forgive those who do you a wrong? Let Jesus into your heart, and His love will make it easy for you to forgive.

Dear Lord Jesus, grant us a forgiving spirit, and thus show forth the love of Christ in our lives to those who know Thee not. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## November 16

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Ps. 37:4.

God asks us to put first things first, and then He will bless us above all that we can ask or think. When we put first things first we will only want that which God wants us to have. Our wills are lost in His perfect will.

A pastor was much disturbed about the spiritual life of a shoemaker because he did not come to church and worked at his trade on Sunday. He visited the shoemaker and invited him to church.

"I would gladly come, Pastor, but I have to work to keep my family with food and clothing," the shoemaker said.

The preacher then asked him how much money he made on Sunday, and when the shoemaker replied, "Only two dollars," the pastor made him an offer.

"If you will come to church next Sunday, and not work I will pay you the two dollars, and I will do the same for each Sunday that you come."

The shoemaker agreed to do this, and for several Sundays he collected the two dollars from the preacher. One Sunday he failed to collect the money. The pastor called on him the following Monday and found a happy shoemaker.

"Pastor, I was ashamed to collect the money yesterday, because I have been making more money lately than I ever did before. Then, too, I have been so blest in my soul that I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for me."

Put first things first and you will receive an abundant blessing from God.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the grace to seek first that which Thou wouldst desire for us; help us to make Thy will our will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## November 17

**"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." James 5:16.**

God admonishes us to confess our sins and to pray. When we confess our sins the Lord cleanses us from our unrighteousness, and then we are able to pray for others. We must confess our need of the Saviour and He will heal and restore us.

A poor, homeless boy was struck by a truck, and taken to a hospital where it was said that he could not recover. Each day a poor-looking boy, of the same age as the boy who had the accident, came with an orange or some other small gift. After a few days the nurse told him that his friend was dying. The boy asked to see his sick friend. When he saw his friend he started to cry, and said,

"Oh, John, I feel terrible! Tell me that you are not angry with me!"

"Don't cry, Bob, it was my fault," answered the sick boy. "I'll forgive you, and you forgive me. The nurse has been teaching me a prayer. How does it go, nurse?"

"Forgive us our trespasses," replied the nurse softly. When Bob came the next morning his friend had died. When he saw the nurse he said, "Are you sure that John forgave me?"

"Yes," answered the nurse, "I am sure."

John was not healed physically but his soul was healed from all sin.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to confess our faults one to another. Cleanse us from all false pride. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Give us Thy grace, that we  
All evil may forsake,  
May boldly speak the truth for Thee,  
The lowest place may take.

## November 18

"The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Ps. 19:8.

We know that the Lord is right in all His dealings with His children. The eyes of the Lord's children are enlightend as they learn the spiritual lessons that He endeavors to teach them.

A Sunday school teacher, in the northern part of England, told his class of boys that he was going to visit each one of them in their homes. One boy told him that he lived in a mine. Nevertheless, the teacher said that he would visit him.

When the teacher came, the boy took him, by the light of a lantern, around the mine. They came to a room where there were a few stone blocks arranged to form a bench.

"This is our prayer room," the boy said. "I meet here with some boys and talk to them about Jesus. We read the New Testament, and I tell them what I have learned in Sunday school."

When the teacher stood ready to leave the boy asked, "Would you like to see our mission box? After each meeting we put some money in the box." Then he showed the teacher a hole in the wall.

"But you cannot leave the money there; someone will steal it!"

"Oh, no," answered the boy, "no one would dare to take it. That money belongs to God. When the hole is full we give it to missions. Last time when it was full we had twelve dollars in it."

The boy had not only listened to God's Word but he had tried to win his friends to Christ.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be obedient to Thy commandments, and to Thy statutes. Help us to see that Thy ways are good. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## November 19

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8.

Salvation is the greatest gift of all. We cannot work for it, nor can we pay for it. God gives it to us even though He did not owe us anything.

A ten-year-old boy thought he should be paid for each task that he performed. He sat down, one evening, and wrote the following bill: Mother owes Harold for bringing in coal six times, twenty-five cents; for bringing in wood several times, twenty-five cents; for other errands, twenty-five cents; total seventy-five cents. The next morning he placed the bill on his mother's plate. His mother read the bill, but said nothing. At supper time, Harold found his bill on his plate with the seventy-five cents. On his plate was another bill which read: Harold owes for his happy home for ten years, nothing; for food and clothing, nothing; for care, nothing; total, nothing.

Harold read the bill, then went to his mother and said, "Here are the seventy-five cents. I do not want them. And I am going to do many things for you, from now on, for nothing!"

Do you think that God owes you salvation, a home in heaven? No, He does not. Nothing we can ever do will earn a right to the heavenly home. God has offered us the gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Accept the precious gift today!

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for all who have had the grace to accept Thy gift of salvation. Help many others to accept this precious gift. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

## November 20

"One thing thou lackest: go thy way sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven."

Mark 10:21.

Too many people are lacking in love. The tendency of this age is to love oneself better than others; to see how much one can get for oneself, rather than to help others. To get houses and lands, cars and planes, seems to be the chief desire of many people. But God tells us to remember the poor who have not as much as we have.

Walter received two shiny ten-cent pieces of money. His mother said,

"I suppose you plan to put one of them in the mission box."

Yes, he would put one in the mission box, but first he wanted to play with both of them. After a short while he came weeping to his mother,

"Mother, one of the pieces of money rolled away, and I can't find it."

"Which piece did you lose?" Mother asked. Walter thought for a moment.

"I have my own here, so the one for the heathen must have rolled away."

But when Walter went to bed that night he felt unhappy. The next morning he said to his mother,

"It was my ten-cent piece that I lost; the poor heathen can have this one."

"That is fine, Walter, but here is your own, too. I found it on the floor after you went to bed last night," his mother said, much pleased.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to remember those who are poor with our gifts and take all selfishness out of our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## November 21

"This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." Ps. 34:6.

The Lord wants His children to come to Him with their troubles. When we cry out to Him in our distress, He hears and delivers us, even though we have to wait for the deliverance.

The German pastor, Oberlin, once had several young people in his home taking instruction in the Word of God. Among them was a French girl whose parents had been killed in the revolution. One day, some men came to the Pastor and demanded that he produce the girl. He did not want to lie, so he said, "Find her for yourself." The men began to search the house; while they were upstairs the pastor fell to his knees and asked God to protect the girl.

The girl was in her room near the door. When the men opened her door she was hidden behind it. They did not think to look behind the door but went away without finding her. When she went downstairs she heard how God had protected her from trouble in answer to the pastor's prayer.

Have you the right to call upon God for protection and help in your trouble? Only those who know the Lord Jesus Christ can call upon Him, for He says He will not hear the prayer of the wicked. Accept the Lord today and He will hear you when you pray.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to call upon Thee in trouble and deliver us out of it. Help us to trust Thee with all of our problems, and give us the peace that we desire. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O Rock divine, O Refuge dear, A shelter in the time of storm;  
Be Thou our helper ever near, A shelter in the time of storm.  
O Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, A weary land, a weary land;  
Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, A shelter in the time of storm.



## November 22

"Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Rom. 12:17.

Are we honest with ourselves and before God? Christians should strive to be honest even in small matters so that they are a testimony for Christ at all times.

A boy came into a bookstore and asked to see the owner. When he was told that the owner was busy, he said that he would wait. The owner, when he came, asked the boy what he wanted.

"I would like you to look over this bill. I bought some books three months ago. There is some mistake in this bill." The owner looked at it and said,

"You paid too much for those books."

"No," answered the boy, "the opposite is true. I have not paid enough. I bought some books that are not marked on this bill, and which I did not notice until I got home. I live so far away that it was impossible for me to come in before."

"You have made me very happy, sonny. Tell me, who taught you to be honest?" The man asked.

"My mother," replied the boy, and he began to cry. "She just died, and that's the reason I couldn't come before." The owner gave the boy a gift of ten books, and told him that if ever he needed a friend, to come to him.

Dear Lord Jesus, uphold us with Thy Spirit that we may be honest in the sight of all men. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I am weakness, full of weakness;  
At Thy sacred feet I bow;  
Blest, divine, eternal Spirit,  
Fill with power, and fill me now.

## November 23

"But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" Acts 5:3.

Ananias lied to the Holy Ghost and that is a serious thing. God knows the heart and requires faithfulness. Whatever belongs to the Lord, that we must give to Him. We must pay our vows, and hold nothing back.

A boy secured work in a pencil factory. A certain number of pencils were made in a department each day, and a certain number of packages were made up each day. At the end of the day there were no half-packages. The new boy had never seen so many pencils at one time. Since there were so many, he thought one more or less would never be noticed, so he put one in his pocket.

At the end of that day, they found a package with one pencil missing. The loss was traced to the new boy, and he was dismissed. It was not the loss of one pencil, but the employer did not want a dishonest boy in his factory.

The Lord wants us to be honest with Him; in all of our promises to Him, and our dealings with Him. He does not want us to keep anything back from Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be honest with Thee. Guard our actions so that Satan will not fill our hearts with evil. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin,  
Make straight the way of God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

## November 24

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."  
Rom. 14:12.

No matter what we do, or how we live, we shall each one have to face the Lord someday. We will have to give an account of how we have served Him, and lived for Him. No one need account for the other person, but each one will have to give an own account of his life to God.

A ship had lost its propeller, and the men were busy trying to repair it when the water came into the ship, and it began to sink. The boats were manned, but the captain was the last to get into the crowded boat. The night was dark and stormy, then they noticed a light from another ship in the distance. How could they signal the ship in the dark? They had a lantern, but who had a match? One match was at last found, and with great fear and anxiety they got the lantern lit. The ship saw the light and came to their rescue. The match was important because it was the only one in the boat. If it had gone out, they would all have been lost.

You are only one person, but you are important. You only have one life to live. That life is important. How are you living that life? Christ wants that life to be lived for him; then the account you will have to give at the end of life, will be a good one. Yield yourself to Him.

Dear Lord Jesus, lead us and guide us so that when we meet Thee in heaven we shall be able to give a good account. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus calls us: by Thy mercies,  
Saviour, may we hear Thy call,  
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,  
Serve and love Thee best of all.

## November 25

"And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord." 1 Sam. 7:5.

Samuel prayed for the good of Israel; all Christians should pray for one another for that is pleasing to the Lord. Every Christian should pray for guidance in making all decisions, and in the solving of all problems; then all fears will be taken away because our trust is in God.

A little girl was frightened whenever there was a thunderstorm; her mother told her to pray about it. The next time that she heard thunder she did pray. Then she went to her mother, and said, "It does not help to pray when it thunders!"

"Then," said the mother, "you will have to pray when the sun shines; maybe that will take away the fear." The little girl decided to do that.

"To pray when the sun shines is much better," she told her mother the next time it thundered, "Because I am not a bit afraid now."

She had prepared herself for the storm; she felt protected and safe. When we pray we commit ourselves to the heavenly Father's care and all things are well with us. The Lord is pleased to have us come to Him during the storms of life, but He also wants us to come to Him in the joys of life.

Are you a child of His so that you have the right to go to Him for His care? Come to Him and you will be washed in the blood of Jesus.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be willing to bear one another's burdens in prayer, and give us the assurance that we are heard. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, teach us how to pray aright,  
With reverence and with fear:  
Though dust and ashes in Thy sight,  
We may, we must, draw near.

## November 26

"Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now. . ." Neh. 1:6.

The Lord wants us to be fervant in our prayers; then He knows that we are in earnest about our requests. He does not want half-hearted prayers; do not be afraid to plead with Him, it is to His glory.

The children of the neighborhood were talking about a coming party, but Mary was afraid that she would not be able to go because she did not have any shoes to wear. She went to her father and said, "Can Jesus give us what we pray for?"

"Yes," her father answered, "He has promised that He will grant us what we pray for according to His will." Mary went into the yard and knelt by a big tree. Her father stood at the kitchen window and watched her; he heard her pray: "Dear Jesus, you are rich and can do anything you want to. Will you please send me a pair of shoes because I want to go to the children's party on the fifteenth. Amen."

On the morning of the day of the party a neighbor came in with a pair of shoes. "I don't suppose these shoes would fit Mary," she said, "but if they do she is welcome to them."

"I know they will fit," quickly answered Mary who was standing near by, "because Jesus would never send me a pair of shoes that did not fit."

She had faith to believe that the Lord would provide for her need.

Dear Lord Jesus, we praise Thee that Thou dost hear and answer prayer. Strengthen our faith in Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## November 27

"Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever." Ps. 45:2.

Jesus is very precious to those who have accepted Him as their personal Saviour. They find Him dearer than all the people of the world.

A Chinaman met a Chinese convert who was very happy in his Christianity. The unbeliever mocked him by saying,

"How many dollars did you get from the missionary so that he could baptize you? About sixty dollars?"

"O, I got much more than that," replied the Christian.

"About three hundred dollars?" asked the ungodly man.

"Much more than that," replied the Christian happily.

"Maybe, three thousand dollars?" said the heathen, much surprised.

"I got much more than the weight of this mountain in silver and gold. The missionary gave me this book, and it has made me richer and happier than if I had been given the whole world." And he held up his precious Bible.

In the Bible he had found Jesus. He was now fairer to him, than any of the children of men. Have you seen Jesus in your Bible? Read your Bible, and there you will find all about Jesus, and you will find eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus, warm our hearts toward Thee. Increase our devotion to Thee and Thy cause. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Fair is the sunshine, Fairer the moonlight  
And the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer:  
Than all the angels in the sky.

## November 28

"I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely." Hos. 2:18.

No person is safe until he is a child of God. How blessed to be able to dwell in safety.

A young man was sent, with a large sum of money, on a long journey for his employer. The first night he stayed with some strangers. He was anxious as to what he should do with the money while he slept. The man of the house came home from the mines, where he worked, dirty and tired. The young man was not much impressed by his looks.

After supper the young man was asked if he would not like to retire, but he did not feel as if he would like to go to sleep very early. The man of the house then said,

"Even if you do not wish to go to bed, I do. It is customary in this house to close the day with the reading of the Word of God and prayer."

The man of the house brought out an old, worn Bible, and read from it; then he prayed for God's protection and blessing upon their house and upon those within its walls. The young man thought, "All my fear is gone. It is impossible to distrust a man who daily reads his Bible and prays."

The young man slept well through the night. The testimony of this household brought him to the Lord. God moves in mysterious ways to open the eyes of His children.

Dear Lord Jesus, open our eyes that we may see our need of Thee in all circumstances of life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O safe to the Rock that is higher than I,  
My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly;  
So sinful, so weary, Thine, Thine would I be;  
Thou blest "Rock of Ages," I'm hiding in Thee.

## November 29

"Give us this day our daily bread." Matt. 6:11.

We pray for our daily needs, but God also wants us to do what we can to help ourselves to get them. When our daily needs are supplied, he does not want us to be wasteful, but to use all provisions carefully.

During the late depression a father became very anxious as to how to provide food and clothing for his family. His anxiety kept him from sleeping well. One night he dreamed that he saw three angels. The one was kneeling in prayer; the next one was busy digging vegetables from the earth. The man heard him say, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." The third angel was busy gathering the vegetables as they were taken from the ground so that none would be wasted. The man heard him say, "Gather up the fragments so that nothing shall go to waste."

The man learned three truths from this dream: to pray, to work, and to conserve. It was a lesson that he needed to learn, and from that time on he never suffered from lack of anything.

It is wonderful that God's providence is over all the children of the world, but His richest blessings for this life and the life to come, he reserves for those who love Him, and have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. If you do not know the Saviour, accept Him today.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for Thy wonderful goodness to all the children of the world. We love Thee because we may be Thy children. We thank Thee that Thou dost supply all of our needs. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## November 30

"In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life . . . and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." Rev. 22:2.

God would have all nations turn to Him for healing from the tree of life. The nations today are sick with lust for power, hatred, and greed. May God help our land and all nations to turn to Him in repentance and faith.

A little girl was invited to a birthday party. Because she was poor, she could not afford to give an expensive present; she brought a book called "Leaves from the Tree of Life." This contained a Bible verse for each day of the year. The gift only cost twenty-five cents, and the little girl felt ashamed to think that she could not give a more expensive gift.

Twenty-five years later these friends met, and they began to talk about the past.

"Do you remember the book you gave me?" asked the one woman.

"Yes, and I remember how ashamed I was because I could not afford a more expensive gift," was the reply.

"That book has been a great comfort to me." The other woman looked at the book and saw how worn it was. She thought of her mother who was in heaven, and who had been the one who had urged her to give that gift. Then she said,

"How wonderful it is that the Word of God has healing for us all."

Have you been healed from your sin? The Saviour is waiting to be your Great Physician. Call upon Him today!

Dear Lord Jesus, heal us, strengthen us and make us bold in our witnessing for Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

# December 1

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isa. 53:6.

Without a shepherd the sheep wander away. People are like that, too. They go where they want to go, not where they ought to go. People often go into places of sin, but after they have accepted Jesus as their Saviour they are more willing to follow in His path.

"What is your trouble?" asked Dwight L. Moody of a perplexed young man.

"I can't believe," was the answer.

"What is it that you cannot believe?"

"God's Word," was the reply.

"Surely, you believe something in God's Word. I will read you a verse," said Mr. Moody. Then he read from Isaiah 53:6: "'All we like sheep have gone astray.' Do you believe that?"

"Yes, I believe that. That is my trouble!" answered the young man.

"That is what I thought. Now let us read the rest of the verse: 'And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.' Do you believe that?" When the young man answered in the negative, Mr. Moody asked, "What reason have you for believing that God tells the truth in part of the verse and not in all of the verse?" The young man saw the point, and was given assurance of salvation. He believed that Jesus was his Saviour too.

Dear Lord Jesus, strengthen us in Thy truth; help us to accept the whole truth and to walk in it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart,  
And love that soul thru me;  
And may I humbly do my part  
To win that soul to Thee.

Verse by permission, David H. Johnson

## December 2

"For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's." Gen. 31:16a.

God does not measure riches in the way that we do. The wealthiest people are often the poorest before God.

A rich man heard a stone mason sing lustily as he worked, and asked him what made him so happy.

"Oh, I have a Father in heaven, and I have my daily bread. Shouldn't I be happy?" answered the mason.

"Yes, but you have to work so hard for your bread, don't you?" asked the rich man.

"Yes, but God said 'in the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread,' and I have health and happiness, and much more to thank God for."

The rich man, one night, dreamed that someone spoke to him and said: "Tonight the richest man in the village shall die." He awoke much alarmed because he was the richest man in the village. The next day, he went to the doctor who found nothing wrong with him. The doctor said,

"You must be nervous. That is all that can be wrong with you."

The next day the news came that the stone mason had died. Then it became clear to the rich man: the man who is truly rich is the man who is rich in the Lord.

Where are your riches? If you are rich in the Lord Jesus Christ you will have riches forevermore.

Dear Lord Jesus, show us that the riches of this world soon pass away, and give us eyes to see that riches in Christ will last throughout eternity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## December 3

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

All the sin of the world was laid upon the Lamb of God. Look at Jesus and you will see that He carried your sins, too. But you will have to accept Him, because only those who have accepted His sacrifice have had their sins taken away.

A Hindu who was troubled in his soul went to a priest for advice. The priest advised him to bring several offerings, but this did not give any peace. Then the priest said that he must have committed a great sin, so he ordered the man to walk a hundred miles to a temple. In order to be forgiven his sandals should have sharp seams inside, and he should carry a heavy burden on his back. He did not go very far before it became impossible for him to walk, so he had to crawl. He became more and more unhappy. He had no rest in his soul. He came with bloody feet to a place where he saw some people who were listening to a missionary. He was saying, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." The Hindu heard the Gospel for the first time. He heard of One who had carried his sin. He crawled nearer and nearer to the missionary. Then he threw his burden and his torn sandals away, and cried, "That is for me!"

It is for you, too, if you will accept it today.

Dear Lord Jesus, give those who do not know the Saviour grace to accept Him, peace through the blood, and assurance of their salvation. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Tell me the story of Jesus,  
Write on my heart every word;  
Tell me the story most precious,  
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## December 4

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another." 1 Pet. 3:8.

It is an old saying that it is easier for one father to take care of six children than it is for six children to take care of one father.

An old father thought if he divided his worldly goods between his six children they would care for him in his last days. He stayed first with the oldest son, but before long the son said, "We have so little room since the baby came; maybe you would be happier with one of my brothers?"

The father went to that son, but it was not long before he suggested that the father go to the youngest son. He did not stay there long. This son suggested that he go to the sister in the country. "You will get more rest in their house," said the son.

The father went, hoping that his daughter would have a warmer regard for him than the sons had. But, she, too, suggested that he go to one of her younger sisters. This one's husband was a grave digger. After being there two days his granddaughter said to him,

"Mother told Aunt Elizabeth, yesterday, that the best place for you would be the kind of place that dad is digging." It was not long before the old father died of a broken heart.

Dear Lord Jesus, help all children to be kind to their parents. Give them hearts to love Thee, and then they will love others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O happy home, where each one serves Thee lowly,  
Whatever his appointed work may be,  
Till every common task seems great and holy,  
When it is done, O Lord, as unto Thee!

## December 5

"He shall hide me in his pavilion." Ps. 27:5.

No matter what storms of life, sorrow, or hardship they are called upon to bear, those who are in Christ are safe. They are in His pavilion, where nothing can harm or alarm them.

There is a story about a man who lived such a consecrated life that even the angels marveled. The angels asked God to give him power to do miracles.

One day, an angel said to the man, "Would you like to have power to heal the sick by simply placing your hand on them?"

"No," the man answered, "I would rather see that God Himself did it."

"Would you like to be able to convert people from their ungodly ways, and lead them to the Lord?" the angel then asked.

"No," came the same answer, "that should be the work of angels. I do not convert anyone, I just pray."

"What would you wish to have then?" asked the angel.

"I wish that God would give me much of His grace, for then I would have all things," the man replied.

But when the angel urged him to ask for something special, the man said,

"Let me be a blessing to others without knowing that I am."

The angels agreed that wherever that man's shadow would fall, the sick would be healed, pain would be alleviated, and the sorrowing would be comforted.

This is just a story, but when we hide in God's pavilion we, too, can be a blessing to others.

Dear Lord Jesus, hide us in Thy pavilion and make us a blessing to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## December 6

"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matt. 6:15.

God tells us to forgive and we will be forgiven. We cannot expect God to forgive us unless we are willing to forgive others. Our sins are as bad in His sight as any wrong done to us by others. It is important that we be forgiven.

An old Negro came to a missionary and was taught how to pray. The missionary taught him the Lord's Prayer. When they got to the fifth petition, the Negro became uneasy and said,

"What does that mean?"

"It means," said the missionary, "that God cannot forgive our sins unless we forgive those who have sinned against us!"

"Then," said the Negro, "we may just as well stop right here, because I cannot do that," and he left.

Time passed, and one day, the Negro came back and said, "Let us continue where we left off. I have forgiven him. My former master once gave me five hundred stripes and left me for dead. I met him one day on the street, after I became free, and it was as if all the blood in me began to boil. I could not stand the sight of him. But yesterday we met again, and we talked together as friends. So, now let us continue with the prayer."

Dear Lord Jesus, give us grace to forgive each other. Help us not to have any bitterness toward those who are unkind to us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus, To wash my crimson stains  
White in His blood most precious, Till not a spot remains.

## December 7

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Prov. 13:20.

The wisest people are those who fear God, for God says that the 'fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.' Fools have no intelligence, so they walk without reason, and to be a companion to them will lead us into danger.

Several boys were working in a store when it was discovered that some goods had been stolen. Some of the boys were found guilty and lost their jobs, but Bill was not among them. His mother was very happy to think that he had not chosen the wrong companions at the store. She knew that Bill was easily led.

"I am glad, Bill, that you were not with those boys," she said.

Bill looked at his mother and answered, "I may as well tell you how it happened that I was not with them. I was tempted to go, but John persuaded me to go with him, for he knew these boys would sooner or later get into trouble. I went with John; that is why I was not with the other boys."

Shun evil companions, for they will only bring trouble upon you, and sorrow to your parents. Turn to the Lord Jesus, and He will give you strength to turn away from them.

Dear Lord Jesus, guide us in our choice of companions; help us to be wise. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

I would gather treasures in heaven,  
Ere the youthful yearning within,  
By the lure of evil, is driven  
To be captive of sorrow and sin.



## December 8

"Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart." Heb. 4:7.

All have the privilege of hearing the voice of God, but many harden their hearts so they cannot hear it. Those who refuse to hear will go into a Christless eternity, but those who hear and heed the voice of God will enjoy eternal life with the blessed Redeemer.

Two men attended Sunday school together as boys. When they grew up, the one went to sea as a sailor, and mingled with evil companions. He drank and sank deeper into sin, and became a physical and spiritual wreck.

As he walked past a door, in New York, one evening, he heard playing and singing. He stopped to listen. It was one of the songs he had learned in Sunday school. It seemed that he could see his playmate sitting on the bench beside him, singing happily. He could see his father and mother in their cozy little home. His heart was warmed, and he listened to the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ saying to him, "Come Home." He accepted Jesus as his Saviour and returned to his boyhood home.

Is your heart hardened to the call of the Saviour? Listen to His call before it is ever too late.

Dear Lord Jesus, give to those who do not know Thee, grace to yield their hearts to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Have ye heard the invitation, Sinners ruined by the fall?  
Famished souls who seek salvation, Have ye heard the loving call?  
Hark! a herald of the Father Bids you of his supper taste.  
Round the sacred table gather. All is ready; sinners, haste!

## December 9

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom."  
Col. 3:16.

The Word of Christ is not to dwell in us in a scant measure. He has given us the privilege of having His Word in its fullness, not a trickling little stream, but a river flowing freely to all those with whom we come in contact.

When the Roman Catholics persecuted the Christians in Bohemia, Europe, it was demanded that all give up their Bibles. The Priest came to the home of a Mrs. Schebolt who was baking bread. She had a large family, and made large loaves of bread. When she saw the priest coming she wrapped her Bible in a piece of paper and put dough around it, which made it look like a large loaf of bread; then she put it in the oven. The priest searched the house, but never thought of looking in the oven. When they left Mrs. Schebolt took the Bible out of the oven. It was as free from harm as Daniel's friends were in the fiery furnace. This Bible is in the hands of a Mr. Schebolt in the state of Ohio, who inherited it from his grandmother. It is still the Bread of Life in that home.

Is the Word of Christ dwelling in you richly, or only in a scant measure. Are you filled with His blessed Word and do you long for a deeper understanding of the Truth. Study the Bible, and become skillful in handling the precious Word as a help to others who do not know the Lord.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to study Thy Word so that we shall not have to be ashamed, but be skillful workmen of Thine. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How precious is the Book divine,  
By inspiration giv'n!  
Bright as a lamp its doctrine shine,  
To guide our souls to heaven.

## December 10

"We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."  
II Cor. 5:20.

We have to be reconciled to God, because by nature we are not friends with God. Man does not want to be reconciled to God, but wants to do things in his own strength and in his own wisdom. As a result the world is full of chaos and distress.

A minister, who was busy preparing his sermons for the Lord's Day, was continually being bothered by his little girl. In order to keep her busy for a while, he cut a map into small pieces and told her to put them together again. He, then, returned to his sermons. In a remarkably short time she came to her father with every piece of the map in place.

"How could you put the map together so quickly, Judy Ann?" he asked in astonishment.

"Well, Daddy, you see there was a picture of a man on the map; I found when I got the picture of the man right, the map of Europe came right, too."

If man will get right with God, the world will be right. Is your heart right with God? Have your fellowship restored by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. Do not wait, but do it today.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for each one who has been reconciled to Thee. Give us a greater burden to win lost souls to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Redeemed, restored, forgiven Through Jesus' precious blood,  
Heirs of His home in heaven, O praise our pardoning God;  
Praise Him in tuneful measures, Who gave His Son to die;  
Praise Him whose sevenfold treasures, Enrich and sanctify!

## December 11

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23.

Death is the result of sin. Eternal death and terrible punishment, is the pay received by those who are outside of Christ. But joy forever, and eternal life with Christ, the Redeemer, is the reward for all who accept the free gift of salvation from God.

An artist was painting the picture of the Last Supper and looked for a model of Jesus. In church he saw such a young man that would do as the model. Ten years went by and the artist was still working on the picture. He, then, needed someone to model Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus. The artist searched among the prisoners in the jails and the reformatories for someone who would be a fit subject. At last he found a man with an ugly, dark expression on his face, and received permission for him to model. When they came into the studio, the man said,

"I have been here before as a model."

The artist did not want to believe this until the man pointed to the face of Jesus for whom he had sat as a model ten years before. First a model of Jesus, then a model of Judas. That is what sin had done to him.

The wages of sin is expensive; turn to the Saviour and have eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus, use us to turn many to Thee. Help us to show sinners that the wages of sin is death, but Thou art waiting to give them eternal life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lead me thro' the vale of shadows,  
Bear me o'er life's fitful sea;  
Then the gate of life eternal  
May I enter, Lord, with Thee.

## December 12

"And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor." Isa. 59:16.

In the fifth chapter of John we read of the impotent man who had waited a long time to be healed. Only by dipping in the pool could he be healed, but there was no one to help him into the pool. Sinners all over the world are waiting to hear the Gospel story of salvation, but there are very few people who are willing to go to tell them of Jesus. Missionaries on many fields are waiting for the people at home to hold them up in prayer so that their work will be more effective and make greater progress. Are you praying for them?

Some years ago, some African people asked a missionary to send them a teacher. The missionary wrote home and made the request of the folks at home, but no one came. One Sunday the missionary went to the African village, but he found that the people were gone. Down in the valley he saw all of them on their knees, with their hands lifted toward heaven. When they were asked why they were in such a posture they answered and said that they were waiting to hear from God. The missionary asked them if they had prayed and the answer came that they did not know how to pray, but that they thought God would see them in their need, and someday He would send them a teacher.

Are you willing to go? Are you willing to pray for workers to go?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to do our part in sending teachers to those who have never heard of Jesus and His love for sinners. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## December 13

"But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."  
Luke 15:20.

An earthly father is usually willing to forgive his children the wrongs they do. So the heavenly Father is willing to forgive sinners their sin and to give them eternal life through Jesus.

One day many years ago, a farmer sent his son to the city with a load of grain. When the son, after many days, did not return home the father went to look for him. He found that his son had gambled away not only the money he had received for the grain but also the horse and the wagon, too.

The father was not only a farmer but was also a lay-preacher, and went from town to town giving out the Gospel. At the close of each meeting he would ask if anyone had seen his son. He came to San Francisco and held meetings there. He gave the same plea for his son at the end of those meetings. One evening, after the invitation and request, a young man who was sitting under the gallery of the church, went forward. It was the man's son. He said that after he had gambled away all the money he was ashamed to face his father.

The father heard his confession and forgave him. The father could hardly wait, to return home and tell the friends and loved ones that his lost son had been found.

There is great rejoicing in heaven over each sinner that repents and returns to God the Father. Many are lost in sin and need to arise and come to Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for Thy love for us; for the joy that Thou hast given Thy redeemed ones. Use us for Thy glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## December 14

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

Many people do not realize that they are lost. They are very happy in doing kind deeds, and think that their moral lives, and their kind deeds are enough to satisfy the righteousness of God.

A mother took her small girl to a meeting where a great preacher was to speak. The little girl became separated from her mother in the crowd at the door of the hall. The mother sent word to the pulpit that her little Mary was lost. The announcement went from the pulpit, "Little Mary is lost. If she is here, will she kindly stand up?" But no one stood up. The pastor asked that Mary should come to the platform, but no Mary came. The mother was in despair. She asked a man to go up the street and ring a bell, and call out,

"Little Mary is lost. Little Mary is lost!"

A whole hour went by, when a neighbor found Mary sitting on one of the front benches in the great hall where the meeting had been held.

"But, Mary dear," the neighbor said, "why didn't you come when they called for you?"

"Who, me?" asked little Mary in surprise. "I haven't been lost. I have been here all the time." She thought that they had been calling another Mary.

Many people think that someone else is being called when Jesus is calling them. He is calling you, sinner! Come to Him today.

Dear Lord Jesus, open the ears of the sinners so they will hear you calling their names, and they will come to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## December 15

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." 1 Tim. 1:15.

There are still many people in this world who do not know that Jesus died for their sins. Many of them do not realize their lost condition.

The great preacher Spurgeon was to speak in the Crystal Palace in London, and a great crowd was expected. He wondered if all the people would be able to hear his voice in that big place. One day before the meeting he went over to the Palace to practice speaking in the large room. He read as loud as he could, this verse, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Twenty-five years later a preacher went to see a dying man, and asked him if he were ready to die. The man answered, "Yes," for he had been working on the top of the Crystal Palace in London, many years ago. At the time he was not a Christian; he was without God and without hope in this world. Working alone, one day, he suddenly heard a voice, as if it came from heaven. The voice said: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." These words brought him to Jesus.

Have these words drawn you to the Saviour? He is willing to accept you into His fold.

Dear Lord Jesus, draw many into the fold as they hear Thy precious invitation. Use us as Thy instruments. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O ye chosen, have ye slighted  
This sweet call to you proclaimed?  
Lo! the King hath now invited  
All the halt, the blind, the maimed:  
"Come, ye poor from out the highways,  
"Come, a feast awaits you, come!"



## December 16

"Thus shall he speak unto my Lord Esau." Gen. 32:4.

We are to tell others of the way of salvation as soon as we ourselves have received Jesus and eternal life through Him. It is not always easy to tell the simple story of Jesus. We are afraid of people's ridicule. We need to be bold for Christ.

A homeless Chinese boy was reared in a mission station in China. When he was fourteen years old he walked one day into a temple, and watched an old man as he burned incense, and fell down before a false god to pray. The boy thought: "This man is old, and he has only a short time to live. He does not know the way to heaven, but I am only a child and I cannot speak to him."

The boy felt bad when he saw the expression on the old man's face. He went closer to him and said, "Would you please let a boy like me say something to you?" And the boy's eyes filled with tears.

"Why do you weep?" asked the old man. "Can I do something for you?"

"Sir," said the boy, "I feel sorry for you. You are old and do not know the way to heaven."

"Do you know the way, then?" asked the old man.

The young boy then told him about Jesus. The result was that this young Christian boy led both the old man and his wife to know Jesus as their personal Saviour. Have you spoken to someone today about Jesus? Maybe, someone is waiting to hear you tell about our Saviour. Tell someone today.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us boldness to speak to others about Thee. Help us to bring someone to Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## December 17

"Pray without ceasing." I Thess 5:17.

Do you know how to pray? Prayer is a secret place of power for the Christian in times of sorrow, heartache, or trouble of any kind. It is also a secret place for the Christian where he praises God for His goodness to His children. We are to pray for every need, and we are to be in tune with God so that we can call upon Him at all times.

A druggist who had been awakened several times during the night, to get medicine for sick people, at last became much irritated. He lay down once again, hoping that he would not be disturbed any more. But the bell rang again. This time it was a small, poorly-dressed boy who was in a great hurry. He gave the druggist the prescription which was for medicine for his sick mother. After the boy had left with the medicine the druggist noticed that he had given him the wrong medicine. He had no way of finding the boy; he did not know his name nor where he lived. He knelt in prayer asking the heavenly Father to help him in this trouble. When he rose from his knees the bell rang again. It was the same boy and he was weeping. In his hurry he had fallen and broken the bottle of medicine. The druggist was exceedingly glad. He gave the boy the right medicine, and then knelt to thank the Father for His watchful care over His children.

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us how to pray. Give us a thankful heart for all Thy goodness to us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thee God we praise, Thy holy name we bless,  
Thee, Lord of all, we humbly do confess.  
The whole creation ever worships Thee,  
The Father of eternity.

## December 18

"Rejoice evermore." I Thess. 5:16.

A cheerful Christian is a testimony to the world of his joy in Christ. A smile will brighten up a sullen countenance, and will spread cheer to others. A smile drives gloom away.

One day an old woman walked out of a railroad station. An old man stopped her and said, "Excuse me, but I want to thank you for something."

"Thank me? For what?" she asked in surprise.

He answered by telling her that all through the years that he had been working in that station, he had watched her while she was buying her ticket. She had always come with a smile and a cheery "good morning" or "good evening." She had been the same whether the sun was shining or it was raining. It had made him wonder what had given her such an optimistic disposition.

"I noticed that you carried a little Book, and I wondered if it was in that little Book where you found your cheerfulness?" Later, the man bought a Bible and began to read it. He found His Saviour, and he, too, began to smile each day. That is what the smiling face of one Christian did. You can do the same.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us the will to smile so others will see our joy in Thee, and draw many to Thee through our smiles. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Singing along in days of gladness,  
Singing along the way the saints have trod,  
Singing along the way in days of sadness,  
Singing along the way with Christ my God.

Verse by permission, The Rodeheaver Co.

## December 19

"And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost." Acts 6:5.

Only the right kind of people are fit for God's service. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was one of the right kind. Only those who can trust the Lord in times of stress and trial, as well as in times of peace and prosperity, are fit to carry on His hardest tasks.

Five boys came to Sunday school, and each one of them put ten cents into the missionary collection. The first one came without thought of God; he was hard, cold and careless. The second boy, as he dropped his dime into the collection bank, looked all around to see if everyone was looking at him. He was proud and longed for honor. When the third boy dropped his dime into the bank, he thought, "I suppose I have to give as the others have, but I could use that dime myself." He was a self-centered boy.

The fourth boy put his dime into the bank thinking, "I have it so nice while the poor heathen have nothing. I will help them." He gave out of sympathy. The fifth boy came with a prayer in his heart, "Lord Jesus, this is for Thy sake. May the heathen hear the Gospel of salvation by the help of this gift." He gave in love and in faith.

How are you giving your gifts and your service to God? Is it because you feel that it is your duty, or is it because you love Him and want to further His cause? Let Jesus come into your heart, and you will serve Him in love and faith.

Dear Lord Jesus, fill our hearts with love for Thee and for those who know Thee not. Then our service will be blessed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I gave My life for thee, My precious blood I shed,  
That thou might'st ransomed be, And quickened from the dead,  
I gave, I gave it all for thee, What hast thou given for Me?

## December 20

"Behold, we count them happy which endure." James 5:11.

To endure is to keep on and to hold out. Let us think of what it will mean to others when we endure hardship, trials and testing for the Lord's sake.

In a large, American city there lived a poor, blind, bed-ridden Negro lady whom everyone called "Poor Betty." Among those who came to visit her was a well-to-do business man who loved Jesus. One day the business man brought a friend along to see "Poor Betty."

"So, you are still alive, Betty," the business man said as he entered the room with his friend.

"Yes, praise the Lord, I'm still living."

"But," continued the business man, "what do you think is God's reason for permitting you to lie here so long, poor, sick and blind. It would be better for you to be in heaven, would it not?"

"Don't you understand?" asked Betty in surprise. "There are two things we need to do in life. One is to pray; the other is to work. God wants me to live and to pray for others. He allows you to live and to work for others. But your gifts would not be as great a blessing if it were not for 'Poor Betty's' prayers."

Are you an enduring saint? As you endure, remember you, too, are doing God's work.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to endure so that our testimony will be a blessing to others. And help our endurance to strengthen the weak Christians. In Jesus' name. Amen.

My God how wonderful Thou art,  
Thou everlasting Friend!  
On Thee I stay my trusting heart,  
Till faith in vision end.

## December 21

"He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

Isa. 53:7.

Sheep are patient animals even when they have to suffer. That is why our Saviour was compared to a lamb. He did not protest against suffering when He died on the Cross, but bore pain and anguish patiently, without murmuring.

One summer day some travelers stood outside of a church in Germany, while one went to get the key to the church. Just then they noticed a lamb made of stone on the wall of the church. They asked an old woman who was passing by what the stone lamb meant. She said, "Many years ago a man was working where you see the lamb. The rope suddenly broke and the man came tumbling down. Just there a lamb was eating grass, and the man fell with his full weight on the lamb. It was killed, but the man was unhurt. He was so grateful that he made a lamb out of stone and placed it upon the wall as a memorial."

Jesus was bruised for our sins. Live for Him today and show your gratitude for His sacrifice.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for Thy sacrifice for our sins. Give us grateful hearts with which to praise Thee as we ought. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Patient still and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer;  
Our sins by Thee were taken, Or hope had us forsaken;  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!

## December 22

**"And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:7**

The peace of God cannot be explained, but it is real. Fear of death, and fear of condemnation is taken away when we have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. Only through Him can we have the peace of God.

One day a Hindu salesman met an Indian Christian by the name of Pema.

"Tell me," said the Hindu, "what makes your face so beaming. What kind of salve do you rub on your face?"

"I do not use any salve," answered Pema.

"Do you drink some medicine, then?"

"No," answered Pema, "I do not drink any medicine."

"I cannot believe that," said the Hindu. "The Christians must be using something because wherever I go they look different than the other people."

Then Pema laughed, and his kind, happy face beamed more than ever. "Yes, we Christians do have a medicine, and I will tell you what it is. After the Lord Jesus Christ found us, and we began to love Him, we became very happy. The salve which makes our faces beam is called 'the peace of God which passeth all understanding'." How true were the words of Pema!

Do you have the salve of "peace"? Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

Dear Lord Jesus, move our hearts to win the lost to Thee so that they, too, may have the peace that passeth all understanding. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Peace, peace, sweet peace!  
Wonderful gift from above!  
Oh, wonderful, wonderful peace!  
Sweet peace, the gift of God's love!

## December 23

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Rom. 8:37.

All Christians who continue to trust in Jesus shall win the victory at last. Trials will come, but God's promise is that we shall win in all battles, if we continue in faith.

A pastor visited a woman of his congregation who had gone through great trials and was much depressed. When he came to the house, the woman was sewing on a sofa pillow. The pastor wanted to look at her work, but he purposely turned it wrong side up. He remarked that he was surprised that she would spend her time on something that had no more beauty than the pillow cover.

"But, pastor," she said, "you are looking on the wrong side of the pillow. Turn it the other way, and you will see the beauty of it."

"Yes," answered the pastor, "I'm just like you are. You are looking at God's dealings with you from the wrong side. God has a plan for you; one stitch here, and another there; here a new thread, there a new color, and at last a beautiful piece of work is finished."

Are you a defeated Christian? Or are you a conquering Christian? Look on the right side of God's dealings with you and you will be a conquering Christian.

Dear Lord Jesus, control us in all ways so that we will be conquering Christians. Give us the grace always to look on the right side of Thy dealings with us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All you may need He will provide, God will take care of you;  
Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you.  
God will take care of you, Through every day, o'er all the way;  
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

Verse by permission, Hope Publ. Co.



## December 24

"Serve the Lord with gladness." Ps. 100:2.

The Lord wants His children to serve Him with cheerful and willing hearts. When Christians serve with such hearts, they find that no matter how difficult the task, it is still easy. Love lifts the load.

It was a raw Christmas day. On the streets of London a lad walked up to a poorly-dressed man and asked to shine his shoes. The man answered that he had nothing with which to pay.

"But, I want to do it for nothing," the boy said. "You see today is Jesus' birthday, and I would like to do something for Jesus."

The man was about to walk on when he noticed tears in the boy's eyes. He stopped and put out his shoe for the boy to shine.

Many years later this boy sat in a church and listened to a sermon. The preacher was telling a few incidents from his own life. He once had strayed away from the Lord, and was walking the streets of London one Christmas morning when a small boy offered to shine his shoes for nothing, and had also given his simple testimony for Christ.

"Through this incident," he said, "God reached me and made me a new creature in Christ Jesus."

During this glad Christmas season, are you willing to be a witness for the Lord, with joy and gladness. If you do not know the Saviour, accept Him today.

Dear Lord Jesus, give us willing hearts to serve Thee gladly. Use our testimony to the salvation of many lost souls. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Joy is dwelling in my heart,  
Joy that never will depart;  
Keeping all the joy bells ringing  
As I journey on my way.  
Happiness and joy divine,

Since I made the Saviour mine,  
Now I shout and sing,  
For Jesus is my King—  
O Praise His name.

Verse by permission, Al Smith

## December 25

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

It is difficult to think that one light can light the whole world. But such a light is Jesus. Where sin reigns He will take away the darkness and give light. When we follow Jesus we are no longer walking in darkness, but we are walking in His Light. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" in order that we may have this Light.

It was Christmas time and the children were busy looking over the many gifts that the season had brought into the home.

"See the beautiful tree," exclaimed one.

"And the lovely star at the top," cried another one. There was a great deal of noise made as they all discussed the various things that interested them. In the corner of the room sat a little girl by herself. She had said nothing, but she listened eagerly to all the talk. Her mother came and sat down beside her.

"Mother, is it pretty?" she asked as she put her arms around her mother's neck. The little girl was blind and could not see the pretty things in the room, so her mother described them to her.

Those who do not have Jesus are as blind as that little girl. Is your soul dark with sin? Let the Saviour wash it white as snow with His precious blood, and you will have light.

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for coming all the way from glory to be the Light of the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## December 26

"And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts." Mark 4:15.

Satan works hard to keep people from believing God's Word. He does not want them to be saved. Many seem to accept the Lord, but after a few trials and troubles they turn away from Him, because Satan has whispered to them, and they have listened to him. The Word of God has not been permitted to control their lives.

There is a story of a god-fearing man who met Satan by the church door.

"What are you doing here? I did not think you went to church," said the man.

"Oh, yes," said the evil one, "Wherever they preach against me, I have to be or else I lose too many souls."

"What do you do?" asked the man.

"I treat people in various ways. I get the young girls to look at their friend's hats and coats. I get the housewives to worry about things at home. I fill the men with thoughts of their business, such as the prices and the latest political news. Then I try to get all the heads to turn every time someone comes into the church after the service has begun. Above all, I make the sermon fit the neighbors and not anyone in church. As soon as services are over, I get them all to talk about worldly things. In this way I keep people from believing the Word and from salvation."

Do you listen to Satan's wiles? Hide God's Word in your heart so that Satan will not be able to tempt you.

Dear Lord Jesus, crush Satan's power in our lives, so that we shall be victorious through Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## December 27

"So will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong." Zech 8:13.

Only as the Lord blesses us can we be rich or strong; only as we yield ourselves to Him can we be a blessing. Only those who are saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can be used in a special way in God's program of harvesting.

A fourteen-year-old boy lived with his grandmother in a small house. The boy did some some work on the railroad which necessitated his working on Sundays; therefore he did not get to go to church. His grandmother was sick, so she could not go, either.

As soon as he could get away from work, he ran with full speed to the church, and always arrived in time for the benediction. When he was asked why he came just for the benediction, he replied,

"I hurry to get to church even though I only hear the benediction, because I can then share that with my sick grandmother."

The young boy tried to be a blessing even though it was in a small way. Are you a blessing to someone in need? Accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and He will use you to bless someone.

Dear Lord Jesus, use us as a blessing to all those with whom we come in contact, whether it be at play, at work, in the home, in school, or in the church. In Jesus' name. Amen.

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

## December 28

"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." Prov. 10:22.

When we grow in grace, we become rich in the Lord and receive His blessings. But we cannot grow in grace until we have accepted Him as our personal Saviour and willingly follow Him.

One day a kind-hearted Christian visited a poor widow. "How are you getting along?" he asked her in a friendly way.

"I don't know what to do," she answered. "I have a son in Australia who could help me, because he is making much money, but he must not care for me. He writes me every month, but he never sends me any money. He sends me some funny looking papers with his letters."

"May I see the papers?" asked the man.

The woman brought the papers and the letters. The man looked at them for a moment, and said, "But my dear lady, you are a rich woman, and you do not know it. These are banknotes! All you have to do is to write your name on the back and take them to the bank."

Are you blind to the riches you have in Christ Jesus? Yield your life to Him, and He will pour out His blessings upon you.

Dear Lord Jesus, open our eyes to the riches that we have in Thee. Open our eyes to the opportunities around us for service. In Jesus' name. Amen.

My Father is rich in houses and lands,  
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!  
Of rubies and diamonds of silver and gold  
His coffers are full—He has riches untold.

## December 29

"Come before his presence with singing." Ps. 100:2.

Serve the Lord with joy! One way to serve the Lord is with singing. We can praise Him in song, and we can worship Him in song. By our singing we can bring joy to others; we can lift their heavy load of sorrow and despair with a cheerful countenance.

A ninety-year-old grandmother was alone at home; she was sick and bedridden. Her pastor went to see her one day, although he knew that she did not want to see him. She became much angered when she saw him, and complained bitterly that she did not have as much as a cup of coffee. The pastor made her a cup of coffee, much to her surprise. When he brought the steaming cup of coffee to her she burst into tears, and said, "How terrible I am! How terrible I am!"

The pastor had no trouble talking to her about Jesus, after that. She listened to the Gospel story, and later accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour. Wonderful change came over her. Instead of being difficult to care for, it became a joy to minister to her. The pastor later said that it was a cup of coffee that started her on her way to heaven.

She became a powerful witness for her Lord to her loved ones and to all those who came to see her so that when this grandmother went to be with the Lord she was missed by one and all.

Open your heart to the Saviour and you, too, will sing His praises.

Dear Lord Jesus, cleanse our hearts so that we can sing Thy praises with a joyful countenance, for Thou art worthy to be praised. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## December 30

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together." Acts 4:31.

When one prays in faith, and in the power of the Holy Spirit one can expect great things from the Father.

A pastor in Norway sat in his office, one cold morning. Suddenly he became very restless. He felt compelled to visit one of his sick parishioners who lived across the lake from the town in which he lived. He thought maybe this parishioner, who lived with her daughter, might like to have communion so he took his communion set with him.

When he arrived at the home the friends were overjoyed to see him. When he asked the reason for their joy, the aged lady said,

"It is my birthday today, and this morning I asked the Father to make it possible for me to take communion today."

The daughter told the Pastor that her mother had been listening for footsteps all morning in hopes that he would come. They had no way of sending a message, and the aged lady was over-joyed to know that God had heard her prayer.

Are you in tune with God so that your prayers can be answered? God is willing and ready to hear your prayer, but you, first must be in tune with Him. May there be no static or sin, keeping you from getting answers to your prayers.

Dear Lord Jesus, cleanse us from all sin so that we are in tune with Thee and we can receive answers to our prayers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,  
While the nearer waters flow, While the tempest still is high;  
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide, Till the storm of life is past;  
Safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

## December 31

"For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."  
Heb. 13:5.

Jesus is Master of the wind, of the waves, over troubles, and even over death. He will never leave us nor forsake us no matter where we have to go nor what we have to do. He will uphold us, and He will strengthen us; there is no need to fear.

One evening, a man in Denmark who had been visiting some friends until a late hour, had to walk through a forest to reach his home. He was offered company, but refused it, preferring to walk alone. He started out, but had not gone far when a peculiar fear came over him. He fell to his knees in prayer, committing his soul and body to the Lord. The fear left him, and he resumed his walk home, arriving there safely. He thought much about this experience, but could not explain it.

A year later, a dangerous criminal was apprehended and taken to court. When he was arraigned before the judge, he told how he had set out to kill this man.

"Why didn't you kill him?" asked the judge.

"When he passed me, an angel walked behind him, and I couldn't do it," the criminal replied.

The man realized then, that the Lord had not forsaken him. Are you under the protecting wing of the Almighty? If not, the Saviour is waiting to take you under His protecting care.

Dear Lord Jesus, protect us with Thy love and care, wherever we go and in whatever we do. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Come to this Fountain so rich and sweet;  
Cast thy poor soul at the Saviour's feet;  
Plunge in today, and be made complete;  
Glory to His name.



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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:

I will counsel thee with mine eye upon thee. Ps. 32:8.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know  
my thoughts;  
And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in  
the way everlasting. Ps. 139:23, 24.

## REGRETS

In spite of watchfulness as to details, a number of typographical and other errors may be found in *Altar Steps*. We trust that these shall in no way mar the beauty and effectiveness of the content.

—THE EDITORS.