

The Believer's  
**Daily Remembrancer**

By

The Rev. James Smith

**VOLUME ONE**

---

Note: This devotional can be accessed at: [www.lifebpc.com/devotions](http://www.lifebpc.com/devotions)

## PREFACE

The present humble work is a pastoral effort, flowing from love to the Lord's people, and a desire to honor His great name. It is an acknowledged fact, that many of the Lord's people are living far below their privileges; and are walking as men, not aiming singly at the Lord's glory. This is to be regretted; and while none but the Lord the Holy Spirit can produce the change we desire to witness, yet the means are to be used, and we must stir up their pure minds by way of remembrance. In this little work, I aim to speak in the closet, in the cottage, in the kitchen, and even in the field, to the different classes of the Lord's family; endeavoring to draw them nearer to their God and gracious Father. My desire is to promote the power of GODLINESS; and these little pieces are written to convince, comfort, and correct; to fan the flame of devotion, and to produce holiness of heart and life. To this end some degree of sameness in the pieces, and a repetition of some important truths, appeared absolutely necessary. Habitual dependence upon God for all we need, acknowledging the hand of God in all we receive, and walking with God, notwithstanding all that may happen to us below, enter into the very vitals of genuine Christianity; and it is only while we are thus acting that we enjoy peace with God, and walk in the comforts of the Holy Ghost. That the Lord, who often uses weak things to confound the mighty, may bless this little work to thy good and His glory,

Is the prayer of,

Dear Reader,

Yours in the Lord Jesus

JAMES SMITH.

---

*1*  
*January*

**A** NEW year's morning opens upon us, and we are still exposed to sorrow, Satan, and disappointment; sin lives in us; and a thousand things are ready to distress us; but our God says, "LOOK UNTO ME." Look unto me TODAY. I have blessings to bestow. I am waiting to be gracious. I am your Father in Jesus. Believe that I am deeply interested in your present and eternal welfare: that all I have promised, I will perform: that I am with you, purposely to bless you. I cannot be unconcerned about anything that affects you; and I pledge myself to make all things work together for your good. You have looked to self, to others, in time past; but you have only met with trouble and disappointment : now look unto me ALONE, to me FOR ALL.

*Look unto me,  
and be ye saved,  
all the ends of  
the earth: for  
I am God,  
and there is  
none else.*

*Isaiah 45:22*

*Our helper, God! we bless thy name,  
Whose love forever is the same ;  
The tokens of thy gracious care  
Open, and crown, and close the year.*

2  
*January*

---

*And let the peace  
of God rule in  
your hearts, to  
the which also ye  
are called in one  
body; and be ye  
thankful.*

*Colossians 3:15*

**W**HAT cause to be thankful, what reason to be grateful have we! Surrounded by mercies, both temporal and spiritual. If we look back, we ought to rejoice that God hath chosen us in Christ Jesus, before the foundation of the world; that He sent His only begotten Son into the world, to be a propitiation for our sins; that He sent His Holy Spirit into our hearts, to convince us of sin, lead us to Jesus, and make us meet for heaven. We have His word in our hands, His grace in our hearts, His mercies in our houses,

and His heaven before our eyes. O for a thankful heart! But let us take our poor, hard, ungrateful hearts to Jesus; He can soften them and fill them with gratitude. Let us confess our ingratitude before Him, and mourn over our unthankfulness at His feet. He is ready to forgive. He can sanctify us wholly. He will hear our cry, and pity our complaints. O Jesus, grant us a deep sense of our utter unworthiness, and of Thine unmerited goodness, that our souls may daily praise Thee with joyful lips! May we live as thoughtful dependants; as grateful, loving children, before our Father and our God; and daily be thankful.

*Through all eternity, to Thee  
A joyful song I'll raise;  
But, oh! eternity's too short  
To utter all Thy praise!*

---

**G**OD is and must be the eternal enemy of sin. He cannot be reconciled to it: it is the abominable thing which He hates. He cannot look upon it but with abhorrence. How then can God receive, bless, or commune with us? Only through a Mediator; Jesus fills this office; He stands between God and us; He honours all the Father's perfections; and renders us and our services acceptable through His glorious righteousness and precious blood. God can only love us, receive us, commune with us, or bless us, in Jesus. He represents us to God, and we are accepted in the BELOVED. He represents God to us, and we prove Him to be gracious. When going to the throne of grace, never forget that Jesus is the Mediator; the middle man; present your persons, your petitions, and your praises to God through Him. You have nothing to fear, for Jesus wears your nature; He has a heart that beats in unison with yours; He calls you BROTHER; He uses all His influence with the Father on your behalf; all He did and suffered is employed for you: and at this moment He pleads your cause.

*Now a mediator  
is not a  
mediator of one,  
but God is one.*

*Galatians 3:20*

*Oft as guilt, my soul, torments thee,  
Turn thine eyes to Jesus' blood;  
This will comfort, cheer, and cleanse thee,  
Seal thy peace, and do thee good:  
Peace and pardon  
Flow to thee, through Jesus' blood.*

4  
*January*

---

*And he lifted up  
his eyes on his  
disciples, and  
said, Blessed be  
ye poor: for  
yours is the  
kingdom of God.*

*Luke 6:20*

**T**HE Lord's people are all poor; they see and feel that sin has stripped them of every excellence; and has left them wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. They can do nothing of themselves, they can procure nothing; but free grace has made ample provision for them, and the Gospel informs them that Jesus has everything they want, and that all He has is for them. When they look at, or into themselves, they are discouraged; but when they look to Jesus, they rejoice. He has riches of grace, and

riches of glory; and He says, "Every one that asketh, receiveth." He giveth liberally, and upbraideth not. Here then is the present blessedness of the Lord's poor; Jesus has all they need. He is their Friend; and they that seek Him shall not want any good thing. Am I poor? If so, Jesus bids me come to Him, and buy gold, clothing, wine, and milk; all that is necessary to comfort and support in time, and render me happy throughout eternity. Poor in self, rich in Jesus. Poor at present, rich by-and-by; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "All things are yours, ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's." "All things are for your sakes."

*What want shall not our God supply,  
From His redundant stores?  
What streams of mercy from on high,  
An arm almighty pours!*

---

**A**LL must die, but all do not die alike; some are cut off suddenly, others by a lingering illness; some die only safe, others happy. Some fear death all their lives, others do not. But death must be viewed through Jesus, or fear it we shall, if we think seriously. Death is a separation from the body; the second death is a separation from God. The former we *must* pass through, not so the latter. What shall separate us from the love of God? DEATH? No, we are more than conquerors through Him that hath loved us. Death only opens the prison-door, and sets the captive free. It is an answer to our many prayers for deliverance, for freedom from sin, and for perfect happiness. If we are united to Jesus by a living faith, death cannot disunite us; but will only introduce us into His presence, that we may for ever enjoy His love. If we walk with God; if we believe the Saviour's word; if we look beyond the valley; we shall not fear death. Jesus will not leave us then. He will be present according to His word, and we shall prove His faithfulness, veracity, and love. "Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ."

*And deliver them  
who through fear  
of death were  
all their lifetime  
subject  
to bondage.*

*Hebrews 2:15*

*Why should I shrink at pain and woe,  
Or feel at death dismay?  
I've Canaan's goodly land in view,  
And realms of endless day.*

6  
*January*

---

*Be careful for  
nothing; but in  
every thing by  
prayer  
and supplication  
with thanksgiving  
let your requests  
be made known  
unto God.*

*Philippians 4:6*

**T**HE Lord careth for us. He knows our wants, and has promised to supply them; our foes, and will deliver us from them; our fears, and will make us ashamed of them. All creatures and things are in His hand, and at His disposal; all circumstances are absolutely under His control. He directs the angel, feeds the sparrow, curbs the devil, and manages the tempest. He is thy FATHER. His love to thee is infinite. Thou art HIS DELIGHT. His dear son. His pleasant child. Will He neglect thee? Impossible. Cast then thy cares upon Him. Tell out all thy desires, fears, and troubles to Him; let Him know everything FROM THEE, keep nothing back; and then in the confidence of faith expect Him to fulfil His word, and act a parent's part. Bless Him for all He has given, for all He has promised; plead with Him for all you may need; but never for one moment, or under any circumstances, distrust Him. He cannot love thee more. He is a present help. He will make all His goodness pass before thee. He will rejoice over thee to do thee good, with His whole heart, and with His whole soul.

*Then let me banish anxious care,  
Confiding in my Father's love;  
To Him make known my wants in prayer,  
Prepared His answer to approve.*

**I**T is required by Jesus that every disciple should practice self denial. We must deny and crucify the workings of self-righteousness, and venture alone upon His work and worth for salvation; and we must mortify the pride of reason and intellect, and believe as His word reveals, and walk as His word directs. Our nearest relatives, dearest friends, and choicest comforts, must be resigned, if they are opposed to His glory and the furtherance of His cause. A Christian must lay everything at

the feet of Jesus, and say, "Lord, do with it as Thou wilt." We are not our own, nor is any thing we have our own; it is the Lord's. Our appetites, pleasures, and pursuits, must all be brought into subjection to the obedience of Christ. His glory is to be sought at all times, in all things, under all circumstances; and when this is done, we are safe and happy. The servant must obey his Master, and the child submit in all things to the wise, judicious and loving Father. But for whom am I called to deny myself? For Jesus, who lived and died to save me, and is now in heaven interceding for me; and who is the great Pattern of self-denial, having humbled Himself even unto death.

*Beloved self must be denied,  
The mind and will renew'd;  
Passion suppress'd, and patience tried,  
And vain desires subdued.*

*Then said Jesus  
unto his disciples,  
If any man will  
come after me,  
let him deny  
himself, and take  
up his cross, and  
follow me.*

*Matthew 16:24*

*For I the LORD  
thy God will hold  
thy right hand,  
saying unto thee,  
Fear not; I will  
help thee.*

*Isaiah 41:13*

**W**HEREVER the Lord leads us, He will support us; nor shall the difficulties of the way, or the weakness we feel, be too much for us. His hand is stretched out to us, and it is for faith to lay hold of it and proceed, confident of assistance. The arm of His power is the protection of His people in danger, and the strength of His people in weakness. He is a very present help in trouble. A God at hand. Are you weak, or in difficulty? Plead His word; it is plain, positive, and sure. He cannot lie. He will not deceive. His strength

is made perfect, and is glorified in your weakness. Fear not, underneath are everlasting arms. He will strengthen you with strength in your soul. He CAN help, for He is omnipotent. He WILL help, for He has given you His word. Trust in the Lord at all times; yea, trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. That strength is promised to you, and will be employed for you in answer to prayer. Why then are you so fearful? Why cast down? He says, "I WILL HELP THEE." "He hath said, and shall He not do it? He hath spoken, and shall He not make it good?"

*Fear not; I am with thee; O be not dismay'd!  
I, I am thy God, and will still give thee aid!  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

**T**HIS was a garden at the foot of Mount Olivet; here Jesus, as the SUBSTITUTE of His people, received the cup of wrath from the hand of His offended Father. It was the wrath of God, all we had deserved; the punishment we must have endured; the Son of God in our nature, in our stead, for our salvation, was punished by divine justice. No human hand touched Him, no human voice spake to Him, when He sweat great drops of blood falling down to the ground. It was the baptism He expected, and oh, how great was His love! The baptism He longed to undergo. See the wonderful Sufferer, hear His dreadful groans, listen to His heart-breaking sighs; heaven and hell are astonished, only man remains unaffected. Beloved, it is our SURETY. He is paying our debt, redeeming our souls, purchasing our happiness, and making our peace. He went to GETHSEMANE that we might not go to hell. He was punished that we might be glorified. Often, very often, visit this sacred spot; here have fellowship with Christ in His sufferings by faith. O my soul, I charge thee to visit Gethsemane, and visit it very often for fellowship with Jesus!

*Then cometh  
Jesus with them  
unto a place called  
Gethsemane, and  
saith unto the  
disciples, Sit ye  
here, while I go and  
pray yonder.*

*Matthew 26:36*

*The Father heard, — and angels there  
Sustained the Son of God in prayer,  
In sad Gethsemane;  
He drank the dreadful cup of pain,  
Then rose to joy and life again.*

10  
January

---

*But I am a worm,  
and no man;  
a reproach of  
men, and  
despised of the  
people.*

*Psalm 22:6*

**M**AN is naturally poor and proud, but grace strips him and humbles him in the dust. Here the highly favoured David, the man after God's own heart, cries out, "I am a worm." How little, how despicable he appeared in his own eyes. Every one that humbleth himself shall be exalted. You have looked at Bible saints, and have sighed out, "Ah! they were not like me!" My brother, are you not a poor, weak, worthless worm? Do you not feel so? Well, so did David. The less you are in your own eyes, the more

fit you are for the Lord Jesus, and the more welcome will you be at the throne of grace. But this was the language also of David's Lord; this was the view the Jews had of Him, and they treated Him accordingly. The brightness of glory is compared to a vile reptile; the express image of the Father's person is treated with the greatest contempt. But it was for us men, and for our salvation. O mystery of mercy! Jesus is reduced to a level with the worm, that he may be raised higher than the angels.

*From Bethlehem's inn, to Calvary's cross,  
Affliction mark'd His road;  
And many a weary step He took,  
To bring us back to God.*

*By men despised, rejected, scorn'd,  
No beauty they can see;  
With grace and glory all adorn'd,  
The loveliest form to me.*

**J**ESUS calls you to His throne; He is there waiting to hear, relieve, and bless you. You are to go to Him just as you are, and receive from Him all you need. He will give you wisdom, to direct your steps; peace, to keep your hearts; strength, to do His will; righteousness, to justify your souls; and rest, unspeakably sweet. He is glorified in bestowing these blessings upon you. He calls you this MORNING, this MOMENT, to receive without money and without price. What a precious Saviour is Jesus! What a kind and

*Come unto me,  
all ye that labour  
and are heavy  
laden, and I will  
give you rest.*

*Matthew 11:28*

tender Friend! Let us go boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. "Come," He says, "come to Me; go not to self, to the world, to the empty cisterns which creatures idolize; but come unto Me, and I will do for you exceeding abundantly above all you can ask or think. Your sins I will pardon; your graces I will revive; your comforts I will restore; your holiness I will increase; your efforts to glorify Me I will crown with success; I will bless you, and you shall be a blessing." "O how great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that seek Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee, before the sons of men!"

*Jesus, with Thy word complying,  
Firm our faith and hope shall be;  
On Thy faithfulness relying,  
We will cast our souls on Thee.*

*I am troubled;  
I am bowed  
down greatly;  
I go mourning  
all the day long.*

*Psalm 38:6*

**B**UT what is the cause of thy mourning? There is nothing apart from Jesus worth mourning for, or beside sin worth mourning over. Is it because of the unevenness of thy walk with God? On account of the deep depravity of thy nature? Because men keep not God's law? Or because Jesus hides His face, and your evidences fade and wither. You may well mourn after Jesus, but you must not despond; for He will turn again, He will have compassion upon you. The depravity of the heart is enough to make an angel

weep; but forget not the precious blood that cleanseth, or the promised graces that sanctifies. Look not too much at the defects which appear in your walk, nor at the corruption which works in your heart; but deal with the blood and grace of Jesus, as the means of thy cure. Read and believe His promises; confess and plead at His throne; wait and watch in His ways; be careful, lest by inordinate mourning you grieve His Spirit. He cannot be unkind, He never will forsake you, He was anointed "to comfort all that mourn."

*Why should the children of a king  
Go mourning all their days?—  
Great Comforter! descend, and bring  
Some tokens of thy grace.  
Dost thou not dwell in all the saints,  
And seal the heirs of heaven?*

**T**HE believer's prayers should be regulated by God's promises; he often fancies he wants what would only do him harm; and, therefore, if he ask he is denied, not in anger but in love. God has promised all good, and only good, to His beloved people. Ask for what God has promised to bestow, and ask believing that God will honour and fulfil His own precious word. He cannot deny Himself; all He hath promised He will perform. You can therefore have no reason to doubt whether the Lord will give you, if you really need it, and He has plainly promised it; therefore ask desiring, and expecting, and then look to receive. What are thy wants this morning? Where hath God promised such things in His holy word? Search out the promise, take it to His throne, plead in the name of Jesus for its fulfilment, and never doubt for one moment but that the Lord will make it good. Stay yourself therefore on the word of the Lord; but if you will not believe, surely you shall not be established. Faith honours God by trusting Him; and God always honours faith by answering it. "Come boldly to the throne of grace, that you may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

*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*

*Beyond thy utmost wants  
His love and power can bless;  
To praying souls He always grants  
More than they can express.*

*See then  
that ye walk  
circumspectly,  
not as fools,  
but as wise,*

*Ephesians 5:15*

**Y**OU are in an enemy's land; surrounded by temptations; and have a heart that is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. To honour Jesus in your spirit, communications, and every action, should be your constant aim. You are to live UNTO the Lord, FOR Him who died for you and rose again. To this end, provision was laid up in the everlasting covenant, for this purpose the precious promises were made, and with this design the Holy Spirit is given; that you may serve Him in righteousness

and holiness all the days of your life. This world is not your home; Satan's family are not to be your associates; riches, honours, or pleasure, are not to be your objects; you are to walk as in the midst of snares; watchful, prayerful, depending upon Jesus, and cultivating fellowship with Him. Oh, keep your eye on Jesus, as your example; walk by His word as your rule; be not venturesome or presumptuous, but avoid the very appearance of evil. Never leave the Lord's ways or ordinances, to join the world's parties or please a carnal fancy. Keep close to Jesus, and follow on to know the Lord. Act as a loving child going home to his father's house.

*So let our lips and lives express  
The holy gospel we profess;  
So let our works and virtues shine,  
To prove the doctrine all divine.*

---

**E**VERYTHING, below is liable to change; health may give place to sickness, pleasure to pain, plenty to poverty, love to enmity, honour to disgrace, strength to weakness, and life to death. Remember the days of darkness, for they shall be many. But though all our circumstances and friends should change, there is One who never changes. He is in one mind, and none can turn Him. With Him is no variableness. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and He is our best Friend, our nearest relation, our gracious Saviour. Yesterday, His name was Jesus; His nature was love; His purpose was to do us good with His whole heart and soul: today, He is the same; we cannot expect too much from Him, or be too confident in Him, if we are walking humbly with Him. He will be our God, and we shall be His people. Let us cultivate intimacy with Him, dependance upon Him, concern to please Him, fear to offend Him, zeal to glorify Him; and it must be well with us in health and sickness, plenty and poverty, life and death; for He is the same, and will never turn away from doing us good, but remain the fountain of love and holiness forever. Praise ye the Lord.

*But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.*

*Psalm 102:27*

*This God is the God we adore,  
Our faithful—unchangeable friend;  
Whose love is as great as His power,  
And neither knows measure nor end.*

16  
January

---

*Run now, I pray  
thee, to meet her,  
and say unto her,  
Is it well with  
thee? is it well  
with thy husband?  
is it well with  
the child? And  
she answered,  
It is well.*

*2 Kings 4:26*

**I**S Jesus precious to thy soul? Are you mourning over sin, or after the presence of your beloved Saviour? Are you strong in faith, giving glory to God? Are you panting for communion with your heavenly Father? Is the world beneath your feet? Are you glowing with love to all saints? Are you seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness? Are you lying at the feet of Jesus in trouble, crying, "Lord, help me"? If so, it is well with thee: there is spiritual life in thy soul, and the blessed Spirit is thy Teacher. But if the world is preferred to Jesus, the pleasures of time to fellowship with God, if self-examination is neglected, and the Bible is become dry and unsavory, it is not well. Health of soul is manifested by HABITUAL prayer, zeal in the Lord's cause, an appetite for the bread of life, and activity in the Lord's ways. Is thy soul sick? If so, apply at once to Jesus, as the great Physician; and plead with Him to restore unto thee the joys of His salvation, and to uphold thee with His free Spirit. He will heal thy backslidings, and love thee freely.

*'Tis well; my soul is fill'd with joy,  
Though in myself a feeble worm:  
For Jesus will His power employ,  
And save my soul in every storm;  
He will His gracious word fulfil,  
And guard my soul from every ill.*

**E**VERY Believer has experienced the renewing of the Holy Ghost; sin has not dominion over him. He perceives the beauty of holiness, and loathes himself on account of sin. He would be internally holy, and externally conformed to the precepts of the Bible. He would pray with fervour; praise with gratitude; believe with confidence; war against sin, Satan, and the flesh with courage; and glorify God by every feeling, thought, word, and action. Thus he feels, and for this he prays in his best moments; but he finds that he needs the frequent renewing of the Holy Spirit, for he is prone to sink into coldness, deadness, darkness, and stupidity, and he is obliged to cry out, "My soul cleaveth unto the dust; quicken Thou me according unto Thy word." The Lord must work in us to WILL as well as to DO; for by nature we are unwilling, and the desire after holiness, proved by effort to obtain it, is from God. Beloved, you must be coming to Jesus daily for fresh supplies of the Spirit, or you will find yourself not only weak, but careless; not only will the power of godliness decline, but you will become indifferent. Watch against temptation. Watch unto prayer.

*I find then a law,  
that, when I  
would do good,  
evil is present  
with me.*

*Romans 7:21*

*O Lord, assist me through the fight,  
My drooping spirit raise;  
Make me triumphant in Thy might,  
And Thine shall be the praise.*

*I find then a law,  
that, when I  
would do good,  
evil is present  
with me.*

*Romans 7:21*

**B**UT what a mercy that it does not reign in you and over you; it did once, and would now but for free and sovereign grace. If sin makes you groan, leads you to the throne to plead with God, and to the fountain of the Saviour's blood to be cleansed from it, it does not, it cannot reign. It may disturb your peace, distress your mind, hinder you in duty, mix with all your duties and efforts to do good; and even make you cry out, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me?" But even then you should not doubt.

Jesus still loves you, grace will reign in your experience, and you shall be more than a conqueror. Paul had known the Lord many years, he had been in the third heaven, and daily triumphed in Christ; yet he felt just as you feel; when he would do good evil was present with him, and he could not do the things that he would. If sin annoys you, if it is your burden, and causes you grief; holiness lives in you, and the present painful conflict will end in everlasting peace. You may even now sing, "Thanks be unto God, who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ." Live upon Christ, and you will live down all evil.

*Oh! the rich depths of love divine,  
Of bliss a boundless store!  
Dear Saviour! let me call thee mine;  
I cannot wish for more.*

---

**A**ND who is the brother of Jesus? Everyone who does the will of His Father. Every believer who proves the truth of his faith by the goodness of his works; who shows the excellence of his nature, by the piety, benevolence, and charity of his life. Believer, Jesus calls thee BROTHER. He has for thee a brother's love. Oh, how tender! Oh, how tried! Stronger than death; passing knowledge. He bears with thy infirmities, reproves thy follies, encourages thy faith, forbids thy fears, and will certainly provide for thy wants. Joseph in Egypt supplied his brethren during the famine, and shall not Jesus supply His? If He seem to speak roughly, He will act kindly, and perform a brother's part. He has all power in heaven and in earth. He doeth according to His will, and He is not ashamed to call us brethren. He will correspond with us, and bid us daily, yea hourly, correspond with Him. Oh, remember, when you go to the throne of grace, that your BROTHER fills it, He calls you to it, and will withhold no good thing from you. Precious Lord Jesus, manifest to me a brother's love; and help me to rely on Thy fraternal kindness.

*For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

*Matthew 12:50*

*Our nearest Friend, our Brother now,  
Is He to whom the angels bow;  
They join with us to praise His name,  
But we the nearest interest claim.*

*And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*  
*Luke 1:17*

**T**HE Lord's people are justified freely, by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. The work of Jesus is their justification before God; in this they trust; in this they plead; and in this they rejoice. Taught by the Holy Spirit, they manifest wisdom in readily believing God's faithful word, and trusting Him to make good the same to them. They resign themselves and all they value into His hands for preservation, and to be entirely at His disposal, persuaded that His wisdom and love will do better

for them, than they possibly could for themselves. They refer all things to God for His decision, and cheerfully abide by His sentence. They live in simple, child-like dependance upon His providence and grace, for body and soul, for time and eternity, seeking to make His will theirs. They walk in charity with their fellow-Christians, who differ in some things from them, and would do good to all, especially to them that are of the household of faith. Beloved, do you manifest this wisdom? Do you walk by this rule? Do you mind the same things? Have you the wisdom that is from above, which is pure, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits?

*Boundless wisdom, power Divine,  
Love unspeakable, are Thine;  
Wisdom, Lord, to me be given,  
Wisdom pure, which comes from heaven.*

**O**UR God is a jealous God. He requires the devotion of the heart, the consecration of all the powers, and we cannot enjoy religion without these. Persons who try to unite God and the world, the service of sin and the service of God, cannot be happy. We must be decided. Well, who is to be God TODAY? Who is to have the heart, the talents, the affections, TODAY? Is gain, carnal pleasure, or worldly company, to be the idol today? Or, is Jesus to have the thoughts, the desires, and the talents? Shall we seek His glory, and aim at His honour? Or, shall we say to some worthless bramble, "Come thou, and reign over us?" Choose you, whom will you serve? Attempt not to reconcile opposing claims, but let God or mammon have the whole. Surely, you are ready to cry out,— "Thine am I, Jesus, and Thee only will I serve!" But you can only serve Him acceptably, as you serve Him with the grace He imparts; He has provided, promised, and invites you to receive. Let us therefore have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Serving God in the spirit of adoption is true happiness.

*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

*Matthew 6:24*

*Oh, let Thy love my soul inflame!  
And to Thy service sweetly bind;  
Transfuse it through my inmost frame,  
And mould me wholly to Thy mind.*

*After these things  
the word of the  
LORD came unto  
Abram in a vision,  
saying, Fear not,  
Abram: I am thy  
shield, and thy  
exceeding great  
reward.*

*Genesis 15:1*

**T**HEY that believe are blessed with believing Abraham, the promises God made to him, He will fulfil to us. We are surrounded by foes; fiery darts fly in every direction; but Jehovah, in Jesus, interposeth Himself as our shield. Our safety and protection is from our relation to Him; we should soon be overcome if He did not preserve and defend. How safe and how happy we feel, when we realize that our God is our defence, and the most high God our protector! If foes alarm, or dangers affright, yet

remember, "The name of the Lord is a strong TOWER," you may run into that and be safe. Faith is the arm; Jehovah is the shield; with Satan, sin, and the world we are in conflict; but we are preserved as in a garrison by the power of God, through believing, unto salvation. My brother, look to Jesus through this day as thy shield, and expect safety and protection alone from Him; He is present to protect thee, and answer thy prayers. He will thus preserve thy going out and coming in, from this time forth, and even for evermore. He will give thee the shield of His salvation, and His gentleness will make thee great.

*His righteousness to faith reveal'd,  
Wrought out for guilty worms,  
Affords a hiding-place and shield,  
From enemies and storms.*

**T**HE disciples appeared to be in danger, and fear filled their hearts. They did not realize that they were the care and charge of Jesus, or else knowing Him their fears could have had no place. Beloved, you are in the hands of your loving Saviour. He has charge of you and all your concerns. He has numbered the very hairs of your head, and watches over you every moment, by night, as well as by day. He is ever present, His eye cannot be diverted from you, His omnipotence is engaged to defend you, His fulness to supply you, His wisdom to guide you, and all His perfections will be glorified in your everlasting holiness and happiness. He says, "I am glorified in them." Why are you so fearful? Jesus is a very present help, He is a Friend that loveth at all times, He is your SHIELD, and will be your exceeding great reward. But perhaps you have wandered from Him; your conscience accuses you, and Satan tempts you to despond; go, go and return unto Him, delay not a moment, cast yourself guilty as you are, at His feet, confess all, and give yourself to Him afresh. He will receive you graciously, love you freely, and restore the joys of His salvation.

*And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?*

*Mark 4:40*

*The saints should never be dismay'd,  
Nor sink in hopeless fear;  
For when they least expect His aid,  
The Saviour will appear.*

*What? know ye  
not that your  
body is the temple  
of the Holy Ghost  
which is in you,  
which ye have of  
God, and ye are  
not your own?*

*1 Corinthians 6:19*

---

**N**O—Jesus has purchased you with His own blood, quickened you by His Spirit, espoused you to Himself, and intends to glorify you with Himself forever. He claims you, and says, “I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine.” He will provide for you as His own, and spare you, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. You are His beloved bride. His portion. A member of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. In loving you, He loveth Himself. He requires you to live under the daily conviction that you are His; that all you have is His. You have

nothing of your own; all you have He freely gave, and all you have you profess to have surrendered to Him. Think more of Jesus than of His gifts, cleave to Him, and not to what you may be called to surrender. He will never take anything from you, but He will give you something better. If He strip you, it is to teach you; to lead you to live upon Himself, and to find your heaven in His company, grace, and offices. Do you live, walk, and act, so as to leave the impression upon the minds of observers that you are the Lord’s? Do you expect Him to preserve, guide, and supply you?

*Lord! am I Thine, entirely Thine?  
Purchased and saved by blood Divine?  
With full consent, Thine I would be,  
And own Thy sovereign right in me.*

---

**W**HAT infinite condescension in Jesus, to call us worms, His friends! But He not only calls us so, but treats us as such, and expects us as friends to do whatsoever He commands us. Is Jesus thy friend? Then visit Him often, let Him hear thy voice in prayer and praise; then trust Him confidently, let Him see a proof of thy faith in thy dependence; then walk with Him in love, let Him enjoy much of thy company; then expect Him to be thy Friend in sickness and health, in poverty and plenty, in life and in death.

*Ye are my  
friends, if ye do  
whatsoever I  
command you.*

*John 15:14*

If Jesus is our Friend, we can never be destitute; if father and mother forsake, He will take us up and take us in; we can never be miserable, He will receive us and be a Father unto us; we can never be neglected, for He will never fail us nor forsake us, but will do for us all He has promised in His word. He will defend us from foes, visit us in sickness, and cheer and support us in death. Precious Lord Jesus, be Thou my Friend, call me Thy friend, and treat me as such, in life, in death, at the judgment, and before Thy Father's face forever.

*Oh let us make His name our trust!  
He is a Saviour wise and just:  
On His Almighty arm depend;  
He is a tried and faithful Friend;  
And all His friends shall shortly prove,  
The power and glory of His love.*

*I will instruct  
thee and teach  
thee in the way  
which thou shalt  
go: I will guide  
thee with  
mine eye.*

*Psalm 32:8*

**A**T best we know but little, and we are slow to learn; but as the Lord has promised to instruct us, we may yet expect to be made wise unto salvation. The Lord's teaching always produces humility, self-loathing, confidence in God, zeal for His glory, and devotes the heart to His praise. It brings us to the feet of Jesus, and delivers us from the present evil world. Under Divine instruction we learn the true nature of sin, the vanity of the world, the emptiness of creatures, and the fulness and preciousness of Christ. Is God

willing to instruct us? Then let us be early and often at His throne, praying, as the Psalmist did, "Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me: for Thou art the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day." Then shall we exclaim as Elihu did, "Behold, God exalteth by His power: who teacheth like Him?" The Lord will teach us to profit, and sanctify us through the truth He imparts. Christ is our great lesson, and to know Him rightly is life, peace, and joy. Is Jesus thy Teacher? Then sit at His feet, treasure up His words, and show forth His praise. He says, "Learn of Me." Learn to know Him, love Him, and obey Him.

*Eternal life Thy words impart;  
On these my fainting spirit lives:  
Here sweeter comforts cheer my heart,  
Than the whole world around me gives.*

**T**HE Lord will always provide for His own people, who keep His company, do His will, and aim at His glory. If He sends us, though He chooses to carry the purse, our bread shall be given, and our water shall be sure. The disciples went out unfurnished, but then Jesus commanded them; they return and confessed that they lacked nothing, the God of providence supplied them. If we are in the Lord's way, we may rest assured that we shall meet the Lord's messengers bringing our supply. They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. He notices our wants, remembers His promises, times His mercies, and proves Himself a faithful God. Have you lacked anything? for body? for soul? He who has supplied the past, will provide for the future. Jesus is full of grace; go and receive, that your joy may be full. Jesus is the God of providence; look to Him, trust in Him, plead with Him, and you shall never be destitute. Believe His word, He cannot deny Himself; trust in His faithfulness, and He will put honour upon thy faith, fulfilling His own word. "Thy bread shall be given thee, and thy water shall be sure."

*And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.*

*Luke 22:35*

*E'en down to old age, all my people shall prove  
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they shall still, in my bosom, be borne.*

*My little children,  
these things  
write I unto you,  
that ye sin not.  
And if any man  
sin, we have  
an advocate  
with the Father,  
Jesus Christ the  
righteous:*

*1 John 2:1*

**Y**ES—Jesus pleads for us in heaven. By His own blood He entered once into the holiest, there to appear in the presence of God FOR US. He pleads for us against Satan, answering all his accusations; and for us with the Father, that we may be kept, supplied, and glorified. O what a comfort when the heart is straitened in prayer, when the mouth is closed by guilt, when the spirit is harassed by temptation, to know that Jesus as our Advocate appears and pleads for us above! Beloved, Jesus is before God

for YOU this morning, and every morning; and the benefit of His intercession you daily enjoy. When doubting and fearful, put your cause afresh into His hands, and leave Him to carry it; He can plead well; His arguments are powerful, and His manner is Divine. Keep Jesus before thee this day as thy Advocate; rejoice in His office and name, and remember He is saying, “Father, I will that those whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, to behold My glory.” Him the Father heareth always; and all for whom He pleads are safe and shall be happy.

*Look up, my soul, with cheerful eye;  
See, where the great Redeemer stands,  
The glorious Advocate on high,  
With precious incense in His hands;  
And on His pleading still depend,  
Who is your Advocate and Friend.*

**T**HE Bible is God's Book, a favour bestowed on man; intended to lead him to a knowledge of the nature, perfections, purposes, will, providence, and salvation of God. It contains all that is really necessary to be known. It should be read carefully, prayerfully, frequently, and in course: every part of the Bible should be read, meditated upon, and prayed over. It makes us wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus. We cannot understand the Scriptures, or gather spiritual profit therefrom but by the Holy Ghost; nor should we expect to be taught the mind of God but by the Scriptures. Praying, reading, and thinking, should go together; and no one but he who has proved it, can possibly tell the profit which may be thus gained. Let the Bible be the everyday book. In it God speaks to your soul; by it He will sanctify your nature, direct your steps, and give you joy and peace. Let not the works of man occupy the place of the Book of God; but search the Scriptures daily, and exercise faith therein. "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may see wondrous things out of Thy law." Unfold to me the riches of Thy grace.

*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

*John 5:39*

*O may Thy counsels, mighty God,  
My roving feet command!  
Nor I forsake the happy road  
That leads to Thy right hand.*

*Behold, thou hast  
heard what the  
kings of Assyria  
have done to  
all lands by  
destroying them  
utterly; and shalt  
thou be delivered?*

*Isaiah 37:11*

**T**HIS is plainly the language of an insulting foe; he had triumphed, and now he boasted, but his power was bounded, and his pride procured his fall. Often when in trouble, when distressed, when tried by a sense of sin and unworthiness, unbelief and Satan join, and pointing to others who have fallen and to our acknowledged unworthiness, insultingly ask the question, "And shalt thou be delivered?" Yes, Satan, we shall be delivered; the God of Hezekiah is our God, and He hath said, "I will deliver thee in six troubles, and in seven I will not forsake thee." We believe His word, we rely on His faithfulness, we plead at His throne; and so sure as He CAN deliver, He WILL. He hath often done so in times past, He doth deliver all His praying people now, and in Him we trust that He will deliver us. Not on account of anything in us, or of anything done by us, but because He hath said, "I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him; I will set him on high, because he hath known My name." He is faithful, His word cannot fail, nor should our faith be shaken. Deliverance is certain, for God hath spoken, and God is true.

*The same His power, His love the same,  
Unmoved the promise shines;  
Eternal truth surrounds His name,  
And guards the precious lines.*

**T**HIS is every Believer's privilege; God is reconciled to him in the person and through the work of Jesus; all charges against him are blotted out; all his sins are freely and fully forgiven; he is justified from all things; and stands before God in Christ, accepted, beloved, and blessed. To him God is love; with him God is at peace; and he is now a son of God. If this is believed on the testimony of God, and realized in the soul as the effect of faith; then God becomes our exceeding joy, and we rejoice

*And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

*Romans 5:11*

with joy unspeakable and full of glory. If we joy in frames, they change; if we joy in friends, they die; if we joy in possessions, they are vanity; but if we joy in God, though the exercise of joy may be interrupted, yet the object remains eternally the same, and we shall joy for evermore. Beloved, look at Jehovah in Jesus; there you see Him as the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; joy and rejoice in Him as your God, your Portion, your everlasting All. Throughout this day, joy in God as your Father, your Friend, and your Saviour.

*Joy to find, in every station,*

*Something still to do or bear:*

*Think, what spirit dwells within thee;*

*Think, what Father's smiles are thine;*

*Think, what Jesus did to win thee; —*

*Child of heaven! canst thou repine?*

# 1 February

---

*Behold, a virgin  
shall be with  
child, and shall  
bring forth a son,  
and they shall  
call his name  
Emmanuel,  
which being  
interpreted is,  
God with us.  
Matthew 1:23*

**C**ONSIDER Jesus through this day as God with thee; God in thy nature; God become man for thy salvation and consolation. None but God was able to save; thy Jesus is God: it was necessary that the Saviour should be man, and Jesus is man. He has the nature of His Father, here is His ability; He has thy nature also, here is His suitability. Jesus is God with thee, to hear thy prayers, check thy fears, redress thy grievances, sympathize with thee in thy sorrows, and be thy everyday friend. God is with us,

observing our conduct, directing our ways, reproofing our follies, providing our supplies, and making all things work together for our good. Always remember, Jesus is with me; every sin is committed under His eye, against His love, and goes to His heart; think, when tempted to sin, that you hear Immanuel, the suffering, bleeding, dying, reigning Saviour, say, "Oh, do not that abominable thing which I hate." Walk before Him in love, peace, holiness, and zeal, for His glory and praise. He is God for thee, as well as with thee. Look to His wisdom, power, and love, for safety and supply; and with filial confidence trust his word.

*Sweeter sounds than music knows  
Charm me in Immanuel's name;  
All her hopes my spirit owes  
To His birth, His cross, His shame.*

**A**LL spiritual prayer is produced by the Holy Spirit; He convinces us of need, discovers to us the fulness of Jesus, leads us to the throne of grace, and helps our infirmities there. The very desire to pray is from Him, and the liberty we enjoy in prayer is His gift. But how dreadful a thing is sin, and how condescending is the Holy Spirit! He sympathizes with us, and maketh intercession for us, with unutterable expressions of distress; with groanings which cannot be uttered. Sin has rendered us so vile, that no sacrifice but that of the Son of God Himself, could atone for us; and so weak, that none but the Holy Spirit can enable us to pray with fervour, faith, and success. See, beloved, how deep are your obligations, and how great your dependence upon this blessed Spirit of grace and supplication. Be careful lest you grieve Him by your lightness, worldliness, or lukewarmness; but sow unto the Spirit and ye shall reap life everlasting. He will testify to you of Jesus, and bless you with liberty and peace.

*And I will pour upon  
the house of David, and  
upon the inhabitants  
of Jerusalem, the  
spirit of grace and  
of supplications: and  
they shall look upon  
me whom they have  
pierced, and they shall  
mourn for him, as one  
mourneth for his only  
son, and shall be in  
bitterness for him, as  
one that is in bitterness  
for his firstborn.  
Zechariah 12:10*

*I want a heart to pray,  
To pray and never cease,  
Never to murmur at Thy stay  
Or wish my sufferings less.  
I want a godly fear,  
A quick discerning eye,  
That looks to Thee when sin is near,  
And sees the tempter fly.*

3  
*February*

---

*Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.*

*Acts 11:23*

**E**VERY believer is united to Christ, and is one with Him. Jesus is the vine, he is a branch; Jesus is the husband, he is the bride. Satan's design is to lead him from the Lord; he knows well he can do little or nothing, while the Christian cleaves to Jesus. Oh, then, cleave to Him by faith, in love, with perseverance! Cleave to His truth, to His people, to His ordinances, to His word, and to His throne. Think of Jesus as the affectionate child thinks of his beloved father, as the tender bride thinks of her devoted bridegroom,

as the way-worn traveller thinks of his cheerful home. Let Jesus be uppermost in thy thoughts, let His love rule thy heart, and let nothing steal away thy affections from Him. Live upon His fulness, live according to His word, live in the element of His love; no living safely, no living happily, but as you cleave unto the Lord. Never let Satan find thee at a distance from Jesus, or he will assuredly be too much for thee. He is ever on the watch to find thee wandering, that he may worry, deceive, and distress thee. Therefore cleave unto the Lord, with full purpose of heart. Cleave to Him as the ivy to the oak, or the child to the mother's breast.

*Saviour, let me cleave to Thee;  
Love the bond of union be;  
And, lest I should e'er depart,  
Keep Thy dwelling in my heart.*

**F**AITH is the gift of God. It is the fruit of everlasting love, the effect of grace; we believe through grace. The faith which is the evidence of salvation, includes giving credit to the gospel report, of a free and full salvation for poor unworthy sinners; an application to Jesus on the throne of grace, founded on that report; and a trusting on the word, work, and death of Jesus, for life and salvation. This always produces love to Jesus, and leads the soul to obey Him out of gratitude. It is precious; being scarce, few thus believe; being valuable, without it we cannot please God, cannot be justified, cannot rejoice in hope, or enjoy gospel blessings; but he that believeth is entitled to every precious promise, to all the fulness of Christ, to enjoy God in every new covenant relation, and shall never see death. He is passed from death to life, and shall never come into condemnation. Gracious God! give unto Thy people, and unto me especially, much precious faith, that believing in Jesus, I may rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Oh, to believe this day without wavering! Oh, to be strong in faith, giving glory to God!

*Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:  
2 Peter 1:1*

*Oh, for a strong, a lasting faith,  
To credit what th' Almighty saith!  
To embrace the message of His Son,  
And call the joys of heav'n our own.*

5  
*February*

---

*But with the  
precious blood  
of Christ,  
as of a lamb  
without blemish  
and without spot:*

*1 Peter 1:19*

**T**HE blood of Jesus is the price of our redemption, the object of our faith, the ground of our peace, the subject of our meditation, and our constant plea at the throne of grace. It satisfied divine justice, and speaks peace to the humbled sinner's heart. It overcomes Satan, and cleanseth from all sin. It purges the conscience from dead works, and leads us to joy in God. We build on it as our foundation, flee to it as our refuge, look to it as the cure for sin, and sing of it as the joy of our heart. It has made a perfect, a

satisfactory, an infinite atonement; and no sinner can perish who relies upon it, washes in it, and pleads it before God. It is indeed precious blood! It is invaluable! Whenever you feel guilt on your conscience, fears rising in your mind, or a gloom come over your spirit; look to, meditate upon, make use of the precious blood of Jesus. It made peace, it gives peace, and it secures peace. It cleanses, heals, and sanctifies; and we could not live happy one day without it. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin. To this alone we must look as the foundation of our hope, and the ground of our peace.

*Dear dying Lamb! Thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power,  
Till all the ransom'd church of God  
Be saved to sin no more.*

**Y**ES—Jesus is precious to every believer: however Christians may differ upon some points, they all agree in this, JESUS IS PRECIOUS. They cannot always feel towards Him as they wish, but they have always one and the same opinion of Him. He is precious in His person, word, work, blood, righteousness, and intercession: as Prophet, Priest, and King: in every name He wears, every character He bears, every relation He fills, and every office He sustains: so precious that none can be compared with Him. His

*Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,  
1 Peter 2:7*

people love Him, but none of them think they love Him enough; they adore Him, but mourn over their want of fervour when addressing Him; they prefer Him above all things, and consider Him altogether lovely. Do you find Christ precious this morning? If He was to be sold, what would you give for Him? If you could be gratified, how would you feel towards Him? He is precious to poor, sensible sinners; to strong believers; to holy angels; and to God our heavenly Father. Is He so to you? Live near to Him, be intimate with Him, and you will feel Him precious. The more you know of Him, the more you will prize Him.

*Hail, thou ever blessed Jesus,  
Only thee I wish to sing;  
To my soul thy name is precious,  
Thou my Prophet, Priest, and King,*

*My times are  
in thy hand:  
deliver me from  
the hand of mine  
enemies, and  
from them that  
persecute me.*

*Psalm 31:15*

**E**VERY event is under divine control. Nothing is left to chance. The hand of God is in all that occurs; directing, overruling, or sanctifying to our good. He appointed all that concerns us, and appointed all in infinite wisdom and love; therefore we should not judge rashly, or conclude hastily. We know not what may occur today, but we know that the purpose of God cannot be frustrated, nor can His promise fail. He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. He says, "My purpose shall stand, and I

will do all My pleasure." But this is our comfort, that He taketh pleasure in His people, and in the prosperity of His servants. Let us consider, then, everything passes under our Father's eye; is overruled by our Saviour's power; is directed by the Holy Spirit to do us good. It shall not be as our enemies wish, or as our hearts fear; but as our God and Father pleases, and has ordained. Be not therefore anxious, troubled, or cast down; the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, and He is God. He shall preserve thee from evil, He shall preserve thy soul.

*I know not what may soon betide,  
But Jesus knows, and He'll provide;  
My life is by His counsel plann'd,  
And all my times are in His hand:  
I'll therefore trust, nor yield to fear,  
But cast on Jesus all my care.*

**T**HE aim of men in general is to make a fortune, enjoy the world, and live respectably; the aim of the believer is to win Christ. Jesus possesses all He desires, and to possess Christ would satisfy every wish. We have now a title to Him, we receive much from Him, and we often enjoy His love; but we want to be present with Him, and to have full possession of Him as our everlasting all. He is set before us as our mark, He is held out as the prize, and is promised as the everlasting portion of every overcomer.

*Yea doubtless,  
and I count all  
things but loss for  
the excellency of  
the knowledge of  
Christ Jesus my  
Lord: for whom I  
have suffered the  
loss of all things,  
and do count them  
but dung, that I  
may win Christ,  
Philippians 3:8*

Where is the heart this morning? Which way do the desires tend? What is to be the object of pursuit today? If Jesus is the principal object, failing in our pursuit after other things, losses, or crosses, will not much affect us; but our conduct will say, "I aim to win Christ; if He is mine, all is well, other things are but trifles compared with Him." Keeping Jesus in view thus, will prevent murmuring, cure our impatience, and keep our hearts in comparative peace. O may our every action cry in the ears of every observer, "THAT I MAY WIN CHRIST." He who has Christ, has an infinite portion; unsearchable wealth.

*Not softest strains can charm mine ears,  
Like His beloved name;  
Nor aught beneath the skies inspire  
My heart with equal flame.*

*Be watchful,  
and strengthen  
the things which  
remain, that are  
ready to die: for  
I have not found  
thy works perfect  
before God.*

*Revelation 3:2*

**S**ATAN is watching to ensnare us, the world is watching to exult over us, and God is watching to protect us. Jesus our best friend says to us, "BE WATCHFUL." Watch against the spirit of the world, against thy easily besetting sins, against seasons of temptation, and against Satan the sworn enemy of thy soul. Watch for opportunities to do good, for answers to prayer, for the appearance of God as a God of providence. Unite prayer to God, dependence on His holy word, and watchfulness together; pray to be kept from sin, in temptation, unspotted from the world; trust in God to answer, but do not leave the throne; and then watch as though all depended upon thy diligence and efforts. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments. "Watch ye therefore, and pray always." But trust not to thy watchfulness, but while watching trust in God. He that keepeth thee will not slumber. He is with thee when on guard, as well as when thou art feasting on His word and rejoicing at His table. He withdraweth not His eyes from the righteous. "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry." Watch ye, therefore, and pray always.

*Oh! watch, and fight, and pray;—  
The battle ne'er give o'er;  
Renew it boldly every day,  
And help divine implore.*

---

**B**ELOVED, the greatest mercy a sinner can enjoy is to have God on his side, engaged in his quarrel, and employed in his most important concerns; this mercy is yours. God is for you. He chose you in Christ before the world began. He formed you to show forth His praise. He preserved you in Christ until He called you by grace. He quickened you by His Spirit, and led you to Jesus. He has given you His Son, and promised every additional good. He has said to you, "Thou art Mine." You have said, "I am

Thine." He is now your refuge and strength; He is tenderly concerned for your welfare, devotedly attached to your cause, and observes every step you take. He may try your faith, but will certainly supply your wants. He may exercise your patience, but will never turn a deaf ear to your cries, except you indulge iniquity in your heart. No parent ever felt so deeply interested in the welfare of a beloved child, as thy God does in thine. He says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea I will help thee: yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness."

*When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.*

*Psalm 56:9*

*God is our refuge and defence,  
In trouble our unfailing aid;  
Secure in His omnipotence,  
What foe can make our souls afraid!*

## 11 February

---

*And they shall be  
mine, saith the  
LORD of hosts,  
in that day when  
I make up my  
jewels; and I will  
spare them,  
as a man spareth  
his own son that  
serveth him.  
Malachi 3:17*

**P**RECIIOUS assurance! But whom will the Lord spare? All His children—especially those who speak of His goodness, witness to His faithfulness, think upon His name, and honour Him before an evil generation. He says, “They shall be Mine, in that day when I make up My jewels, and I will spare them as a father spareth his obedient son.” If we are aiming at the Lord’s glory, and walking by the Lord’s word, we have nothing to fear from any of His dispensations. He will shield us from danger, sanctify our

troubles, and secure our best interests. If we are living to His praise, we may safely leave our wants and our comforts in His hands; He will supply the one and preserve the other. He says, “Fear thou not, for I am with thee.” “Bring every trouble to My throne, every want to My fulness; I am EL-SHADDAI, God all-sufficient: enough in the absence of everyone and everything. I am your God; I may punish the nations, but I will spare you. Believe this and be happy. Rejoice in this and you glorify Me. You are no more a servant, but a son; and if son, then an HEIR of God through Christ. Though I punish the world, I will spare you.”

*Jesus, my Saviour and my Lord!  
'Tis good to trust Thy name;  
Thy power, Thy faithfulness, and love,  
Will ever be the same.*

---

**H**OWEVER gloomy the day, however strange the trials, however distressing the visitation, hope thou in God. He is with you, He is your God, He has promised to befriend you, He is the faithful God. He will turn darkness into light, make crooked things straight, and make all grace abound towards you, so that you, having all sufficiency, may abound to every good work. The changes that affect you, cannot affect Him. You cannot rely too simply upon Him, or expect too much from Him. If all within and without seem to conspire to distress you, still say, "I will hope in God." Expect Him to be to you all a gracious and powerful God can be: expect Him to do all a loving Father and infinite God can do. Hope for light in darkness, for relief in distress, for strength in weakness, for joy in sorrow, for deliverance when sinking beneath the wave, and for life in death. Hope for all you need, and for all God has promised. Hope thou in God, and in God alone. Hope because God has spoken, because He is true and faithful, and you cannot hope in vain. The foundation of your hope is laid in the blood of Jesus and the oath of God.

*Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.*  
*Psalm 42:11*

*Ye fearful saints! fresh courage take;  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy, and shall break  
In blessings on your head.*

13  
February

---

*Search me,  
O God, and know  
my heart: try me,  
and know my  
thoughts:*

*Psalm 139:23*

**N**ONE can search the heart but God; none are desirous or willing for the heart to be searched but real Christians. A believer desires to know the worst. He dreads deception. Grace has made him honest, and he prays, "Lord, search me." If a man was to search, he would expose, irritate, and injure us; but if God search, He will humble, strengthen, and heal us. The man who sees himself in the light of truth, and knows himself as the effect of divine searching, cannot trust himself for one moment; he flies from

self to Jesus; from law to grace; he loathes himself; and while he confidently trusts in Jesus, and rejoices in hope, he walks humbly with his God. He cannot boast, he dares not presume; but walks in holiness, and ascribes all to free grace. Beloved, take the heart to Jesus to be searched. He says, "I am He that searcheth the hearts and trieth the reins." If He search you, He will save you from deception, self-righteousness, and every false way. Be this your daily prayer, "Search me, O God, and lead me in the way everlasting. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me: try my reins and my heart." Let a man examine himself. You need searching.

*Lord, search my heart, and try my ways,  
And make my soul sincere;  
Then shall I stand before Thy face,  
And find acceptance there.*

**A**ND is it possible, that such poor, depraved, unworthy creatures, can be the objects of Jehovah's delight? Yes—the infinite love of God has been fixed upon us from eternity: because He loved us, He sent His only begotten Son to die for us; He sent His Holy Spirit into our hearts; and gave us a good hope through grace. Hear the Apostle: "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His GREAT LOVE wherewith He loved us, even when we were DEAD IN SINS, hath quickened us together with Christ: by whose grace ye are saved."

*Thou shalt no  
more be termed  
Forsaken; neither  
shall thy land any  
more be termed  
Desolate: but thou  
shalt be called  
Hephzibah, and thy  
land Beulah: for the  
LORD delighteth in  
thee, and thy land  
shall be married.  
Isaiah 62:4*

Jehovah views us in Jesus, and loves us with an infinite love. Yea, He has loved us as He has loved Him. Every believer, though his faith may be weak, his fears many, his corruptions strong, his trouble great, and his temptations sore, is the object of Jehovah's delight. Let us therefore endeavour to pass through this day, yea, and everyday, believing and realizing, "I am Jehovah's delight; the object of His highest love; the subject of His sweetest thoughts; and His portion for evermore." O incomparable privilege! Source of comfort, holiness, and love! Thou hast more cause for gratitude than an angel.

*God, the eternal mighty God,  
To dearer names descends;  
Calls you his treasure and his joy,  
His children and his friends.*

*And grieve not  
the holy Spirit of  
God, whereby ye  
are sealed unto  
the day of  
redemption.*

*Ephesians 4:30*

**W**E are absolutely dependent upon the Holy Spirit for life, light, teaching and sanctification. Without His presence, power, and operations, we are dead, dark, ignorant, and carnal. We should therefore be very careful not to grieve or dishonour Him. We do so when we neglect, slight, or make any improper use of God's holy word; when we indulge in hard thoughts of God, or low thoughts of the Lord Jesus; when we mind the things of the flesh in preference to spiritual things; when we trifle with, or indulge

in any sin of omission or commission; when we slight His intimations, abuse His gifts, and listen to Satan, the world, or the flesh, in preference to Him. When He is grieved He suspends His influence, and we find no assistance in duty; we get cold, carnal, and indifferent; we taste no sweetness in spiritual things, and the ministry of the word becomes dry and lifeless; the Bible is a sealed book; there is no power in prayer; no gratitude for mercies received; and religion becomes a task. Oh grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption; but sow unto the Spirit, and ye shall reap life everlasting!

*Return, O holy Dove, return,  
Sweet messenger of rest!  
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn,  
And drove Thee from my breast.*

**T**HAT is, to all His people. The object of their adoration and trust, the subject of their meditation, and the source of all their happiness. To be our God, is more than being our friend, helper, or benefactor; (creatures may be so;) He engages to do us good according to His all-sufficiency, to bestow upon us blessings which none else can. He will pardon us, and pardon like a God—He will sanctify us, and sanctify us like a God—He will comfort us and comfort us like a God—He will glorify us, and glorify us like a God. If He is our God, He is our all, and all He has is ours. He is our inheritance, and a glorious inheritance He is. Consider, when in danger, in darkness, in distress, in temptation, in duty, or in pain; God will be to you a God, delivering, enlightening, comforting, strengthening, and sanctifying you. Make a God of Him, look to Him for all He has promised, which is all you want; adore His divine perfections, and rejoice that they are all engaged to make you blessed. Live to His glory, walk by His word, and He will glorify Himself in your present and everlasting welfare. He rejoiceth to do good unto His people, He delights to bless them.

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

*Hebrews 8:10*

*Here would I dwell, and ne'er remove;  
Here I am safe from all alarms;  
My rest is "everlasting love,"  
My refuge, "everlasting arms."*

*(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

*2 Corinthians 6:2*

**W**HAT an unspeakable mercy to live at such a period. We are poor, lost, ruined sinners; but this is the day when salvation is freely bestowed, without money and without price. The Lord saves from the love, power, and consequences of sin: gives His Holy Spirit, writes His law in the heart, and directs our feet into the way of peace. He gives us Jesus, who is the Saviour; gives us grace, which conquers sin; and gives us heaven, to enjoy when the journey of life is ended. This is the day in which He works deliverance for His

people; He employs His power, His wisdom, His word, His providence, and His angels, for our deliverance. What then shall we fear? Of whom shall we be afraid? Let us go to His throne, remembering that it is the day of salvation; let us plead for deliverance from all that mars our peace, prevents our enjoyment, or hinders us in our Christian course. Let there be no despondency, for this is a day of glad tidings; it is, believe, and be saved; pray, and be delivered; wait on the Lord, and He will strengthen your heart. "By grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."

*Salvation! O the joyful sound!  
'Tis pleasure to our ears!  
A sovereign balm for every wound,  
A cordial for our fears.*

**O**UR God is a God of patience. The Lord Jesus is the great example of patience. The Holy Spirit is the agent producing patience. Trials, troubles, and disappointments, are the means which exercise and strengthen it. The patience required, is a disposition to bear all that God has appointed for us, without complaining; yea, with resignation and hope: to wait God's time for the mercies we need, or for answers to the prayers we put up. Patience is the daughter of faith; and it is only as we believe that God has appointed, overrules, or commands, for our good and His glory, that we can be patient. Patience produces self-possession, shuts the mouth from complaining, keeps back the heart from seeking revenge, and is a principal point in self-government. Are you impatient? Then confess it, and mourn over it, before God; it will make you miserable, and lead you to dishonour God. Watch against it; the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Look at the prophets, apostles, martyrs, at Jesus; and be ye also patient. "In your patience possess ye your souls."

*Be ye also  
patient; stablish  
your hearts:  
for the coming  
of the Lord  
draweth nigh.*

*James 5:8*

*Thus trusting in thy love. I tread  
The path of duty on:  
What though some cherished joys are fled,  
Some flattering dreams are gone?  
Yet purer, brighter joys remain;  
Why should my spirit then complain?*

19  
February

---

*Casting all your  
care upon him;  
for he careth  
for you.*

*1 Peter 5:7*

**T**HE Lord knows all His people, their persons, wants, and trials; He thinketh upon them to benefit, deliver, and supply them. He keeps His eye upon them in all places, at all times, and under all circumstances. He has them in His hand, and will not loose His hold. He looks upon them always as His own; the objects of His love, the purchase of His Son's blood, the temples of the Holy Spirit. They are precious in His sight. He knows they are weak, fearful, and have many enemies. He teaches them to

cast themselves and all their cares into His hands: and He has given them His word, that He will care for them. It is a Father's care which He exercises. It is wise, holy, tender, and constant; therefore all will be well, only trust. Believe that He cares for you this day; carry all your concerns to Him in the faith of this; leave all with Him, persuaded that He will manage all by His infinite wisdom, and bring all to a good issue by His omnipotent power. Cast all your cares upon Him as fast as they come in; be anxious for nothing. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee; He will never suffer the righteous to be moved."

*Cast, my child, on Me thy care,  
'Tis enough that I am nigh;  
I will all thy burdens bear,  
I will all thy wants supply.*

---

**N**O—what He hath done, He can do; and all He hath promised, or His people need, He will do. He has all power. He knows no difficulty. Why then are we cast down? Because we do not believe His word, depend simply on His veracity, and expect all we need from His hand. He was displeased with Moses when he questioned His power, and He is displeased with us when we doubt His love, distrust His providence, or ask, “How can this thing be?” Whatever may be your difficulty, trial, or want, plead with the Lord, and confidently expect deliverance; and if any temptation is presented to weaken your faith, rouse your fears, or disturb your tranquility, meet it with this question, “Is the Lord’s hand waxed short?” Beloved, look not to the hand of man, but look simply to the hand of God; man may disappoint you, God will not. He is faithful that promised. He is a God at hand. He will be near you throughout this day; His hand is able and ready to help you; therefore trust, and be not afraid.

*And the LORD  
said unto Moses,  
Is the LORD’S  
hand waxed short?  
thou shalt see now  
whether my word  
shall come to pass  
unto thee or not.*

*Numbers 11:23*

*In heaven, and earth, and air, and seas,  
He executes His firm decrees;  
And by His saints it stands confess’d,  
That what He does is ever best;  
Then on His powerful arm rely,  
And He will bring salvation nigh.*

*The LORD trieth  
the righteous:  
but the wicked  
and him that  
loveth violence  
his soul hateth.*

*Psalm 11:5*

**W**HERE the Lord gives grace, He always tries it; therefore His own people must expect to pass through the fire. He will try our faith, of what sort it is; our love, of what strength it is. He will also try our patience and our constancy. Let us not therefore be surprised at trials, nor let us be discouraged by them; for He tries out of pure love, with the best design, according to a wise rule, and at the fittest season. He considers our frame, our circumstances, and our foes; He does nothing rashly or unkindly.

He would not put us to pain if we did not need it; trials are preservatives or restoratives; they keep us back from evil, or are intended to bring us out of evil into which we have fallen. Thy trials then are from the Lord; His wisdom selected, His love appointed, and His providence brings them about. If you ask, "Why, Lord, am I tried thus?" the answer is, "To humble thee, and to prove thee, and to do thee good at thy latter end." Receive every trial as from God, and go to Him for strength to bear it, grace to sanctify it, and deliverance from it; and so all will be well. It is not for His pleasure, but for your profit, that you are so tried.

*Often the clouds of deepest woe,  
A sweet love-message bear;  
Dark though they seem, we cannot find  
A frown of anger there.*

**T**HE proper object of mercy is misery; sin has rendered us miserable, and God has revealed Himself as merciful. He delighteth in mercy; it is a pleasure to Him to have mercy upon us; He delights to pardon our sins, relieve our necessities, and save our souls. His own glory being secured, He delights to bless His people. He is styled THE FATHER OF MERCIES; and as a father takes pleasure in his children, so does our God in showing mercy. He always delights in mercy, therefore He does so this morning; go then and mourn over thy sins which have grieved Him, and rendered you miserable; go and plead for mercy at His throne, nor doubt for one moment His pity, His kindness, or His grace. Have you obtained mercy? Be zealous, to glorify God in the day of visitation; be honest, and ascribe all to mercy which is her due; and be active to spread the good news abroad, assuring poor miserable sinners, that GOD DELIGHTETH IN MERCY. With this, check thy fears, repel thy temptations, and comfort thy heart. Believe it as an undoubted truth, plead it as a powerful argument with God, and daily rejoice in it. It is sweet to be an infinite debtor to mercy.

*Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.  
Micah 7:18*

*'Tis mercy in Jesus exempts me from hell;  
Its glories I'll sing, and its wonders I'll tell;  
'Twas Jesus, my Friend, when He hung on the tree,  
Who open'd the channel of mercy for me.*

*I am crucified with  
Christ: nevertheless  
I live; yet not I,  
but Christ liveth  
in me: and the life  
which I now live  
in the flesh I live  
by the faith of the  
Son of God, who  
loved me, and gave  
himself for me.  
Galatians 2:20*

**A**ND what was Paul? A blasphemer, a persecutor, one who injured the church of God. And did Jesus love Paul? Yes—He loved me. Then the love of Jesus is free, and not on account of anything man is. The cause of love is in God, not in the objects loved. You may have looked for some reason to conclude that God has loved you, but you have been disappointed; the Lord says, “I will love them freely.” When we were dead in sins, He quickened us because He loved us; He revealed Jesus to us because He loved

us; He has given us His Holy Spirit because He loved us. Whom once He loves He never leaves. Jesus loves us this morning with a free, infinite, and eternal love. He loves our persons, apart from our graces and acts; these are the effects of His love, and not strictly the objects of His love. O Holy Spirit! whisper to our hearts this morning, “Jesus loved THEE, even thee.” Oh, to love Him in return! to love Him above health, wealth, comfort, yea, life itself! Oh, to show forth the praises of His love by humility, faith, constancy, and zeal!

*Great God, to Thy almighty love  
What honours shall I raise?  
Not all the raptured songs above,  
Can render equal praise.  
Thy love to me surpasses thought.—  
Oh could I praise Thee as I ought!*

---

**J**ESUS was our Substitute. He lived, suffered, and died in our stead. Our sins were imputed to Him, punished in Him, and removed by Him. God had cursed us, but Jesus gave Himself to bear the curse in our stead; every threatening of the law was executed on Him; everyone of the claims of justice was answered by Him; and now God is just and yet the justifier of everyone that believeth in Jesus. The debt-book is crossed, the handwriting that was against us is destroyed, and every foe is overcome. Do we think

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.  
Galatians 2:20*

of the law we have broken, of the justice we have provoked, of the hell we have deserved? Let us also think, Jesus gave Himself for me. He satisfied justice, fulfilled the law, and brought glory to God, in my nature, name, and stead; and God is infinitely more honoured by the life and death of my Substitute, than He could have been either by my obedience had I never sinned, or by punishing me for sin. This is our rejoicing, that God can be just in justifying us who believe in Jesus. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

*Oh! let my trembling soul be still,  
While darkness veils the sky;  
And wait thy wise, thy holy will,  
Wrapt yet in mystery:  
I cannot, Lord! thy purpose see,  
But all is well since ruled by thee.*

*Where there  
is neither  
Greek nor Jew,  
circumcision nor  
uncircumcision,  
Barbarian,  
Scythian, bond  
nor free: but  
Christ is all,  
and in all.  
Colossians 3:11*

**Y**ES—this is God's purpose, which cannot be frustrated, that Christ shall be all. He is all in our justification and sanctification, for we are justified and sanctified IN HIS NAME. He is all in our preservation and glorification, for we are kept by His power, and enter heaven through His merits. He should be all in our pursuits, pleasures, hopes, motives and aims. Many put their comforts in the place of Christ, and then God puts comfort out of their reach; others put their graces in the place of Christ, and then faith, hope,

and love, are concealed by a cloud. There must be nothing between God and us, but Jesus; we must look away from sin, from graces, and from works, and expect to be accepted, blessed, and honoured, only in the name and for the honour of Jesus. Christ is our conquering weapon, by which we overcome our foes; our plea, by which we prevail with God; our righteousness, by which we are justified; and our peace, which supports and comforts us in life and in death. Christ is all we want, or God can give. He is our sun and shield; our present joy and endless portion.

*Saviour! the knowledge of Thy love*

*Into my soul convey:*

*Thyself bestow! for Thee alone,*

*My all in all I pray.*

*I would be only, always thine,*

*And prove the power of love divine.*

---

**T**HIS is a complaint brought against us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us listen to it. He has assured us of His love, that He seeks our good, that He will not be wroth with us; we dishonour Him, therefore, by our fretfulness under trials and troubles; by our murmuring when all is not as we wish; by our impatience to be delivered from pain; by our unbelief in reference to His promises and providence; by our unthankfulness for the many mercies we receive; by employing His favours in Satan's service; by limiting His power or His goodness; by omitting duties from want of love, or zeal; by relying on our services instead of free grace; and by looking to others, instead of looking only and always to Him for all. Dishonouring Jesus must be a great sin; it produces deadness, darkness, and misery; let us realize its criminality, lament it before God, seek repentance for it, and forgiveness of it. Oh, let us aim to honour Jesus by gratitude, patience, faith, love, forbearance, penitence, zeal, and constantly aiming at His glory! To honour Him in life, death, and forever!

*Jesus answered,  
I have not a devil;  
but I honour my  
Father, and ye do  
dishonour me.*

*John 8:49*

*Lord, draw my heart from earth away,  
And make it only know Thy call;  
Speak to my inmost soul, and say,  
"I am thy Saviour, God, thine all!"  
Nor let me more dishonour Thee,  
But Thy devoted servant be.*

*But who am I,  
and what is my  
people, that we  
should be able to  
offer so willingly  
after this sort? for  
all things come of  
thee, and of thine  
own have we  
given thee.*

*1 Chronicles 29:14*

**E**VERY good gift and every perfect gift is from above; creatures apart from God are empty cisterns, dry wells, deceitful brooks. All good dwells in thy God, and flows from Him to thee. Every crumb is from Christ. What He gives freely, cost Him groans, sweat, and blood to procure for thee. View Him as the source of all good, and His atonement as the medium through which all flows to thee. He gives thee thy temporal mercies, and thy spiritual blessings; He gives thee also the ability to enjoy them, and employ them for His glory. He directs all events, whether pleasing or painful. "Be not angry with yourselves," said Joseph to his brethren; "it is not you but God." To Him, therefore, your mind should be directed, in prayer, dependence, and praise. Look above creatures and see the Lord's hand, as did Job, Eli, David, and Paul. Rest with unshaken confidence and filial resignation on His word, power, providence, and love; ever remembering that all things come of Him. The Lord will give us that which is good, and a blessing with it, if we are looking to, and walking with Him. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above—from Jesus.

*He sank beneath our heavy woes,  
To raise us to His throne;  
There's ne'er a gift His hand bestows,  
But cost His heart a groan.*

**J**ESUS once died in our stead; He now liveth at the right hand of God. He is the fountain of life. Because He lives, His people shall live also. He lives in heaven to see of the travail of His soul, in the regeneration, sanctification, preservation, and glorification of His beloved family. He lives to intercede for them, to sympathize with them, and to pour down blessings upon them. He lives to watch over them, to counsel and direct them, and to save them for evermore. He lives to execute the purposes of the Father, to manage all the concerns of His church, and to glorify us with Himself for evermore. Gracious Saviour! earthly friends may die, but Thou livest; temporal comforts may be lost, but we have still a place in Thy heart; Thou art our Friend before Thy Father's throne! May we ever remember, Jesus liveth who was dead; and He is alive for evermore, and has the keys of hell and of death. Oh to live for Him on earth, who lives for us in heaven! Oh, to live like Him, that as He is, so we may be in this world—representatives of God and holiness! Oh, to live by faith on Him, in sweet and holy fellowship with Him.

*I am he that  
liveth, and was  
dead; and,  
behold, I am alive  
for evermore,  
Amen; and have  
the keys of hell  
and of death.*

*Revelation 1:18*

*He lives—the great Redeemer lives!  
What joy the blest assurance gives!  
And now, before his Father-God,  
Pleads the full merits of his blood.*

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*1 John 2:15*

**WHAT** is the world? A shadow. A deception. The enemy of God. What can it do for us? It may enchant, but it will deceive. It may please for a time; but it will sting in the end. It is an enemy's country; we must pass through it, but we should not be too intimate with the inhabitants of it. It crucified our Saviour; it is in open rebellion against our God; it has allured, deceived, and injured many of our brethren; it is reserved unto fire at the judgment of the great day. We *shall* soon be called to leave it, we *may*

be called today; "For what is our life? It is even as a vapor, which appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away." Let us fix and spend our love upon a worthier object; let us turn our thoughts to heaven, to Jesus; and let us seek grace that we may daily and heartily say, "Whom have I in heaven but Thee, and there is none upon earth I desire beside Thee." Precious Saviour! engross our attention, fix our affections, and be always our ALL IN ALL! None but Jesus, none but Jesus, should be our motto everyday. He alone is worthy of our love; and He is worthy of it, for He died and lives to win it.

*Lord, from this world call off my love,  
Set my affections right;  
Bid me aspire to joys above,  
And walk no more by sight.*

---

*1*  
*March*

**S**WEET assurance! Surprising condescension. Does Jesus, by whom all things were made, fill this sweet relation? Is He my nearest and dearest relative? Yes—He loves thee more than any other. He is more closely united to thee, and more deeply interested in thee. He is the Bridegroom, thou art the bride; He has espoused thee to Himself, has made full provision for all thy present wants, and is gone to prepare thy everlasting habitation, where thou art to dwell with Him and enjoy His love. The

*For thy Maker is  
thine husband;  
the LORD of  
hosts is his  
name; and thy  
Redeemer the  
Holy One of  
Israel; The God  
of the whole earth  
shall he be called.  
Isaiah 54:5*

relation really subsists. He regards thee as His beloved bride, and He would have thee live daily in the recollection that He is thy Lord. O, love Him above all! Call upon Him with confidence. Look for Him with ardent longing. He will come to be glorified in His saints, and admired in all them that believe. Think not that He will ever forget the person, neglect the concerns, or turn a deaf ear to the requests of His beloved, blood-bought bride. His love is infinite, and the whole is set on thee; and will remain fixed on thee forever. He is in one mind, and none can turn Him. Having loved thee, He will love thee unto the end.

*Jesus, my Shepherd, Husband, Friend,  
My Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
Accept the praise I bring.*

## 2 March

---

*Submit yourselves  
therefore to God.  
Resist the devil,  
and he will flee  
from you.*

*James 4:7*

**E**VERY believer must expect to be visited by Satan; he is our adversary; he is always watching for an opportunity to injure us. He first tempts us to sin, and then accuses us of sinning. He misrepresents every subject. He endeavours to make the world appear lovely, sin trifling, death terrible; he generates hard thoughts of God, perverts His Holy Word and leads believers into bondage. His fiery darts are very terrible. Thoughts the most blasphemous, horrible, and unnatural, are often thrown into the mind by

him; and then he lays them to our charge, and distresses our souls on account of them. But we are called upon to resist him steadfast in the faith, believing what God is to us; what Christ has done for us; what He has promised to give us; and that God will bruise him under our feet shortly. The triumphing of this WICKED ONE is but short; for we shall overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of His testimony. Look to Jesus, call upon thy God, and oppose the blood and righteousness of Jesus to all his charges. He is mighty, but thy Jesus is ALMIGHTY. Take this shield of faith, and thou shalt quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

*Temptations everywhere annoy;  
And sins and snares my peace destroy;  
Lord, let Thy presence be my stay,  
And guard me in this dangerous way.*

---

3  
*March*

**W**E daily need grace to sustain us in troubles; to subdue our corruptions; to sanctify our tempers; to preserve us in temptation; to quicken our languid affections; to enlarge our experience; to render us useful to others; to enable us to endure to the end; and to meet death with confidence and joy. Our God is the God of all grace. Jesus is full of grace, and He giveth more grace. He has promised it. "He will give grace." He has invited us to come and receive it. "Come boldly to the throne of grace, that ye may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." His grace is sufficient for us; but without grace we are dull, lifeless, and sure to fall. Oh let us look to Jesus for grace to strengthen us, sanctify us, and make us useful! Let us never attempt anything in our own strength; but let us receive from the Lord, that we may live to the Lord; and ascribe all that we do that is good, to the grace of God which is with us. Grace is always free. It is free for us, for us this morning, and our God bids us come and receive. Come then boldly to the throne of grace, and you SHALL obtain mercy, and find grace to help you this day.

*Wherefore we  
receiving a  
kingdom which  
cannot be moved,  
let us have grace,  
whereby we  
may serve God  
acceptably  
with reverence  
and godly fear:*

*Hebrews 12:28*

*On me, my King, exert Thy power;  
Make old things pass away;  
Transform and draw my soul to Thee,  
Still nearer every day.*

4  
*March*

---

*As soon as Jesus  
heard the word  
that was spoken,  
he saith unto  
the ruler of the  
synagogue, Be  
not afraid, only  
believe.*

*Mark 5:36*

**T**HAT is, take God at His word. Give Him credit for meaning what He says, for being faithful to His own word; and then what will become of your fears? God speaks to you in language which you can understand; He promises all you can possibly need; He bids you put Him in remembrance, and plead with Him; and He pledges His character for the comfort of your heart. If you believe not, you make God a liar; you bring darkness on your own soul; you give Satan an occasion against you; and a thousand doubts,

fears, and suspicions distress you. Is it any wonder? Can you offer a greater insult to God than deliberately to disbelieve His word? But you ask, Are the promises made to me? Yes, to every one that believeth, and to you if you believe. And the Spirit is promised to work faith in your heart; complain not then of the difficulty of believing, or of the power of unbelief; but go to thy God, and plead with Him, crying, "Lord, increase my faith," and go to His word, as to the word of a gracious Father, and endeavour to believe it.

*Why, my soul! art thou perplexed?  
Why with faithless trouble vexed?  
Hope in God, whose saving name  
Thou shalt joyfully proclaim,  
When his countenance shall shine  
Through the clouds that darken thine.*

---

5  
*March*

**T**HE Lord's people are prone to fear because they do not realize their relation to God, their interest in the promises of God, and that they are always in the presence of God. How graciously our God forbids our slavish fears, and encourages confidence in Himself! Our slavish fears dishonour Him, our filial confidence glorifies Him. He loves to be trusted; He is grieved by our doubts and fears. We should fear nothing but sin; and if we fear sin, follow holiness and preserve a conscience void of offence toward

*Fear thou not; for  
I am with thee: be  
not dismayed;  
for I am thy God:  
I will strengthen  
thee; yea, I will  
help thee; yea,  
I will uphold  
thee with the  
right hand of my  
righteousness.  
Isaiah 41:10*

God and man; if we live upon His word, daily use the open fountain, and cultivate communion with our God, we will have no cause to fear. Beloved, leave all your distrust, and slavish fear, to the poor, godless worldling; but trust thou in the living God always, and everywhere. Hope in God; wait upon God; expect from God; follow hard after God; and all you want will be given, and all that would injure you will be frustrated. Be not afraid, only believe; Jesus is with thee and will preserve, bless, and keep thee; therefore, "FEAR THOU NOT."

*And art Thou with me, gracious Lord,  
To dissipate my fear?  
Dost Thou proclaim Thyself my God,  
My God, forever near?  
Then farewell, anxious, gloomy care,  
Since God forbids my soul to fear.*

6  
*March*

---

*That ye would  
walk worthy of  
God, who hath  
called you unto  
his kingdom  
and glory.*

*1 Thessalonians  
2:12*

**G**OD hath call us with a holy calling, to enjoy a holy Saviour, believe a holy Gospel, possess a holy nature, and walk in a holy way. All the provisions of free grace, all the promises of infinite love, and all the precepts of reigning holiness, unite to require us to be a holy people unto the Lord our God. We are to imitate the conduct of our God. He feeds His foes, loves His people, and always acts becoming His glorious character. Enemies will lie in wait to deceive you, errors will be broached to mislead

you; but beware, lest being led away by the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own steadfastness. Consider your character—children of God; your high privileges—united to Jesus, temples of the Holy Ghost, companions of saints and angels, the friends of God; your destination—to fill a throne of glory, wear a blood-bought crown, and reflect the praises of Jehovah forever. Walk worthy of God; suitable to your character, profession and destination. Walk with God; walk as Jesus walked; walk circumspectly; walk in love, walk honestly as in the day; so will you adorn your profession, and secure to yourself comfort and peace.

*Oh! for a closer walk with God,  
A calm and heavenly frame,  
A light to shine upon the road  
That leads me to the Lamb!*

**P**OOOR, fickle, backsliding Ephraim, is thus called by our infinitely gracious God. Adopted by grace into the heavenly family, taught by the Spirit and united to Jesus, God views us through Him; and having predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son, He views things which are but purposed as accomplished, and we are comely through the comeliness He has put upon us. His love to us is wonderful; He says, "He that toucheth you, toucheth the apple of His eye." He rejoices to do us good, and gives His angels charge over us. He will not suffer anyone really to hurt us; but, lest this should be the case, He will keep us night and day. Let us then abide in Jesus; let us cultivate communion with this gracious God; let us follow on to know the Lord; trust in Him at all times; wait upon Him continually; and rejoice in this delightful fact, God calls us "HIS DEAR SONS, HIS PLEASANT CHILDREN." He not only calls us so, but treats us as such; and addresses us as such in His holy word; Let us call Him our Father, and look to Him for all we need; so shall we honour Him, conquer Satan, and enjoy peace. Our Father is God: our God is our Father.

*Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD. Jeremiah 31:20*

*If I've the honour, Lord, to be  
One of Thy numerous family,  
On me the gracious gift bestow,  
To call Thee, ABBA, FATHER!*

8  
*March*

---

*But Jesus said  
unto them,  
They need not  
depart; give ye  
them to eat.*

*Matthew 14:16*

**H**OW many things occur to lead or drive us away from Jesus! But we need not depart from Him; He has everything we can possibly want, for body or soul, for time or eternity. He gives grace and glory, and no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. Having called us, and drawn us to Him, He wishes us to abide with Him; and if tempted to leave Him, to whom can we go? He will supply every want, sanctify every trial, enable us to overcome every difficulty, and make us happy in His

own love. The world will allure you, Satan will try to drive you, and inward depravity will prompt you to wander; but keep near to Jesus this day; think of Him, look to Him, call upon Him, converse with Him; make Him your Companion, Friend, and God. There is no real happiness, or solid peace, but in the presence and blessing of Jesus; and when He giveth quietness none can make trouble. If you wander, if you look to others, if you set your affection on anything below, you cannot justify your conduct, for you need not depart. He is all. He has all. He will give all. You have only to believe His word, and your wants shall be all supplied.

*Oh, let us ever walk in Him,  
And nothing know beside;  
Nothing desire, nor aught esteem,  
But Jesus crucified.*

**J**ESUS speaks to us in His word; He tells us all His mind; and the Father commands us to hear Him. He speaks to us on a variety of subjects; He instructs, exhorts, warns, directs, and comforts. He always speaks in love. Every word is intended to do us good. Let us then take up His word and say, "I will hear what God the Lord will speak." How much better this than to listen to Satan, unbelief, carnal reason, or men. Let us believe what He says, for He speaks truth; expect what He promises, for He intends to bestow; practise what He commands, for His ways are peace; and abstain from what He prohibits, for it is sure to be injurious. Hear Him, and plead His word in prayer. Hear Him, and oppose what He says, to fear, Satan, and appearances. Hear Him, and compare all doctrines with His word. Hear Jesus everyday, give Him your attention at least for a few minutes; you can hear nothing better than what He speaks; no one that has a greater claim upon your attention. Hearing Jesus with attention, prayer, and faith, will prevent a great number of real evils.

*While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*  
*Matthew 17:5*

*Jesus, my Prophet, heavenly Guide!  
Thy sweet instructions I will hear;  
The words that from Thy lips proceed,  
O how divinely sweet they are!  
Thee, my great Prophet, I would love,  
And imitate the blest above.*

10  
March

---

*Be not far from  
me; for trouble is  
near; for there is  
none to help.*

*Psalm 22:11*

**T**ROUBLE and the Christian are seldom far apart, or long apart; this may sound discouraging; but Jesus and the Christian are never apart. He will never leave us, and trouble is intended to prevent our leaving Him, or to bring us back if we have already wandered. The loving heart guides the hand which smites; and nothing is done by Him, or permitted, but that it may be overruled for our good. Trouble may be near, but the throne of grace also is near; His word of promise is near; and He is near who justifieth us. In trouble

God can glorify His grace, deepen His work in your heart, brighten your evidences, and fill you with joy and peace in believing; plead with Him to do so, let not trouble fill you with confusion, weaken your faith or drive you from Him; but listen to, and act upon His word. He says, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." "I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him." "Hath He said, and shall He not do it? He hath spoken, and shall He not make it good?" Every trouble is intended to endear Jesus to your heart.

*This land thro' which His pilgrims go,  
Is desolate and dry;  
But streams of grace from Him o'erflow,  
Their thirst to satisfy:  
Jesus has all His saint can want,  
And when they need He'll freely grant.*

---

## 11 March

**W**HAT surprising grace is this! For what are we? Poor, vile, depraved, unworthy sinners. So base by nature that we had not one redeeming quality, and even now, apart from the work of the Spirit, there is in us no good thing. But we were predestinated to the adoption of children; we were born again of the Spirit; and grace has put us among the children, for its own glorification. Beloved, now, while we feel so much corruption, while despised by the world, harassed by Satan, tormented

*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

*1 John 3:2*

with fears, **NOW** are we the sons of God. And will God neglect or disregard His beloved sons? No—let us then cherish the thought, believe the fact, and rejoice in the relationship. Let us walk and act as the sons of God, coming out from among the formal, the self-righteous, and the profane; and devoting ourselves entirely to the Lord's service and glory. Let us remember in trouble, in sickness, and in death itself, God is our Father, Jesus is our Brother, and heaven is our home. Let us approach God as children, and plead with Him as sons. He says to us, "Come near unto Me, My son, that I may bless thee."

*The God who reigns above, we call  
Our Father and our Friend;  
And, blessed thought! His children all  
Shall see Him in the end.*

## 12 March

---

*Beloved, now are  
we the sons of  
God, and it doth  
not yet appear  
what we shall be:  
but we know that,  
when he shall  
appear, we shall  
be like him; for  
we shall see him  
as he is.  
1 John 3:2*

**L**IKE whom? Like Jesus in His glorified humanity. As free from sin, as perfect in holiness, as completely happy. His likeness will appear in every Believer. What a contrast with the present! Now we appear to ourselves, at times, as like Satan as possible. Oh, the depth of depravity we discover, the powerful corruptions we feel, the fearful opposition to God we sometimes experience! But we shall be like Him. God has purposed it, the Gospel plainly reveals it, and the Holy Spirit is engaged to effect it. Every evil shall be purged out, every virtue shall be

produced and perfected, and we shall be pure as He is pure. Let us then look forward to, and anticipate that glorious period: let us consider the end of our election, redemption, and calling; and let us pray, pant, and strive to be holy. If holiness is our element, heaven will be our home, and unspeakable happiness our eternal portion. But we know not what we shall be, only that we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him.

*Oh! glorious hour! — Oh! blest abode!  
I shall be near, and like my God;  
And flesh and sin no more control  
The sacred pleasures of the soul.*

*My flesh shall slumber in the ground,  
Till the last trumpet's joyful sound:  
Then burst the chains, with sweet surprise,  
And in my Saviour's image rise.*

**A**ND what are the things which are above? Holiness—or conformity to Jesus, and entire devotedness to His service. Happiness—flowing from the manifestation of Jehovah’s glory, the presence of Jesus, and the soul’s delight in His will. Unity—saints above realize close, intimate, and indestructible union to Father, Son, and Spirit; they enjoy sweet and constant union with each other, and the holy angels; they have unity of design, work, and enjoyment. Seek those things which descend from above; as faith—which believes, trusts, and prefers God’s word; love—which has God for its Author, Christ for its principal object, and spiritual things for its chosen subjects: fellowship—with Father, Son, and Spirit, and all spiritual persons and subjects. In a word, all spiritual gifts, graces and operations. Seek them earnestly, principally, and constantly. Think much and often upon them. Highly value and esteem them. Constantly prefer them to earthly things. Labour to possess and enjoy them. God giveth liberally, and upbraideth not. You have not, because you ask not. Ask, and receive. Rejoice, and be happy. Your God bids you “REJOICE.”

*If ye then be  
risen with Christ,  
seek those things  
which are above,  
where Christ  
sitteth on the  
right hand  
of God.*

*Colossians 3:1*

*Rise, my soul, and stretch thy wings,  
Thy better portion trace;  
Rise from transitory things,  
Towards heaven, thy native place.*

14  
March

*LORD, what is  
man, that thou  
takest knowledge  
of him! or the son  
of man, that thou  
makest account  
of him!*

*Psalms 144:3*

---

**B**Y nature he is an enemy to God, in open rebellion against Him, and justly condemned by Him. He is in love with sin, a slave to lust, a servant of Satan. He is blind to his best interest, deaf to the calls of God, and dead in trespasses and sins. He is an open sepulchre, a mass of wretchedness and disease, abominable and filthy beyond description. And can such a creature be the object of Jehovah's love, the purchase of a Saviour's blood and the habitation of the Holy Spirit? Yes—as such, they were chosen to salvation—as

such, Jesus was sent into the world to redeem them—as such, the Holy Spirit came to quicken, cleanse, justify, and save them! O amazing grace! Astonishing mercy! And will God in very deed dwell with such creatures upon earth? Yes—"To this man will I look, and with him will I dwell, that is poor, and of a contrite spirit, and that trembleth at My word." Well may the patriarch exclaim, "What is man, that Thou shouldest magnify him? and that Thou shouldest set Thine heart upon him?"

*Oh, what is feeble, dying man,  
Or any of his race,  
That God should make it His concern  
To visit him with grace!  
That God, who darts His lightnings down,  
Who shakes the worlds above,  
And mountains tremble at His frown,  
How wondrous is His love!*

---

**A** CHRISTIAN wears the name, possesses the nature, breathes the spirit, lives the life, and devotes himself entirely to the glory of Jesus. All Christ has is his, all Christ has done was for him, and all Christ has promised he may expect. Are you a Christian? Is the matter doubtful? Does Jesus live in you? Are you living by faith upon Him? Is He your daily bread? Do you find that you could as well live without food, as without Jesus? This is a sure evidence. This is the certain effect of the Spirit's

*Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

*1 Peter 4:16*

work. If you are a Christian, you pant, pray, and strive to be Christ-like; to bear about in your body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in your mortal body. You put off the old man which is corrupt, and put on the new man which is created in righteousness and true holiness. You may live in newness of life, as one raised from the dead; exhibiting the effects of His death in deadness to the world, love to immortal souls, bearing testimony to the truth, and looking for, and hastening to, the coming of the day of God.

*Father, in me reveal Thy Son,  
And in my inmost soul make known  
How merciful Thou art:  
The secret of Thy love reveal,  
And by Thine hallowing Spirit dwell  
Forever in my heart!*

## 16 March

---

*How beautiful  
upon the mountains  
are the feet of  
him that bringeth  
good tidings, that  
publisheth peace;  
that bringeth good  
tidings of good,  
that publisheth  
salvation; that  
saith unto Zion,  
Thy God reigneth!  
Isaiah 52:7*

**J**ESUS has power over all flesh. He is upon the throne of the universe. He superintends all things. His will cannot be frustrated. His designs must be accomplished. Nothing is left to chance. His hand is in every event. He rules over the world by His power. He rules in the church by His word. He rules in the heart by His Spirit. He reigns to crush or convert thy foes; to secure thy well-being and His glory. Let this truth calm and compose thy mind at all times: "My God reigneth." He sitteth above the water-floods, He

remaineth a King forever. He is entitled to all honour. He is the proper object of thy fear, faith, and love. See Him on His throne, and rejoice; for it involves thy safety, happiness, and honour. Do men oppress? Does Satan annoy? Are things going cross? This is thy comfort: God reigneth. He directs and controls every being and every event. Gracious God! May I ever live believing that the reins of government are in Thy hands; that Thy counsel shall stand, and that Thou wilt do all Thy pleasure! My God, reign in me!

*His kingdom cannot fail;  
He rules o'er earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus given:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice,  
Rejoice aloud, ye saints, rejoice.*

**T**HE manifestation of God is in the person and work of Christ, and we are herefrom to learn what our God is, and what we may expect Him to do for us. What Jesus was to those about Him, such Jehovah is; what Jesus did and was willing to do, that our God is willing to do for us. In Jesus we see tender love, melting compassion, and gracious forbearance; mercy and power, rectitude and pity, holiness and long-suffering, justice and harmlessness, united. Such is our God. Fury is not in Him. Love is His name

*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*  
1 Timothy 3:16

and His nature. And can you slavishly fear such a God? Can you wilfully sin against and grieve such a Being? Cannot you believe His word, depend upon His veracity, rejoice in His name, and expect from Him every promised good? For this purpose His word was written, His name is published, and Jesus died. Always look at God in Christ; attempt not to learn God from nature. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." "I HAVE MANIFESTED THY NAME."

*Till God in human flesh I see,  
My thoughts no comfort find;  
The holy, just, and sacred THREE,  
Are terrors to my mind:  
But if IMMANUEL 's face appear,  
My soul surmounts each slavish fear.*

## 18 March

---

*But he answered  
her not a word.  
And his disciples  
came and  
besought him,  
saying, Send her  
away; for she  
crieth after us.*

*Matthew 15:23*

**D**ELAYS are not denials. Jesus delayed to answer, but He did not deny her request. He hath said, "Ask, and it shall be given you. Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you." Heaven and earth may pass away, but His word must stand forever. He delays the answer to try our faith, patience and perseverance; but when He sends the blessing He proves His faithfulness, pity and love. Be not discouraged though your prayers remain unanswered for a time; it will

not be always so. This poor woman had to wait, though her case was very trying, and her request very urgent; but at last Jesus commended her faith publicly, and dismissed her with, "Be it unto thee even as thou wilt." Prayer will prevail, if it is the prayer of faith. Pray on, then, and do not faint. Say as Jacob on the plains of Peniel, "I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me." Plead with Him; be importunate; wait His time; be willing to receive in His own way; be concerned that He should be glorified in giving to you, or doing for you; and you cannot fail. His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, upon them that fear Him.

*Then let us earnest cry,  
And never faint in prayer  
He sees, he hears, and, from on high,  
Will make our cause His care.*

**T**HAT is, in the favour of God in Christ. If He have a favour towards us, all will be well; but He has, and as a proof of His favour He gave Jesus for us, and to us; He sent the Holy Spirit to quicken, teach, and sanctify us. By believing we enter into the enjoyment of His favour; and enjoying His favour we learn to despise all that is opposed to it. Our spiritual life flowed from His favour; our happiness stands in the enjoyment of His favour; and heaven will be the full display and realization of His favour. To His favour we ascribe all our present comforts and future hopes. By the favour of God we are what we are. By His favour we are saved. This is the source of every good, the joy of every true believer's heart. Let us endeavour to ascertain beyond a doubt, that we are the favourites of God: let us prize His favour above thousands of gold and silver; and let our daily prayer be, "Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that Thou bearest unto Thy people: O, visit me with Thy salvation, that I may see the good of Thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of Thy nation, and glory with Thine inheritance. Amen, even so, Lord Jesus."

*For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*

*Psalms 30:5*

*Early, my God! without delay,  
I haste to seek thy face;  
My thirsty spirit faints away,  
Without thy cheering grace.*

20  
March

---

*Saying, The Lord  
is risen indeed,  
and hath  
appeared to  
Simon.*

*Luke 24:34*

**J**ESUS once died for our sins, and He rose for our justification. He lay in the grave as our Substitute, He rose as our Representative. He died that we may live. He lives, and we shall live through Him, and with Him forever. He is risen, having conquered death, reconciled us to God, perfumed the grave, and finished the work which the Father gave Him to do. As He arose, so shall we. As He is gone into heaven, thither should our thoughts, our hopes, and our affections ascend. Jesus is risen, to plead our cause;

manage our affairs; fulfill His precious promises; and to prepare for us mansions in our Father's house. Sin was atoned for by His death, heaven is secured by His life. He is our risen, ascended, and reigning BROTHER. He is our conquering and crowned CAPTAIN. Oh, let us think of, speak for, and devote ourselves to JESUS! He is above the world; let us live above its vanities, amusements, and trammels; let us look beyond death to that glorious resurrection, when we shall be raised from the dead, and possess bodies which shall be incorruptible, glorious, powerful, and spiritual.

*Jesus triumphs! sing His praise  
'Twas by death He overcame;  
Thus the Lord His glory raises;  
Thus He fills His foes with shame:  
Sing His praise!  
Praises to the Victor's name.*

**T**HERE is no rest for the Christian in the world. There will be always something to disturb, perplex or distress him; it is an enemy's land. But Jesus says, "I will give you rest." He does so by enabling us to rely on His word, recognise His hand, submit to His will, and trust in His perfect work. He assures us that our sins are forgiven us; that our persons are safe in His keeping; that His presence shall always be with us; and that all things shall work together for the best. We can rest on His faithfulness; He has been tried, and found faithful. We can rest on His love, for it knows not the shadow of a turn. We can rest on His power, it is ever engaged on our behalf. We can rest on His covenant, it is ordered in all things and sure. We can rest on His blood; it speaks peace, pardon, and acceptance with God. We can rest at His feet; there we are safe, and can never be injured. We cannot rest on our graces, on our comforts, on our friends, or on our possessions; but we may rest on Jesus—we should rest on Him with unshaken confidence and ardent love; for His promises are plain, His power is infinite, and His love passeth knowledge.

*Come unto me,  
all ye that labour  
and are heavy  
laden, and I will  
give you rest.*

*Matthew 11:28*

*God is thy rest;—with heart inclined  
To keep His word, that word believe,  
Christ is thy rest;—with lowly mind,  
His light and easy yoke receive.*

## 22 March

---

*Whereby are given  
unto us exceeding  
great and precious  
promises: that by  
these ye might  
be partakers of  
the divine nature,  
having escaped  
the corruption that  
is in the world  
through lust.  
2 Peter 1:4*

**T**HE promises of Scriptures are the promises of the great God; they are all of free grace; they are confirmed by the blood of Jesus; and are exceeding great and very precious. They are so plain that a child can understand them; and so great that no angel could fulfil them. There is such a variety that they meet every case; and such a fulness that they include every want. They are breasts of consolation for the poor, tried, and distressed believer; and are the strength and support of every child of God. They are our plea at the throne of grace, our confidence in the hour of trial, and our rejoicing in prospect of death. Beloved, God's promises are to be your daily comfort: it is for you to search them out, store them up, believe them, trust in them, plead them, and be assured of their fulfilment, because "He is faithful who promised." The promises are more precious than gold or silver; sweeter than honey or the honey-comb; more lasting than the earth; and more stable than the pillars of heaven. Let us think of them, plead them, and expect their fulfilment today; our God is a faithful God, keeping covenant and mercy unto a thousand generations.

*Praise to the goodness of the Lord,  
Who rules His people by His word;  
And there, as strong as His decrees,  
He sets His kindest promises.*

**T**HE disciples were in a storm, surrounded by danger, and filled with fear; they apply to Jesus—this was right. They doubt His care, question His love, and cry, “We perish.”—This was wrong. Jesus demands, “WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?” May He not put the same question to us? We have His word, but do we heartily believe it? We speak of His love, but do we confidently trust it? We read of His care, but do we see our safety in it? We often seem to believe anyone sooner than Jesus; to trust any word more than His word; and therefore we are cast down, fearful and distressed. Let us this day endeavour to fix our faith steadily upon His precious word; let us believe in His particular providence; let us commune with Him as our firm and faithful Friend. He says, “Let not your hearts be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me.” He is worthy of credit. He cannot deceive. He deserves our confidence. He will not neglect. He encourages our hope, and promises, “If ye ask anything of the Father in My name, I will do it.” Do you believe this? Do you believe it when you pray?

*And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.  
Luke 8:25*

*Oh, how wavering is my mind,  
Toss'd about with every wind!  
Oh, how quickly doth my heart  
From the living God depart!  
O my God, thy grace impart,  
To fix and bind my wandering heart.*

24  
March

---

*And he said  
unto her,  
Thy sins are  
forgiven.*

*Luke 7:48*

**W**HOSE sins? Thine, if thou believest in Jesus. For to Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name WHOSOEVER believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God pardons, for Christ's sake, every one who believeth, confesseth and forsaketh sin. He thus proves Himself ready to forgive, plenteous in mercy, and full of compassion to all who call upon Him. He never refuses to

pardon, nor manifests the least reluctance. Nor ought we to doubt for one moment upon the subject, seeing His word is so plain; His grace is so great; His mercy is so free; and His faithfulness so clearly proved. What then do we want? Only faith to believe God's word, that we, being believers in Jesus, having confessed sin at His throne, and prayed for pardon in Christ's name, are forgiven all our trespasses. And this is needful, for we can never mortify sin, live above the world, rejoice in God, and honour the Gospel, but as we believe these sweet words of Jesus, "THY SINS ARE FORGIVEN THEE."

*How high a privilege 'tis to know  
Our sins are all forgiven!  
To bear about this pledge below,  
This special grant of heaven!  
O Lord, this privilege bestow  
To cheer ME while I dwell below.*

*He said,  
Bring them  
hither to me.*

*Matthew 14:18*

**O**UR compassionate Lord was surrounded by a starving, fainting multitude; His disciples had only five small coarse loaves, and two little fishes, and yet He had bidden them to feed the company. The commands of Jesus are often intended to try our faith, and bring us as children to His feet. He says, "Bring them to Me." Things are not what they appear, but what Jesus makes them. His blessing produces a wonderful change. He bids you bring everything to Him. Have you a family? He says, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not." Have you trials? Take them to Him; His blessing sweetens and lessens trials. Are you in poverty? Carry your poverty to Him; He can increase your little and bless it with a peculiar flavour. Whatever troubles you this day, or any day, think that you hear Jesus saying, "Bring it hither to Me." Carry all things to Him, small things as well as great ones; it is only by so doing, that you can surmount trials; conquer foes; glory in tribulation; and joy in God.

*The privilege I greatly prize,  
Of casting all my cares on Him,  
The mighty God, the only wise,  
Who reigns in heaven and earth supreme.  
How sweet to be allowed to call  
The God whom heaven adores my Friend;  
To tell my thoughts, to tell Him all;  
And then to know my prayers ascend.*

## 26 March

---

*He giveth power  
to the faint; and  
to them that  
have no might  
he increaseth  
strength.*

*Isaiah 40:29*

**T**HE Lord's people often feel faint, being burdened with a body of sin and death, pursued and assaulted by Satan, tried and hindered by the world; but though faint they continue to pursue. Waiting on the Lord they renew their strength. The Lord has said, "I will strengthen thee." Brother, remember the promise and faithfulness of thy God; yield not to fear, or you will surely faint. Believe because God is true. David says, "I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Power

is given in answer to prayer. Strength is proportioned to the day. The back is fitted for the burden. Our God will not lay upon us more than He will enable us to bear. He strengthens by His word, by His Spirit, and by His presence; expect Him to be and to do according to His word; this will honour Him, and He will strengthen you with might by His Spirit in the inner man. Go forth, however weak you may feel, assured that God will give you strength and courage; strength to do and suffer His will, and courage to face, fight and overcome every foe.

*Whence do our mournful thoughts arise?*

*And where's our courage fled?*

*Have restless sin, and raging hell.*

*Struck all our comforts dead?*

*Chase, chase thy gloomy fears away,*

*Strength shall be equal to thy day.*

**T**HESSE are the words of Jesus. He addresses them to us this morning. They suppose want, and inability to supply ourselves. They intimate that provision is made and may be obtained. They invite us to ask with confidence, assuring us we shall receive. Jesus has a boundless fulness of blessings, and a loving tender heart to bestow them. He will supply all our needs. Let not want, then, lead you to despond, but look to Jesus; He has, He gives. He tells you to ask and receive. Can any terms be more easy, more suitable, more encouraging than these? But ask in faith, believing because Jesus has promised; ask with earnestness, as though you valued the blessings; ask with importunity; go again and again, until you obtain them. Go to Jesus for all you want; make everything a matter of prayer; in everything, by prayer and supplications, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Doubt not, for His word is plain; He is full of compassion; He waits to be gracious; and He has thousands of witnesses to attest His faithfulness, veracity, and love. Look to the generations of old. Did any ever seek the Lord in vain? No: every one that asketh receiveth.

*Hitherto have  
ye asked nothing  
in my name:  
ask, and ye shall  
receive, that your  
joy may be full.*

*John 16:24*

*My soul, ask what thou wilt;  
Thou canst not be too bold;  
Since His own blood for thee He spilt,  
What else can He withhold?*

28  
March

---

*One shall say, I  
am the LORD'S;  
and another shall  
call himself by the  
name of Jacob;  
and another shall  
subscribe with  
his hand unto  
the LORD, and  
surname himself by  
the name of Israel.  
Isaiah 44:5*

**N**OT only because He has chosen me from others, in Jesus His beloved Son; nor merely because I am redeemed from among men, by the precious blood of Immanuel; but also because I have surrendered myself up into the Lord's hand, with all I have and am, to be taught by His Spirit, ruled by His word, supplied by His providence, and devoted to His praise. The Lord claimed me, and I was enabled to acknowledge the claim; He has a right to me, and that right should never be forgotten by me. Am

I tempted to sin? To murmur? To despond? Let this be my preservative, "I AM THE LORD'S." How base, ungrateful, and wicked for ME to yield to sin; for me to complain of any of His dispensations; or for me to doubt His goodness or His grace. I am the Lord's, for life; I shall be the Lord's in death; and then (O delightful thought!) I shall be the Lord's for evermore. He will guide me by His counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory. I have only to aim at His glory, walk by His word, and live at His throne, until He takes me to Himself. My only business on earth is to please God, and my heaven will be to enjoy Him forever.

*Jesus, Thy boundless love to me,  
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;  
Oh, knit my thankful heart to Thee,  
And reign without a rival there!*

---

**N**EVER trust him, for his heart is deceitful; never expect from him, for he is an empty cistern; never follow him, for he is a false guide. Cursed be the man who trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. Trust ye not in a friend. One object of trust is enough: He has all you want, and has offered to give whenever you ask. He never did deceive, He never can. It is impossible for God to lie. Looking to man, dishonours His fulness; trusting in man, is pouring contempt on His word; expecting from man, is overlooking His agency. If you neglect this loving direction, expect to suffer; if you walk by it, your peace will be like a river, and your soul like a well-watered garden. He knows what is in man, you do not. He cautions you, because He loves you. He would save you from disappointment, sorrow, and woe. Come then to the conclusion of the prophet, "Therefore will I look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me."

*Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?*

*Isaiah 2:22*

*Happy they who trust in Jesus!  
Sweet their portion is, and sure:  
When destruction others seizes,  
God will keep His own secure:  
Happy people!  
Happy, though despised and poor.*

30  
March

---

*Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.*

*Deuteronomy 33:3*

**A**ND what were the people whom He loved? Poor, oppressed, rebellious, stiff-necked, hard-hearted, unworthy creatures. Just such are His people by nature now. Such are we. Yet He loves us; pities us; and distinguishes us from others around us. He spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all; and with Him He will freely give us all things. Though He has not yet all His people with Him, yet He has Jesus sitting at His right hand, who is their Representative; the express image and

exact likeness of His elect. All the rays of His love centre in Him, who is the Head of His body the Church. All the streams of delight empty themselves into Him, and through Him flow down to every believer on earth. As He loveth Christ, so He loveth us; while He loveth Jesus, He will love us; for Christ and we are one. What is done to us, is done to Him; and what is done to, or bestowed upon Him, as man and Mediator, is done to and bestowed upon us. Oh, glorious mystery of infinite and eternal love! Oh, direct my heart into this love of God!

*O love of unexampled kind!  
That leaves all thought so far behind;  
Where length, and breadth, and depth, and height,  
Are lost to my astonished sight:  
Lord, shed abroad that love of Thine  
In this poor sinful heart of mine.*

---

31  
*March*

**S**IN is the parent of trouble; all sorrow originated in departing from God. It is generally occasioned by transgression, or sent as a preventive to a greater evil; it may be occasioned by good, for saints are sometimes persecuted for righteousness' sake. It is intended to correct, improve, and to bring us near to God. Whatever may be our trouble, if we are the Lord's, He is with us; and with us for the most gracious purposes. He fixes the period of our troubles, nor can they continue longer than He sees needful.

He regulates the heat of the furnace, nor will He suffer us to be tried more than we are able to bear. He sanctifies our troubles, and causes them to work our good. He delivers out of trouble, when the purposes of His love are accomplished. In every trouble remember, God is now especially present. He is with you to hear your prayer, increase your strength, direct your way, and make you a conqueror. His grace is sufficient; His presence is sure; your deliverance in His time and way is certain. Therefore, "wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

*He shall call  
upon me, and I  
will answer him:  
I will be with  
him in trouble;  
I will deliver him,  
and honour him.*

*Psalm 91:15*

*He that hath made his refuge God,  
Shall find a most secure abode;  
Shall walk all day beneath His shade,  
And there at night shall rest his head.*

## Scripture Memory Programme 2015 Wonderful Words of Life!

*Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of life!  
Let me more of their beauty see, Wonderful words of life!  
Words of life and beauty, Teach me faith and duty!  
Beautiful words! Wonderful words! Wonderful words of life!  
- Philip P. Bliss -*

The Word of God is filled with words of truth, assurance and comfort. The 28 passages of Scripture found in this booklet are carefully selected to lead sinners to eternal life through Christ, and saints to experience abundant life in Christ. May the Lord bless and enrich your life with His wonderful words of Life as you memorise and meditate on them!

\* \* \*

### **January 4 & 11 – Only One Way**

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

### **January 18 & 25 – Man's Sinfulness**

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

### **February 1 & 8 – Man's Sinfulness**

Romans 3:10 - As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.

### **February 15 & 22 – God’s Salvation**

Romans 5:8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

### **March 1 & 8 – God’s Protection**

Nahum 1:7 - The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

### **March 15 & 22 – Courage for Living**

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

### **March 29 – Strength for Living**

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

### **April 5 & 12 – Christ Gives Life**

John 11:25 - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

### **April 19 & 26 – Christ Gives Rest**

Matthew 11:28 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

### **May 3 & 10 – God Sustains**

Isaiah 46:4 - And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

### **May 17 & 24 – God Empowers**

Isaiah 40:29 - He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

### **May 31 – Salvation by Grace Alone**

Ephesians 2:8,9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

### **June 7 & 14 – Shining as Lights**

Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

### **June 21 & 28 – God’s Benevolence**

John 6:37 - All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

### **July 5 & 12 – God Heals**

Jeremiah 17:14 - Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

### **July 19 & 26 – A Ready Answer**

1 Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

### **August 2 & 9 – Reconciliation**

Romans 5:10 - For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

### **August 16 & 23 – Confessing Christ**

Luke 12:8 - Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.

### **August 30 – God’s Love**

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### **September 6 & 13 – Eternal Life**

1 John 5:11,12 - And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

### **September 20 & 27 – God’s Security**

2 Timothy 1:12 - For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: 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.

### **October 4 & 11 – God’s Help**

Isaiah 41:13 - For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

### **October 18 & 25 – Perseverance**

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).

### **November 1 & 8 – Confessing Christ**

1 John 4:15 - Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

### **November 15 & 22 – God Gives the Increase**

1 Corinthians 3:7 - So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

### **November 29 – Discipleship**

Matthew 28:19,20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

### **December 6 & 13 – Abounding Comfort**

2 Corinthians 1:5 - For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

### **December 20 & 27 – Rejoicing in God**

Habakkuk 3:18 - Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.



