

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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EDITORIAL

WHY WE SHOULD PRAISE GOD IN TIMES LIKE THESE

Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases:

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalms 103:1-5.

A few years ago when we were having a time of financial prosperity, we used to often hear men say, "ingratitude is the sin of this age." They meant that men generally were not thankful to God as they should be for temporal prosperity. And this was of course all true, and I presume that many folk feel that in this time of adversity or so-called depression, there is not much to be thankful for. Well in reading the foregoing exhortation by the psalm writer we notice he is not speaking of temporal blessings; but spiritual benefits. Notice also he is calling on his soul to bless God. Whatever blessings of a material nature he was enjoying at that time, or whatever he believed about God's provisions to heal his physical body we are not prepared to say; but one thing is certain the writer is not praising God for physical healing here as some suppose who often quote this scripture to try to prove that God will heal all who call upon him in faith, of all manner of sickness; but he is speaking of soul healing or salvation from sin. The fact is that men who possess much of this world's goods and also enjoy good physical health seldom if ever offer praise to God for these good gifts unless they are enjoying soul health or salvation also. And again men who enjoy good soul health or spiritual blessings will praise God and offer thanks to him even though they are almost destitute of material things. Which reminds us of the truth of our Lord's words recorded in Luke 12:15, where he said "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." The apostle Paul also has admonished us to offer the sacrifices of praise to God continually, for saith he, "with such sacrifices God is well pleased." And again, whoso offereth praise glorifieth God. The prophet Habakkuk also found that he had much to be joyful about and to praise God for, even in times of extreme adversity. Read his words. Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the

fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herds in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

So the Psalmist mentions several benefits in the foregoing psalm for which the people of God ought to praise him. First, for forgiving all our iniquities, second, for healing all our soul diseases. John says if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Notice these scriptures teach the twofold nature of sin. Sin as an act which needs forgiveness and sin as a principle or a disease which is the cause back of the act of sin, or wrong-doings in our lives. This principle of sin, the apostle Paul calls the carnal mind, our old man, the body of sin, the sin that dwelleth in me. And while the scriptures teach that there is forgiveness for all our acts of sin; they also teach that the principle or disease of sin must be cleansed, destroyed, crucified, taken away or as in this psalm healed. For this benefit also which Mr. Wesley called the "Second Blessing" David calls on his soul to bless or praise the Lord. Note again he calls on his soul to bless God for preservation. "Who redeemeth thy life from destruction." The apostle also declares, I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Jude also writes. "Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling". So we may be grateful that in times of adversity our soul's keeping is in his hands.

And one more benefit among the many which space would not permit us to mention that the godly have to be thankful for is, "He satisfieth thy mouth with good things". In this day when there are so many unsatisfied souls, notwithstanding the masses are running hither and yon, seeking satisfaction and not finding it, thank God he satisfies the souls of his people with his presence. For the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost whom Jesus promised to send to those who loved him, and kept his commandments, to abide with us forever, has come, and his presence guarantees also perennial youth to the soul, for saith the psalmist, "Thy youth is renewed like the eagles." For all these things let us continue to praise God.

MARTYRS AND WEAKLINGS

We have the records of the prophets and saints of old who were persecuted for righteousness' sake. Paul tells of some who "had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover, of bonds and imprisonments. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented."

Also, we have the accounts of the heroes of the inquisition and the reformation days, and we know that even in our own times some who would follow this way in India, and Russia, and Germany must endure awful persecutions, often death itself.

But our lots have been cast in more "pleasant places." We can serve our Lord and have liberty, good food, home life and friends. By all this some people seem to get soft and flabby in their spiritual and moral beings. Do they have so much of comfort and so many favors with religion? Very well; why should they not have everything? Why should religion cost them anything at all?

So in one form or another the modern "Christian" in our civilization announces, "I purpose to float to heaven on 'flowery beds of ease.' I purpose to have no inconveniences for

Jesus' sake. I am going to suffer no misunderstandings for Him. I do not purpose to 'deny myself' but to gratify myself. I do not plan to take up my cross and follow Him. I am going in an easy way."

Is there something about the protected atmosphere of our vilivization which vitiates all our moral energy, that subtracts every ounce of iron from our blood?

We profess to be going in the way the saints and martyrs went, and to be followers of Him who died for us. In the millions of drops of blood in a modern Christian is there no drop of martyr blood?

There is some martyr blood remaining. But most who are passing for Christians are standard-lowering, self-pitying and self-serving men and women. With so many of this type no wonder our religion is in rather ill-repute. Most will continue in this way, following the lines of least resistance. But some, even in easy, vigor-sapping times will arise and live for Him for whom many have died.—Free Methodist.

WE SOON SHALL BEHOLD THEE!

The outlook is dark, but the uplook is bright;
The world's waxing evil, but Heaven's in sight;

The signs all proclaim that our Lord soon will come

To make up His jewels and carry them home!

The outlook is dark, but the uplook is bright;
The world's a turmoil, but Heaven's in sight;
The stormclouds may lower and Satan may roar,

But Jesus is coming, He's now at the door!

The outlook is dark, but the uplook is grand,
In nothing be anxious, the Lord is at hand,
The signs of His advent are many and sure;
Yes, Jesus is coming, He's now at the door!

Some beautiful morning the trumpet will sound

And Jesus descending, will call from the ground,

The saints who are sleeping, we with them shall rise;

What a wonderful meeting there'll be in the skies!

O blessed Redeemer, we hail with delight,
Thy glorious advent, Thy coming in light;
Thou art our sweet portion, our joy and our song,

We soon shall behold Thee, it cannot be long!

But, oh, there are millions who've never been told

Of Jesus the Saviour; they're out in the cold;
Then haste with the message, and help them prepare

For this wonderful meeting with Christ in the air!
—The Sky Pilot

"Let me grow lovely, growing old;

The many fine things too.

Laces and Ivory and Gold and Silks,
Need not be new.

And there is healing in old trees,
Old streets, and glamour old;

Why may not I, as well as these,

Grow lovely, growing old?"

If there is aught surpassing human deed or word or thought it is a mother's love!—De Spadaro.