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## A BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY SONG

GROWING YOUNG IN SPITE OF YEARS

The moments have flown and the years have gone,

And praise the Lord, I've been carried on To the favored place I hold today, And our final rest not far away.

How swift the flight of the passing years!
Some freighted with joy and some with tears.
"We spend our years as a tale that's told."
We confess the verdict; we're growing old.

What if hair be there and what's left be grey!
Time's subtle working has had its way.
Why hide our age by a carnal act!
Time writes no wrinkle upon my heart.

My heart is glad and my spirit's free.

I cry to all, "grow old with me!"

The Good and the Better are in the past;

All glory to God: The Best comes last.

The coffin and grave lie just ahead, And soon I shall lie in that lonely bed. My body there and my spirit with God. So I have no fear of the opening sod.

"To live is Christ!" To die will be gain!
Safe sheltered I'll be from storm and rain,
With love for holiness, God and truth,
We a foretaste have of Eternal Youth.

So I'll tune my harp to heaven's own song; It may be soon—it can't be long, When I my burdens will all lay down, In hope of a mansion, a robe and crown.

W. E. S.

The testimony of a near octogenarian.

## EVADING THE CROSS

By The Editor

If so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. Rom. 8:17.

In the preceding verses of this chapter, the Apostle Paul is putting great emphasis upon spiritual things; he says "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His." Again, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." and also, "The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God."

The Apostle also claims the greatest honour for the children of God, that it is possible for mortal man to receive: He says if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Who of us would not think he was greatly favored if we could be

an heir to some wealthy man's millions? Or who would not feel honored if we were an heir to the British crown? But, here God confers an honor on us which far exceeds any honor this world has to offer, or can bestow, for as the poet sang, "Thrones and their scepters all shall perish, Crowns and their splendor shall fall." And the inspired writer says, they that be wise, (The children of God) shall shine as the brightness of the firmament—and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever.

That surely is a marvelous inheritance which God promises to his children, but, notice please, one condition, mentioned in our text which is very essential, if we would enjoy the honor of being a joint heir with Christ, and of being glorified together. That is, "If we suffer with Him. And that is what we don't like, human nature shrinks from suffering, and evades it. That is why medical schools are turning out thousands of doctors every year, and drug stores are taking in their millions, human beings are suffering and we don't enjoy it.

Without trying to philosophize on the cause of suffering, perhaps it sufficeth to say that all suffering is directly or indirectly the result of sin. Many Godly people suffer physically, not because of their own sin perhaps, but because Adam broke God's law, sinned and fell, and the whole race of man suffers as a result, in this present world. And if it had not been for the mercy of God, who had pity on us, and provided a great Saviour, Jesus Christ, mankind would have suffered eternally.

But now since our substitute, Jesus has suffered for us we through simple faith in Jesus, and in obedience to Him, may cut our suffering short, confine it to this present life alone, by getting saved from our sins, and becoming children of God, and having the earnest of our inheritance of great joy in the life to come.

But while we live here we must suffer with Him. He suffered for us saith the apostle, leaving us an example that we should follow in His steps. I Peter 2:21. The children of God will suffer, but not as the sinner suffers. The unsaved suffer because of guilt and punishment for their own sins. The Christian suffers because of the sins of others. The Apostle said all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. II Tim. 3:12.

This goopel age was ushered in by great suffering on the part of Jesus, and His followers. The Cross of Jesus is the symbol of suffering. The tendency now in the religious realm seems to be to evade the Cross, there does not seem to be much of a sacrificial spirit in the churches. We know a few folks who still sacrifice, and do without things that

would make them more comfortable, for the sake of having more money to give to the support of the gospel. God bless them, they are probably doing all they can.

When I read of the awful suffering that many thousands of people are going through in other lands—Africa, India, and China, where they starve, and die, for want of food, not to mention the sufferings because of the lack of the gospel, and missionaries, I get under conviction sometimes, and I wonder if I am doing all I can to send the gospel to those who have not heard it, and also to relieve the suffering of the poor and needy and to feed the hungry and starving.

Not many preachers these days seem to be practicing much self denial. Most of them have nice comfortable, modernly equipped parsonages free of rent; a good salary that provides for all their needs and also for many luxuries, and several weeks vacation, we sometimes wonder what they do with the command of Jesus. "If any man will come after me let him deny himself, take up his Cross and follow me." If we suffer we shall also reign with Him. 2 Tim. 2:12.

I know that people say, the cost of living is high these days, but wages are also correspondingly high, so much so that people have luxuries these days that were not known a generation or two ago. People of this generation are not working like their parents did 50 years ago, labor-saving machines are making work much lighter on the farms and in lumbering, and factories. But with all the modern machinery to make work easier, there is not nearly as much land cultivated now as there was 50 years ago, in the province of New Brunswick. Much of the land that our fathers cleared and farmed is grown up to woods again.

This is an easy going, pleasure loving, luxury seeking age we are living in, because of that fact it will not produce the strong, sturdy, virile, hard working type of people like the pioneer settlers of this country were. And if this writer is not greatly mistaken, this same soft, supine, easy going, self indulging spirit has crept into religious circles also, and tends to produce shallowness in Christian experience, that evades anything like suffering or sacrifice for Jesus' sake.

Hard work, self denial and sacrifice helps to build strong Christian character, the kind that are not waiting and looking for an easy place, but will go out if God has called them, and pioneer new fields for Jesus' sake, and be willing to suffer with Him if need be.

We read of a man who watched a moth while in its chrysalis stage in its cocoon. He said when it was fully grown and began to try

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