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An Inexhaustible Supply

By C. Warren Jones

On a visit to the island of Trinidad we drove to what is known as Pitch Lake. Here is one of the wonders of the world. On reaching the lake we found what resembles an extinct volcano with a radius of one-half mile.

This crater area is filled with asphalt, which is hard enough that our party of seven walked to the centre, where two crews of men were digging and loading trolley cars. Occasionally we found places where gas was escaping, causing bubbles on the surface.

The men were digging the asphalt with sharp picks. It would break into good-sized chunks weighing from fifty to one hundred pounds. They loaded the cars, eight and ten in a train. These cars, attached to a cable, were pulled to the refinery, built on the edge of the crater.

In removing the asphalt they did not go more than five or six feet deep. They told us that within seventy-two hours the hole would be filled up to the lake level, with no sign that any had been removed. They further told us that they had been digging and shipping this asphalt to all parts of the world for the past sixty-three years. There is just as much asphalt in Pitch Lake as there was sixty-three years ago. Though many thousands of shiploads have gone into the highways of the earth, the supply is not diminished.

A few years ago in the centre of the lake they drilled a hole two hundred and eighty feet deep. All the way down they found nothing but black asphalt. At that depth there was so much pressure on the drill bit that the project had to be abandoned. An inexhaustible supply of asphalt!

When we looked upon this bit of God's creation, we said that this is the same as with God's grace. The God of all grace has an inexhaustible supply. All the Christians in all the world can have grace in abundance—all that they can use—and yet the supply is never diminished.

For this reason we are interested in getting the Gospel to all men. The Lord has never been a party to race prejudice. He died that all men might be saved. "Whosoever will may come." The rivers of earth may fail, but the river of salvation flows through all lands and will never fail.—Other Sheep.

"There must be a conscience void of offence toward God and men always. It is amazing how little we Christians think of the intense importance of keeping things clear between us and other children of God."

"GLORIFY YE THE LORD IN THE FIRES"

By Oliver G. Wilson

A purified soul glorifies God. The fires of affliction, of temptation, of sore suffering tend to consume the dross and make the life more transparent.

That God would permit His people to pass through the fires may seem strange to the natural man who is accustomed to thinking that favorites are entitled to every indulgence, but this is not the method of developing sainthood. God permits His choice saints to be placed in the fires of satanic brewing, not for punishment, not to show His authority, but that He might develop in them gold of character and gems of eternal value.

Very often you will find those who are very dear to God in a state of want, affliction, of suffering. Satan and worldly minded men affirm that it does not pay to be righteous, that God is a harder master and His service offers but very poor pay. For a soul to give over and give way to such reasoning is to trade gold for tin, and a throne for slave pens.

When affliction cruel and crippling comes to us, we glorify God in the fire by affirming that it was not an accident but by His appointment or permission. We will therefore "trust and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song" (Isa. 12:2). His wisdom regulates His correction. He never errs as to the time, the place, the kind or the instrument of the affliction.

Job has some wonderful lessons for us who may be in the fire. "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot behold him . . . But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held his steps, his way have I kept . . . Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips."—Job 23:8-12.

Remember God has promised: "When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned" (Isa. 43:2). Do not overlook the phrase "walkest through"; you are not always to be in the fire. You are but walking through. And He will be with you in the fire. He not only regulates the temperature of the fire, but He surrounds you with a robe of celestial glory, fireproof and indestructible by any or all the fires hell ever kindled.

Glorify the Lord in the fire by a perfect trust, by an utter yieldness, by a settled purpose to learn the lesson which He in love is endeavoring to teach.—Wesleyan Methodist.

Reckoning on Christ

By F. B. Meyer

Years ago, in the home of my friend Canon Wilberforce, I met a number of earnest men, clergymen and others, and we spent a whole day of fellowship with God.

It was an autumn evening and lights were asked for, but it was urged by those present that they would like to converse in the gloaming. It is easier to talk about the deep things of God when the shadows of twilight are in the room. After one or two had given their experiences, a venerable clergyman from the South of London said: "You have been talking much about giving up for Christ, about surrender to Christ; but my life has been an in-taking from Christ."

Canon Wilberforce asked him to explain what he meant. He said: "Some time ago on a summer afternoon I was dealing with a number of children in our Sunday School, who longed to be outside in the lovely air with the butterflies and the flowers. And I found myself becoming very restive under their inattention. Suddenly I saw the Saviour standing above me, so placid, so sweet, so lovely, that I looked up into His face and said: 'Thy patience, Lord.' Instantly there fell upon my heart His own patience: and I could have stood twice as many children, with twice as much noise, because of that infinite intake."

"Ever since then, instead of praying against things, I have always dared to believe that God put me into difficult situations to reveal things in Christ which I was to claim. Thus Jesus Christ becomes the Complement or Complement of a circle. Whatever has been my need, I have taken it as an opportunity of claiming the opposite from Jesus Christ. In a moment of irritation, 'Thy sweetness, Lord.' In moments of weakness, 'Thy strength, Lord.' Always considering that one's need is always God's opportunity of supply."

I remember very well going down to the breakfast room next morning. I was down first. Wilberforce came in and he said: "What did you make of that last night, Meyer?" I replied, "It is going to mean a revolution to me." "To me, too," he answered. I do not think we ever met after that without going back to that episode.

Thus, by faith we not only pray to our Lord, but we reckon upon Him. One of the deepest secrets in the Christian life is not to go through life praying for this and that and the other, but to offer a distinct prayer based upon a promise, and then to claim and reckon upon Him.—Sunday School Times.