

We Are God's People

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
And strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return
The gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care,
And live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family,
Diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God,
And so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own
Each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire.

From Johannes Brahms, Symphony No. 1

Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976

Arr. By Fred Bock Fred Bock Music Co.

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CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in the Book of Hebrews

The Life of Faith-Rooted in God's Promises,

Running to the New Jerusalem

Week of October 14, 2007

Christ is the founder of our salvation. It is Christ who reconciled us to God setting us apart for His work. It is Christ who continues to sanctify us through His holy word. We are the blessed recipients of a heavenly union with Christ, a relationship which also brings us into a marvelous union with every other believer. Christ is the captain of our soul, mindful of every aspect of our life. Christ is the great high priest, who through his humanity, is able to sympathize with our every weakness. He was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Sunday 10/14

Read: The human nature of Christ was just as real as our human nature. He had human experiences just as we do. Physical, he was hungry and fatigued, emotionally, he experienced pain such as sorrow. These were real experiences similar to what we encounter in our lives.

Application: There is commonality between our human experiences and those of Christ. The big exception is the sinlessness of Christ. It is this sinlessness that establishes His lordship. In our weakness we can turn to Him, since in every aspect of human nature he has gone before us.

Pray: For a comprehension that the sinless human nature of Christ will compel you to turn to him in all situations.

Monday 10/15

Read: The concept of Christ's sinlessness is mind boggling. We sense the multitude of temptations that assault us every day. We are equally aware of how often we are overcome by these temptations. Every day we succumb to the enticements that confront us.

Application: When we consider that we commit sin through our thoughts, our words and our deeds, it is indeed awesome that we have a great high priest whose humanity is untainted by sin. Christ "**in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin**" (**Hebrews 4:15**). The captain of your soul never disobeyed God. He loved the Father with all His heart, and with all His soul, and with all His strength.

Pray: That your love for God would spur you to resist the temptations that appear before you.

Tuesday 10/16

Read: **Hebrews 2:10-11** describes Christ as the "**author of their** (our) **salvation**", and as the one who "**makes men holy**". These two truths are liberating concepts. God sent Christ to atone for the sins of man, **and**, to make us holy. On the basis of our salvation we are freed from the penalty of our sins against God. On the basis of the holiness of Christ we are enabled to become holy.

Application: Despite our transgression of the law of God, that law is no longer a threat to us. Through Christ, the law of God has become a light unto our lives. Instead of condemning us, it leads us into an increasingly holy relationship with God. We can confidently approach God to confess our sins, and He promises to "**purify us from all unrighteousness**" (**I John 1:9**).

Pray: For a liberated heart that will allow you to approach God with boldness, confessing your sin, and seeking the holiness that only God can provide.

Wednesday 10/17

Read: In the truest sense, Christ is "**the author of our salvation**". He was the only one who was without sin and capable of satisfying the perfect requirements of God. Through His death Christ's righteousness (holiness) has been given to us. Robed in Christ's righteousness, we have been reconciled to God (**II Corinthians 2:18**).

Application: Sin produces fear of God. When Christ atoned for that sin, our fear was removed. Through the shed blood of Christ we can now enter into the very presence of God with confidence (**Hebrews 10:19**). We have entered into a renewed relationship with God, anchored firm and secure by Christ (**Hebrews 6:19**).

Pray: That you would draw near to God taking hold of the hope that you have in Christ.

Thursday 10/18

Read: We draw nearer to God when we allow His word to "make us holy", to set us apart for His service. When Jesus prayed the High Priestly prayer, he prayed that his disciples would be sanctified by the truth of Gods word. It is the word of God that makes us holy.

Application: Immerse yourself in the word of God. "**Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it**" (**Joshua 1:8**). Hide it in your heart so you might not sin against God (**Psalms 119:11**). This will make your calling into Gods kingdom a sure reality.

Pray: For a heart and mind that are attentive to the word of God.

Friday 10/19

Read: There are those who will argue being a Christian takes away your free will. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In our life without Christ we had free will, but that will was expended serving our own desires. In Christ that same free will remains. But now, that free will is directed towards doing what God wants, something we were unable to do before our heart was regenerated. We "**have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness**" (**Romans 6:18**).

Application: You now have a God given ability to serve God. Use that new found ability to its fullest. Experience the peace of being righteous in the eyes of God. Experience the joy of doing works that are pleasing to Him.

Pray: That your will would be to do the will of God.

Saturday 10/20

Read: God has built the church. You are a member of that church. You are one of Gods special people. He who is sinless has set you free from sin. He who is holy has made you holy. You, along with other believers, are now part of Gods household. You are members of a heavenly family.

Application: Treat your fellow Christians with the same sacrificing love God has shown to you. "**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit...**" (**Philippians 2:3**). "**Look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others**" (**Philippians 2:4**). Serve others as Christ has served others.

Pray: That an understanding of your common relationship with others in Christ will allow you to love others as Christ has loved others.