



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Like A River Glorious

Like a river glorious, is God's perfect peace,
Over all victorious, in its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth, fuller every day,
Perfect, yet it groweth, deeper all the way.

Refrain

Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest
Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

Refrain

Every joy or trial falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love;
We may trust Him fully all for us to do.
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.

Refrain

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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 November 4, 2007

In the meteorological community, whenever a warning for dangerous weather is issued there is always a call to action. Once the danger is specified, information is provided to define those steps necessary to mitigate the consequences of the upcoming event. The required action varies depending on the particular threat. Likewise, the Bible warns us about the dangers we face as Christians. Some of those warnings help us recognize sin, and call us to live a pure and holy life. Other warnings help us recognize ways to serve God, and call us into a life that is "**worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way**" (**Colossians 1:10**).

Reading this week from Hebrews 3:7-19

Sunday 11/04

Read: **Hebrews 3:7** warns you not to "**harden your heart**", not to live in rebellion. Such was the life of the Israelites wandering through the desert. They distrusted God, murmuring against Him. They did not listen to his voice.

Application: We are warned to guard the way we think. While wandering through the desert the Israelites allowed errors of the heart to grow within them. Their internal attitudes festered, leading to an external display manifested by sinful responses.

Pray: You would think about those things which are pure and noble. That your internal attitudes would lead you to an outward life of obedience.

Monday 11/05

Read: Gods word warns that to continue in our hardened ways will result in his wrath. Our life will be one of turmoil. There will be no rest (**Hebrews 3:11**).

Application: What a discomfoting situation arises when our own desires overshadow those of God. We lose out on the "**peace of God that transcends all understanding**" (**Philippians 4: 7**). Only by allowing God to "**guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus**" will you know a godly rest.

Pray: For a life comforted by the peace of God that results from our resting in Christ alone.

Tuesday 11/06

Read: The warning is that there will be no rest for the rebellious. Your call to action is to "**See to it**", or "**take heed**" about the state of your heart. Do not allow a sinful and unbelieving heart to turn you away from God.

Application: **Hebrews 3:1** instructs you to "**fix your thoughts on Jesus**". This exhortation to "**take heed**" or "**fix your thoughts**" completes the warning/action couplet. The warning not to turn away from God is resolved by being mindful of who you are in Christ and allowing him to direct the affairs of your life.

Pray: By constantly meditating on the word of God you will avoid the propensity to turn your eyes from the salvation you have in Christ Jesus.

Wednesday 11/07

Read: The Christian life is not singular. Time and time again scripture earnestly advises and warns us to encourage one another. The Christian is actively called to be encouraged, and to encourage others.

Application: We are to give our fellow Christians courage, to provide them with hope, to instill confidence, to embolden. The church would be enlivened if every Christian faithfully carried out this emphatic command of scripture.

Pray: God would lift you up through the encouragement of others and allow you to put a spark in the heart of those around you.

Thursday 11/08

Read: **Hebrews 3:16, 17** gets very personal. In the event there was some confusion about to whom these words were directed, verse 16 sets the record straight. **Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?**" Verse 17 explains further, God was angry with those that sinned.

Application: The sin referred to here is the sin of unbelief. While there was an external claim of faith, the persistent sin indicated that there was no eternal reconciliation with God. There was no permanent connection to the rest God had promised.

Pray: That your heart would not be hardened in unbelief. That you would "**hold firmly till the end the confidence we (you) had at first**" (**Hebrews 3:14**).

Friday 11/09

Read: Ultimately, if the warning is not to "**harden your heart**", then the call to action is to persevere. Thomas Watson wrote, " the heavenly inheritance is kept for the saints, and they are kept for the inheritance...Though their grace may be drawn low, it is not drawn dry.

Application: Perseverance itself is a grace. Once you are adopted into the family of God you will always remain in that family. Jesus himself promised that he would keep all that the Father has given him. There will be times we won't feel particularly faithful. Regardless of this human emotion we are called to keep our thoughts fixed on our heavenly calling.

Pray: For a heart that is driven by the promises of a faithful God .

Saturday 11/10

Read: Trials, tribulation, the hardship of labor. These are the things that tug at us during our work here on earth. There is seemingly no end to the tasks that lay before us. There is seemingly no rest to be found.

Application: The reality of our struggle here in this life is often overwhelming. However, there is hope. Just as God labored for six days then rested on the seventh, we who also labor on earth will enter into a Sabbath rest. This is the promise of God. "**So then. There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,**" (**Hebrews 4:9**).

Pray: The coming Sabbath rest will fill your heart with peace and comfort.